



Bells at Sunderland Minster could be ringing out in celebration by Christmas as refurbishment on the chimes starts.

The tower at the Minster has been muted for years since the rickety old bell frame started to move, sparking safety fears and putting two of the chimes out of action.

But with the help of the Friends of Sunderland Minster, donations from the Sunderland Echo-backed Minster Peals Appeal and a legacy donation from former bell-ringer Ann Todd, the Minster has been seeking to scrape together

The proceeds of tonight's concert will go towards the Minster Peals Appeal



enough cash to right the problems.

The repair bill is expected to be about £60,000, including refurbishing the existing eight bells, making another two and building a new bell frame. Tonight's concert proceeds will help towards this significant repair bill.

David Cox, tower captain at the Minster, said: "It will be excellent. It will be fantastic to have another church in the Sunderland area with 10 bells. Hopefully, they'll be back by Christmas. They will usually be rung every Sunday morning and evening and on a Monday night at bell practice."

The two new bells will be fashioned by a company in Whitechapel in London – one of only two manufacturers in the country.

The new bell frame, made of steel, will be set at a different height in the tower to take some of the strain off the structure – parts of which date back to the 13th century.

The bells have rung out from Sunderland Minster for centuries, but the chimes have not been refurbished since the 1930s.

Next Andreas Ensemble concert:
St. Anne's Church, Bishop Auckland
Sunday 29th November, 3.00 pm
"Hymns and Anthems for the First Sunday in Advent"



An Evening with the ANDREAS ENSEMBLE

The Andreas Ensemble, directed by Brian Varley, with Jo Buckley (oboe) and Trevor Blazay (organ)



PROGRAMME

Sunderland Minster
 Saturday, 17th October, 2009, at 7.30 pm



The **Andreas Ensemble**, first formed in Spring 2005, provides a wonderful opportunity centred in Bishop Auckland for people to extend their singing skills and knowledge and to come together and perform music from our glorious heritage of church music, the music of the great cathedral choirs of England and of Europe, alongside secular items like madrigals and part-songs.

The Andreas Ensemble is an occasional choir, performing not only in St. Andrew's from time to time, but in other churches and locations around the region. It is by nature inter-church and inter-denominational (its members come from churches of all denominations, including Methodist, Roman Catholic, Anglican and others, but also individuals who are not currently associated with any particular religious organisation).

It therefore in no sense competes with parish choirs singing every Sunday in their own churches; indeed two of our members are Choirmasters in other churches some distance away. Its members are drawn from all over County Durham. If you might be interested in joining with the Andreas Ensemble or finding out more, please contact Brian. We'd be pleased to hear from you.

The Andreas Ensemble is available to sing services in other churches by invitation, for weddings and to take part in concerts or other festivities.

Contact details:
 Brian Varley, tel. 01388 606075 email brianvarley@orpheusmail.co.uk
 Andreas Ensemble website:
http://bvemv.orpheusweb.co.uk/Andreas_Ensemble.html

Born in Newcastle in 1944, **Brian Varley** began playing the organ at the age of 14 under Jack Wolstenholme at Newcastle Royal Grammar School, followed by 4 years of lessons with John Webster, University Organist, whilst a chemistry student at Oxford. He was privileged to spend 2 years in Hamburg, working with Professor Rose Kirn, and 7 years playing the organ regularly in Southwell Minster. He became Organist and Choirmaster of St. Andrew's, Bishop Auckland in 1990, the largest parish church in Co. Durham with its fine 3 manual, 42 stop, organ, completely rebuilt by Harrison & Harrison in 1989. Having kept up his organ practice throughout a busy business career, Brian again took up serious organ study in 2000 as a pupil of James Lancelot (Durham Cathedral) and was awarded his ARCO in 2003. Recitals have included Newcastle Cathedral and Southwell Minster.

Trevor Blease gained his FRCO in 1978 just before starting an organ scholarship at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. He is a recent chairman of the Cleveland Organists Association and now plays for major services at Stockton Parish Church.

Jo Buckley (née Kirkbride) graduated with a First in Music from St. Catharine's College, Cambridge in 2004. During her time at Cambridge she performed widely as an oboist both in orchestras and solo recitals, and after moving to Durham in 2005 she continued to perform regularly, including concertos with Durham Sinfonietta and the Palatinate Ensemble. After graduating, Jo worked in the Concerts Department at Britten Sinfonia and then as Orchestral Librarian at Northern Sinfonia, before returning to academia to study for a Masters and PhD, focussing on Beethoven's slow movements. While continuing to finish her PhD part-time, she now works as a freelance writer and project manager for numerous musical organisations, including Sing Up and Live Music Now. Until her recent move to Edinburgh, Jo sang soprano with the Andreas Ensemble.

PROGRAMME

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth	Thomas Tomkins (1573-1656)	Andreas Ensemble
Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis in Bb	John Stainer (1840-1901)	Andreas Ensemble
Sonata in A minor -Siciliana -Andante	Georg Philip Telemann (1681-1767)	Jo Buckley (oboe)
Gabriel's Oboe	Ennio Morricone (1928-)	Jo Buckley (oboe)
Dostoino yest	Dimitri Bortnianski (1751-1825)	Andreas Ensemble
Bogoroditse devo	Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943)	Andreas Ensemble
Above the stars my saviour dwells	Thomas Tomkins (1573-1656)	Andreas Ensemble
Tebe Poem (We sing to Thee) (Russian liturgical music, sung in church slavonic)	Dimitri Bortnianski (1751-1825)	Andreas Ensemble
The Old Hundredth (1953 Coronation setting)	Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)	Andreas Ensemble + audience
<hr/> <i>INTERVAL</i> <hr/>		
Missa Choralis -Kyrie -Gloria -Credo -Sanctus -Benedictus -Agnus Dei	Franz Liszt (1811-1886)	Andreas Ensemble
Toccata (V ^e Symphonie)	Charles Marie Widor (1844-1937)	Trevor Blease (organ)
Light's abode, celestial Salem	Hymn: Tune Regent Square by Henry Smart (1818-79) with Descant by C.S.Lang (1891-1971)	Andreas Ensemble + audience

Words and directions for the hymns for all to sing are printed as a separate sheet.

Wiebke Mackay-Engel, who sings soprano in the choir and was also to have played solo flute this evening, is away in Germany because of a family bereavement.