



THE HEXHAM ORPHEUS CHOIR
Conductor Glenn Davis

**MUSIC
TO INSPIRE
&
DELIGHT**

with guest instrumentalist
John Roper

**Saturday 8th July 2006
Allendale Parish Church**



PROGRAMME

Te Deum

Edward Elgar

Duet

Laudamus Te

Antonio Vivaldi

Sung by Val Hooker and Pip Emler

Solo piece

Played by John Roper

Three Romantic Part-songs

O Schöne Nacht (see opposite for translation)

Johannes Brahms

O love, they wrong thee much

Hubert Parry

Music, when soft voices die

Hubert Parry

Benedictus

Edward Elgar

20 Minute Intermission

Three Madrigals

Now is the month of Maying

Thomas Morley

Lay a garland

Robert Lucas Pearsall

All creatures now are merry-minded

John Bennett

Tenor solos

Onaway, awake beloved

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Wor nanny's a mazer

Anon

Sung by Peter Vasey

Northumbrian Folk Songs

Ma bonny lad

arr. Wolstenholme

The bonny fisher lad

arr. Waton

Bonny at morn

arr. Waton

Waters of Tyne

arr. Whittaker

Alto solos

Cavatina

John Williams

Curley headed baby

Anon

Sung by Val Hooker

Two American songs

Black Sheep

arr. Rutter

Frankie and Johnny

arr. De Cormier

PROGRAMME NOTES

Translations

Laudamus Te, benedicimus Te, adoramus Te, glorificamus Te.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we adore Thee, we glorify Thee.

O schöne Nacht! Am Himmel märchenhaft erglänzt der Mond mit seiner ganzen Pracht; um ihn der kleinen Sterne liebliche Genossenschaft. O schöne Nacht! Es schimmert hell der Tau am grünen Halm, mit Macht im Fliederbusche schlägt die Nachtigall; der Knabe scheidet zu seiner Liebsten sacht. O schöne Nacht!

O lovely night! In the heavens the moon shines gloriously in all its splendour, around it the company of pretty little stars. O lovely night! The dew glistens brightly on the green stalk; loudly in the lilac bush the nightingale sings. The young boy steals quietly to his beloved. O lovely night!



Tonight's programme tries to present just a tiny fraction of the enormous variety of music that a mixed-voice choir can perform. The Elgar Te Deum and Benedictus (the two pieces were written together) should ideally be performed by a really big choir and full orchestra, but is often sung in churches using the more modest forces of choir and organ. By way of complete contrast Brahms probably intended O Schöne Nacht for four solo voices and piano, but it (again) can justifiably be performed by a chamber choir. We are possibly the right size for the two Parry part-songs! These were written in the 1890s for a London choir, the Magpie Madrigal Society, conducted by Lionel Benson, one of Parry's acquaintances.

The second half begins with three madrigals, the first and the last from the late sixteenth century, the second a brilliant pastiche of the early style by the Bristol-born Pearsall. Our middle group brings us much closer to home – Brenda Waton from Catton (and one of our Sopranos) has arranged two of the folk-songs, while the others come from the late Jack Wolstenholme, Director of Music at Newcastle R.G.S. We finish with a transatlantic note – a simple lullaby and a ballad, arranged by John Rutter and Robert De Cormier respectively.



OUR NEXT PERFORMANCE

“An English Christmas”

St Aidan's Church, Hexham

Saturday 2nd December

Come to hear Geoffrey Bush's Christmas Cantata – an evocative setting of seasonal texts for choir, strings and oboe. There will be a chance for the audience to join with us in well-known carols, while the choir will perform some of the very best of the English twentieth-century repertoire, including Warlock's *Bethlehem Down*, Rutter's *What Sweeter Music*, and the Walford Davies setting of *O Little Town of Bethlehem*.

Choir Members 2006

Sopranos

Sarah Barker
Evelyn Blenkinsop
Dorothy Booker
Ruth Brownlee
Elspeth Christie
Janet Davies
Pip Emler
Anne Firth
Nancy Gash
Rosemarie Herdman
Frances Hughes
Carolyn Ramsey
Elaine Rigg
Nuala Rose
Caroline Watson
Brenda Waton
Carrie Winger

Altos

Margaret Bainbridge
Marie Bridges
Sylvia Chainey
Pat Crompton
Sheila Dance
Elizabeth Dixon
Davina Dwyer
Vivien Hubbuck
Anita Jeffries
Judith Murray
Pat Rose
Audrey Shiels
Janet Storrie
Roz Waller
Jean Wilks

Tenors

John Barker
John Brewster
Keith Brunton
Malcolm Chainey
Tom Frost
Tim Grew
Susan Kent
Dorothy Peters
Peter Vasey

Basses

James Arkless
Paul Barrett
Paul Berry
Robert Firth
John Kent
Keith Mallinson
Tony May
Owen McArdle
Jack Shiels
Larry Winger



The Hexham Orpheus Choir always welcomes new members.

We rehearse each Wednesday night during term time at
St. Joseph's Middle School, Highford Lane Hexham 7.30pm - 9.00pm
New season rehearsals commence Wednesday 6th September

If you are interested in joining
please come to one of our rehearsals or
Telephone 01434 603630

visit our website at: www.hexham-orpheus-choir.org.uk



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