

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  
*Sung by Val Hooker and Pip Emmer*

**Solo piece**  
*Played by John Roper*

## Three Romantic Part-songs

O Schöne Nacht (see opposite for translation)  
O love, they wrong thee much  
Music, when soft voices die

Johannes Brahms  
Hubert Parry  
Hubert Parry

**Benedictus** Edward Elgar

## 20 Minute Intermission

## Three Madrigals

Now is the month of Maying  
Lay a garland  
All creatures now are merry-minded

Thomas Morley  
Robert Lucas Pearsall  
John Bennett

## Tenor solos

Onaway, awake beloved  
Wor nanny's a mazer  
*Sung by Peter Vasey*

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor  
Anon

## Northumbrian Folk Songs

Ma bonny lad  
The bonny fisher lad  
Bonny at morn  
Waters of Tyne

arr. Wolstenholme  
arr. Waton  
arr. Waton  
arr. Whittaker

## Alto solos

Cavatina  
Curley headed baby  
*Sung by Val Hooker*

John Williams  
Anon

## Two American songs

Black Sheep  
Frankie and Johnny

arr. Rutter  
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 scheicht 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](http://www.hexham-orpheus-choir.org.uk)



Special thanks to:

**Cogito Books 5, The Meal Market, Hexham**  
**Tel 01434 602555**

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**Margaret Huntington**

**Assistant conductor and rehearsal accompanist**  
*plus*  
**our "front of house" team**