



Photo: RydeChorus

Accompanist & Soloist Profile: Lawrence Bate:

Born and brought up in Leicester, Lawrence was introduced to music at an early age and studied piano and organ at the Royal Academy of Music.

Lawrence was mainly involved in playing for local church and operatic societies, until an offer arose to play for the Summer Season on Shanklin Pier in 1968, which subsequently led on to other work opportunities, and he decided to settle on the Isle of Wight.

Lawrence has spent a number of periods playing entertainment repertoire on cruise ships; including classical, jazz, musicals, swing and big band music.

As an accomplished piano and organ accompanist and soloist, Lawrence has played for various performances at theatres across the Island; including Shanklin Theatre and the Apollo Theatre in Newport.

Now semi-retired, Lawrence continues as organist at St Blasius Church, Shanklin and rehearsal and performance accompanist for Ryde Chorus.

For this Isle of Wight Cantata Choir Summer Concert, on 25th June - in addition to playing organ accompaniment for Handel's Zadok the Priest and Parry's I Was Glad, Lawrence will perform an organ solo of Bach's Fantasia in G minor.