

Birmingham Choral Union Concert Record



Date	Concert	Composer	Venue	Conductor	Soloists	Accompaniment
16 March 1891	Fair Rosamunde	John Barnett		Dr. Swinnerson Heap		
			Orchestra - 57 players Chorus - 450 singers plus organ Programme cost 6d			
25 March 1892	Maritana	W V Wallace				
			Programme cost 1d			
02 April 1892	Messiah	Handel				
10 December 1892	Maritana (excerpts) Noel Tide	W V Wallace Thomas Facer				
25 March 1893	Maritana	W V Wallace				
10 March 1894	Loreley (excerpts) The Crusader	Mendelssohn Thomas Facer				
			Chorus of 227 singers, 35 orchestra members - no other details recorded			
01 January 1895						
			8th Series of Concerts. No further details available			
12 October 1895	Samson	Handel				
			Programme cost 1d			
14 December 1895	Noel Tide Loreley	Thomas Facer Mendelssohn				
22 February 1896	Messiah	Handel				
01 January 1897						
			1897 to 1898 - 10th, 11th & 12th Series of Concerts. No further details available			
21 October 1899	Samson	Handel				
09 December 1899	Messiah	Handel				

Date	Concert	Composer	Venue	Conductor	Soloists	Accompaniment
01 January 1900	1900 to 1903 - 14th, 15th & 16th Series of Concerts. No further details available					
23 January 1904	Messiah	Handel				
01 January 1905	18th Series of Concerts - no details available					
11 November 1905	Gounod Night (excerpts)	Gounod	Advert in back of programme for Birmingham Choral & Orchestral Association (conductor J H Adams) to perform 'Faust'			
06 December 1905	Maritana	W V Wallace				
27 January 1906	Messiah	Handel				
10 March 1906	Eli	Sir Michael Costa				
01 January 1907	1907 to 1913 - 20th to 26th Series of Concerts - No details available					
24 January 1914	Merrie England	E German	Birmingham Town Hall	Richard Wassell		C W Perkins (Organ) W E Longmore (Accompanist)
	Third Concert of 27th Season					
14 March 1914	God's Time is the Best Dettingen Te Deum	Bach Handel			Lilian Green Olive Pank Wilfred Hudson Charles Knowles	
16 October 1915	Golden Legend	Sullivan	Birmingham Town Hall	Richard Wassell	Eva Rich Florence England W J Ottey Alfred Askey	BCU Orchestra C W Perkins (Organ) W E Longmore (Accompanist)
	First Concert of the 29th Season					
23 October 1915	Choral & Orchestral Concert	Various	Birmingham Town Hall	Richard Wassell	Alfred Askey	BCU Orchestra
	Massed Prize Choirs of 200 Male Voices plus Birmingham Choral Union Ladies Chorus of 200 Voices					
04 December 1915	Christmas Oratorio	Bach	Birmingham Town Hall	Richard Wassell	Emilie Waldron Grace Ivell Wilfred Hudson Harry Downing	BCU Orchestra C W Perkins (Organ)

Date	Concert	Composer	Venue	Conductor	Soloists	Accompaniment
20 October 1917				Not known		
	Miscellaneous concert including part-songs by Purcell, Bantock, German, Elgar, Sullivan & Handel - no other details recorded					
23 February 1918	Hiawatha's Departure	Coleridge-Taylor	Birmingham Town Hall	Richard Wassell		
	The orchestra also gave an excellent reading of Mendelssohn's overture 'The Hebrides' - Musical Times					
23 March 1918	National Anthem The Creation Carmen (Prelude) Solos	Haydn Bizet Various	Birmingham Town Hall	Richard Wassell	Edith Evans J A Hinde James Howell	C W Perkins (Organ) Hubert S Brown (Organ)
	Last Concert of the 31st Season					
16 November 1918	A Ballad Concert	Various	Birmingham Town Hall	Not known		
	Items included part-songs by Elgar, Gounod & Bantock					
08 February 1919	Elijah	Mendelssohn		Not known		
	No other details recorded					
01 March 1919	Faust	Gounod	Birmingham Town Hall	A.J.Cotton	Arthur Cranmer	
	Source: John D Smith, Hon. Archivist Conservatoire					
15 March 1919	Faust	Gounod		Not known		
	No other details recorded					
04 October 1919	A Ballad Concert	Various		Not known		
	Items included Bantock's 'Death of Morar'					
08 November 1919	Merrie England	E German		Not known		
	No other details recorded					
01 January 1920				Not known		
	The Musical Times Announced that 4 concerts would be given in the 1920 season, including 'Messiah' ; 'A Tale of Old Japan', 'Merrie England' & a ballad concert.					
07 February 1920	The Death of Morar The March of the Cameron Men	Bantock Bantock	Birmingham Town Hall		M Zacharewitsch	Michael Mullinar (Organ)
	A Wassell Concert Society performance					
19 March 1921	The Song of Hiawatha	Coleridge - Taylor	Birmingham Town Hall	Richard Wassell	Doris Watkins Ernest Ludlow Samuel Saul	C W Perkins (Organ)
	Last Concert of the 34th Season					

Date	Concert	Composer	Venue	Conductor	Soloists	Accompaniment
04 November 1922	My Love Dwelt in a Northern Land Solos O Happy Eyes Summer Eve The Long Day Closes	Elgar Various Elgar J L Hatton Sullivan	Birmingham Town Hall	Richard Wassell	Emily Breare Geoffrey Dams	Arthur Cooke (Organ) Katrina Lund (Elocution)
Second Concert of the 36th Season						
15 November 1922	Lecture: Songs, and how to Sing Them		Priory Rooms (Old Square)	Richard Wassell		
29 October 1927	Elijah	Mendelssohn	Birmingham Town Hall	Joseph H Adams	Effie Quinton Marion Dean Bertram Phillips Herbert Parker Gertrude Stephens Doris Hamilton Howard Norton Frank Richards	Miss G Stephens (Organ)
See programme on www.birminghamchoralunion.org.uk/history01.htm						
26 January 1929	Aida	Verdi	Birmingham Town Hall	Joseph H Adams with Mr E J Edwards	Emilie Waldron Doris Hamilton Alys Tringham Cecil Cooke Samuel Saul James Howell Eric Bowler Edward Evesley	
320th Concert						
28 March 1931	Judas Maccabaeus	Handel	Birmingham Town Hall	Joseph H Adams	Elizabeth Mellor Evelyn Crees Bell Walker Leslie Bennett	Miss G Stephens (Organ)
328th Concert						
11 February 1933	The Creation	Haydn	Birmingham Town Hall	Joseph H Adams	Bessie Nicholls Charles Hedges James Coleman	Miss G Stephens (Organ)
334th Concert - 50th Season						

Date	Concert	Composer	Venue	Conductor	Soloists	Accompaniment
25 January 1936	Aida	Verdi	Birmingham Town Hall	Joseph H Adams	Doris Watkins Emme Northall Frank Sale Oswald Rogers Eric Bowler Gertrude Stephens Gilbert Winfield	B'ham Choral & Orchestral Union
343rd Concert - 53rd Season						
07 March 1936	Elijah	Mendelssohn	Birmingham Town Hall	Joseph H Adams	Blanche Allen Emme Northall A Bell-Walker George Baker	Miss G Stephens (Organ)
344th Concert - 53rd Season						
22 January 1938	Carmen (Concert Version)	Bizet	Town Hall, Birmingham	Victor Fleming	May Devitt Elsie Small Dorothy Clark Gertrude Stephens Morgan Jones Frank Wilson Harry Brindle Oswald Rogers	BCU Orchestra
349th Concert - 55th Series - Chorus and Orchestra of 250						
11 March 1939	Damnation of Faust	Berlioz	Birmingham Town Hall	Victor Fleming	Isabel Rhys-Parker Robert Naylor Robert Parker Alexander Hadley	
352nd Concert - 56th Season						
27 January 1940	The Music Makers Te Deum Choral Suite (Sadko)	Elgar Kodaly Rimsky-Korsakov		Not known		
No other concert details recorded						
28 November 1944	Elijah	Mendelssohn	Birmingham Town Hall	Appleby Matthews	Dorothy Tarren Lily Kettlewell Ronald Bristol Rev Noel Hutchcroft Raymond Price (Y)	

Date	Concert	Composer	Venue	Conductor	Soloists	Accompaniment
26 December 1945	Elijah	Mendelssohn	Birmingham Town Hall	Appleby Matthews	Ada Alsop Gladys Ripley Jan van der Gucht Roy Henderson	G D Cunningham (Organ)
20 November 1946	Messiah	Handel	Birmingham Town Hall	Appleby Matthews	Joan Taylor Marjorie Thomas Ronald Bristol Tom Williams	BCU Orchestra Alex Cohen (Leader)
02 April 1947	Messiah	Handel	Birmingham Town Hall	Not known	B Allington (Trumpet)	BCU Orchestra Alex Cohen (Leader) G D Cunningham (Organ) C S Christopher (Continuo)
26 March 1948	Messiah	Handel	Birmingham Town Hall	Appleby Matthews	Gertrude Stephens Daisy Neal Luther Thomas John Hereward Arthur Matthews (Trumpet)	BCU Orchestra C S Christopher (Continuo) G D Cunningham (Organ)
27 October 1948	The Creation	Haydn	Birmingham Town Hall	Appleby Matthews	Jean Mountford Neville Hazlewood Charles Ledger	BCU Orchestra Alex Cohen (Leader)
28 November 1948	Messiah	Handel	Birmingham Town Hall	Appleby Matthews	Elsie Suddaby Muriel Brunskill David Lloyd Ronald Stear Arthur Matthews (Trumpet)	T W North (Organ) BCU Orchestra Alex Cohen (Leader)
11 December 1948	Messiah	Handel	Coventry Methodist, Small Heath	Appleby Matthews	Gertrude Stephens Laura Pain Maurice Robinson John Ryder	James Lile (Organ)
15 April 1949	Messiah	Handel	Birmingham Town Hall	Appleby Matthews	Ada Alsop Daisy Neal Neville Hazlewood David Franklin	C S Christopher (Organ)

Date	Concert	Composer	Venue	Conductor	Soloists	Accompaniment
07 May 1949	Dream of Gerontius	Elgar	Birmingham Town Hall	Appleby Matthews	Marion Hayes Heddle Nash Alec Shanks	T W North (Organ)
The death was announced of T. Appleby Matthews (1884 - 1949), Conductor of the Birmingham Choral Union						
20 November 1949	Messiah	Handel	Birmingham Town Hall	H.W. Stubbington	Margaret Field Hyde Mary Jarred David Lloyd Henry Cummings	T W North (Organ)
07 December 1949	The Creation	Haydn	Birmingham Town Hall	Denis Crosby	Joan Taylor Edward Parr Henry Cummings	H W Stubbington (Organ)
07 April 1950	Messiah	Handel	Birmingham Town Hall	Denis Crosby	Jean Mountford Sara Buckley Stephen Manton Harry Shaw James Mason (Trumpet)	BCU Orchestra Herbert Lumby (Leader) H W Stubbington (Organ) C S Christopher (Continuo)
03 December 1950	Messiah	Handel	Town Hall, Birmingham	Denis Crosby	Elsie Suddaby Nancy Thomas Parry Jones Owen Brannigan James Mason (Trumpet)	BCU Orchestra Ernest Element (Leader) Philip Moore (Organ) H W Stubbington (Continuo)
12 December 1950	Christmas Oratorio	Bach	Birmingham Town Hall	Denis Crosby	Jean Frances Hall Mary Jarred Bradbridge White Henry Cummings	BCU Orchestra Herbert Lumby (Leader) T W North (Organ) H W Stubbington (Continuo)
23 March 1951	Messiah	Handel	Birmingham Town Hall	Denis Crosby	Ceinwen Rowlands Marion Hayes Neville Hazlewood Ronald Stear James Mason (Trumpet)	BCU Orchestra Herbert Lumby (Leader) T W North (Organ) C S Christopher (Continuo)
11 July 1951	Dream of Gerontius	Elgar	Leeds Town Hall	Maurice Miles	Marjorie Thomas Webster Booth Stanley Clarkson	

Date	Concert	Composer	Venue	Conductor	Soloists	Accompaniment
04 October 1951	Overture in D Minor Mass in C	Handel Harrison	Birmingham Town Hall	Denis Crosby	Isobel Baillie Astra Desmond Bradbridge White Henry Cummings	CBSO Norris Stanley (Leader) T W North (Organ)
Premiere performance of Mass in 'C' by Juluis Harrison as part of The Festival of British Music. Signed programme copy (Denis Crosby)						
30 January 1952	Stabat Mater	Dvorak	Birmingham Town Hall	Denis Crosby	Ceinwen Rowlands Norma Procter Rene Soames Owen Brannigan	Albert Webb Orchestra Dorothy Hemming (Leader) T W North (Organ)
11 April 1952	Messiah	Handel	Birmingham Town Hall	Denis Crosby	Elsie Suddaby Nancy Thomas Alexander Young Stanley Mason A Matthews (Trumpet)	Albert Webb Orchestra Dorothy Hemming (Leader) H W Stubbington (Organ) C S Christopher (Continuo)
07 May 1952	Choral Concert	See below	Bishop Latimer Church, Handsworth	Denis Crosby	Horace Calvert (Trumpet)	C S Christopher (Organ)
Concert featured works by Bach, Handel, Dvorak, Harrison						
06 December 1952	Christmas Concerto Christmas Oratorio	Corelli Bach	Birmingham Town Hall	Denis Crosby	Jean Smith Grace Bodey Rene Soames David Franklin	Albert Webb Orchestra Dorothy Hemming (Leader) T W North (Organ) C S Christopher (Continuo)
13 December 1952	Messiah	Handel	Birmingham Town Hall	Denis Crosby	Elsie Suddaby Nancy Thomas Parry Jones Owen Brannigan	Albert Webb Orchestra Dorothy Hemming (Leader) Philip Moore (Organ) H W Stubbington (Continuo)
21 February 1953	Elijah	Mendelssohn	Birmingham Town Hall	Denis Crosby	Joan Taylor Norma Procter David Galliver Owen Brannigan	Albert Webb Orchestra Dorothy Hemming (Leader) T W North (Organ)
03 April 1953	Messiah	Handel	Birmingham Town Hall	Denis Crosby	Emelie Hook Patricia Cracknell Alexander Young Scott Joynt Arthur Matthews (Trumpet)	Albert Webb Orchestra Dorothy Hemming (Leader) Willis Grant (Organ) C S Christopher (Continuo)

Date	Concert	Composer	Venue	Conductor	Soloists	Accompaniment
03 June 1953	Te Deum Laudamus Orchestral Pieces	Wishart	Birmingham Town Hall	Harold Gray & Denis Crosby	Phylliss Sellick (Piano)	CBSO Norris Stanley (Leader) Phillip Cranmer (Accompanist)
Coronation Festival of Music First public performance of Wishart's 'Te Deum Laudamus'						
10 December 1953	Childhood of Christ	Berlioz	Birmingham Town Hall	Denis Crosby	Margaret Eveson Alexander Young Stanley Mason Scott Joynt	T W North (Organ) Albert Webb Orchestra Dorothy Hemming (Leader) Alan Walker (Organ)
24 December 1953	Family Carol Concert	Various	Birmingham Town Hall	Boyd Neel & Denis Crosby		CBSO Norris Stanley (Leader)
18 February 1954	Mass in C	Harrison	Birmingham Town Hall	Denis Crosby	Norma Procter William Herbert Roy Hickman	Boyd Neel Orchestra Granville Jones (Leader)
16 April 1954	Messiah	Handel	Birmingham Town Hall	Harold Gray	Isobel Baillie Florence Ledgard Norman Lilly Stanley Mason Arthur Matthews (Trumpet)	Boyd Neel Orchestra Granville Jones (Leader) Albert Webb Orchestra George Miles (Organ) Philip Cranmer (Organ)
16th April 1954 - The death Of Denis Crosby, Conductor						
09 May 1954	Choral & Orchestral Concert	Various	Birmingham Town Hall	Harold Gray	Elsie Morison Norma Procter Rene Soames Stanley Mason	Norris Stanley (Leader) CBSO
Concert in aid of The Denis Crosby Fund						
27 November 1954	Messiah	Handel	St John's Church, Selly Oak	William Hall	Penelope Short Marion Hayes Philip Russell Robert Clarke	Norman Parsons (Organ)
23 December 1954	CBSO Carol Concert	Various	Birmingham Town Hall	Antony Hopkins	Stanley Mason	CBSO Norris Stanley (Leader)
17 February 1955	German Requiem Toward the Unknown Region	Brahms Vaughn Williams	Birmingham Town Hall	Harold Gray	Elsie Morison Stanley Mason	CBSO Norris Stanley (Leader)
The Denis Crosby Memorial Concert						

Date	Concert	Composer	Venue	Conductor	Soloists	Accompaniment
08 April 1955	Messiah	Handel	Birmingham Town Hall	Harold Gray	Joan Alexander Grace Bodey Daniel Merrick Scott Joynt A Matthews (Trumpet)	CBSO Ernest Element (Leader) George Miles (Organ) Donald F Alldrick (Continuo)
26 November 1955	Dream of Gerontius	Elgar	Birmingham Town Hall	Harold Gray	Norma Procter David Galliver Hervey Alan	CBSO Norris Stanley (Leader)
22 December 1955	CBSO Carol Concert	Various	Birmingham Town Hall	Antony Hopkins	Stanley Mason	CBSO Norris Stanley (Leader)
16 February 1956	Canterbury Pilgrims	G Dyson	Birmingham Town Hall	Harold Gray	Ena Mitchell Alexander Young Owen Brannigan	CBSO Norris Stanley (Leader)
30 March 1956	Messiah	Handel	Birmingham Town Hall	Harold Gray	Elsie Morison Patricia Cracknell Stephen Manton Norman Walker	CBSO Norris Stanley (Leader) George Miles (Organ) Donald F Alldrick (Continuo)
04 December 1956	Nun's Priest's Tale	G Jacob	Birmingham Town Hall 1st performance in Birmingham	Harold Gray		CBSO
20 December 1956	CBSO Carol Concert	Various	Birmingham Town Hall	Charles Mackerras	Norman Tattersall	CBSO Norris Stanley (Leader)
12 February 1957	A Sea Symphony The Music Makers	Vaughn Williams Elgar	Birmingham Town Hall	Harold Gray	Elsie Morison Marjorie Thomas William Parsons	CBSO Norris Stanley (Leader)
19 April 1957	Messiah	Handel	Birmingham Town Hall	Harold Gray	Adrienne Cole Iona Jones Alexander Young Scott Joynt	BCU Orchestra W Hands (Leader) George Miles (Organ) Donald F Alldrick (Continuo)
15 October 1957	The Creation	Haydn	Erdington Baptist Church	Harold Gray	Jean Smith John Harrison Alec Dawkins Norman Rounce	Donald F Alldrick (Organ)

Date	Concert	Composer	Venue	Conductor	Soloists	Accompaniment
17 February 1958	Stabat Mater	Dvorak	Saltley College Chapel	Harold Gray	Patricia Kent Sheila Orme Philip Russell John Sinfield	Donald F Alldrick (Organ)
04 April 1958	Messiah	Handel	Birmingham Town Hall	Harold Gray	Marion Lowe Iona Jones Phillip Russell Norman Walker W Whittaker (Trumpet)	BCU Orchestra W Hands (Leader) George Miles (Organ) Donald F Alldrick (Continuo)
04 November 1958	Mass in C Minor Psalmus Hungaricus	Mozart Kodaly	Birmingham Town Hall	Harold Gray	Margaret Richie Joan Alexander William McAlpine Horace Wale	CBSO Wilfred Lehmann (Leader) Donald F Alldrick (Organ)
01 February 1959	List of BCU Members (130) - 54 Sopranos, 35 Contraltos, 17 Tenors, 24 Basses					
27 March 1959	Messiah	Handel	Birmingham Town Hall	Harold Gray	Ena Mitchell Margaret Walton Lloyd Strauss-Smith Richard Standen Bram Gay (Trumpet)	BCU Orchestra James Hutcheon (Leader) Roy Massey (Organ) Donald F Alldrick (Continuo)
10 May 1959	Various Various	Purcell Handel	Birmingham Town Hall	Douglas Guest	Margaret Lane John Whitworth David Galliver Owen Brannigan	Albert Webb Orchestra James Hutcheon (Leader) G Thalben Ball (Organ) George Miles (Continuo)
Birmingham Festival						
07 November 1959	Elijah	Mendelssohn	Birmingham Town Hall	Harold Gray	Pauline Brockles Barbara Robotham Philip Russell Owen Brannigan	CBSO Wilfred Lehmann (Leader)
15 April 1960	Dream of Gerontius	Elgar	Birmingham Town Hall	Harold Gray	Norma Procter Alexander Young Hervey Alan	CBSO Meyer Stelow (Leader) Donald F Alldrick (Organ)
05 November 1960	These Things Shall Be A Sea Symphony	Ireland Vaughn Williams	Birmingham Town Hall	Harold Gray	Elsie Morison John Cameron	CBSO Meyer Stelow (Leader) Donald F Alldrick (Organ)