

From the Edinburgh Bach Society archives

Key years in the history of the Edinburgh Bach Society

Introduction

I wrote this series of historical notes between 2020 and 2022. The idea came to me early in the covid pandemic when I read an article published by the RSNO comparing the orchestra's covid experience with their experience of the Spanish flu pandemic. I decided to do the same for the Edinburgh Bach Society: hence the first of these pieces to be written, covering 1918.

Rather than attempting to write a complete history of the Society I decided to select years that were landmarks years either for the Society or for the world at large. The years I chose were:

- 1889 First meetings
- 1909 A choir is formed
- 1918 Spanish flu etc
- 1926 General strike
- 1939 World War 2 and the B minor mass
- 1952 Coronation year
- 1962 Cuban missile crisis
- 1989 Centenary year

I joined the choir in 1984 and, with a couple of gaps, have been a member ever since. I served on the committee during the 1980s. The reason that I had access to the the Society's minutes and other archives is that my wife, Selda, was the Secretary of the Society between 2016 and 2022. By tradition the Secretary is responsible for holding the archives, so they have been stored in our house.

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