

# *Hexham Orpheus Choir*

*~ Conductor Glenn Davis ~*

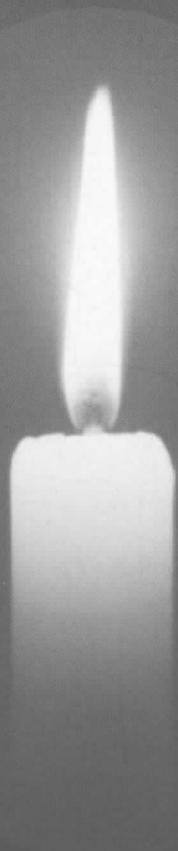
## *Duruflé Requiem*

## *Haydn Nelson Mass*

*Saturday 16 April 2011*

*7.30pm*

*Hexham Abbey*





# The Hexham Orpheus Choir

Conductor Glenn Davis



Choir rehearsal pianist  
Margaret Huntington

## ~ Tonight's Guest Performers ~



### Jessica Holmes – Soprano

Jessica's musical life began as a member of the Oldham Girls' Choir. However, singing took a back seat to study the piano and flute. Jessica came to Durham in 1997 to read music and soon discovered that she enjoyed choral singing. She became a member of Durham Polyphony and Durham University Chamber Choir, and was also a choral scholar at University College. She graduated in 2000 and now teaches music at Durham Johnston School, as well as singing with Palatinate Voices and the Durham Cathedral Consort of Singers. She has performed Mozart's *Laudate Dominum*, Haydn's *Nelson Mass* and Mozart's *Requiem* with Northern Sinfonia, and Stanford's *Magnificat in G* with the BBC Philharmonic. Jessica is the soloist in Mendelssohn's *Hear My Prayer* on the recent CD made by the Consort. Recent performances have included Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas*, John Blow's *Venus & Adonis*, Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, Vaughan Williams' *Benedicite*, and Bach's *St Matthew Passion*.



### Emma Banks – Contralto

Emma has lived in the North East for the last five years having spent time studying and working in London and Liverpool. During this time, Emma has had experience of both choral (Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Chorus, London Symphony Chorus and Northern Sinfonia Chorus) and solo singing (various local choirs and a small group called The Flash Gordons). Her repertoire includes works by Haydn, Mozart, and Goodall as well as Bach's *St John Passion* and Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*.



### Chris Vernazza – Tenor

Although a keen singer at school in Lancashire and at university in Sheffield, it wasn't until Chris moved to the North East in 2004 that he began to develop his singing further, studying with Shirley Wilkinson. Recent engagements as a soloist have included Bach's *St John Passion*, Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, Hummel's *Mass in Eb* and Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*, and Howells' *Requiem* with the Jesmond Consort.

Additionally, Chris currently sings in several choirs including the Northern Sinfonia Chorus, performing throughout the region, the UK and abroad with internationally renowned conductors and soloists. He is a member of the vocal quartet Marcato, performing concerts and functions throughout the region. When not singing, Chris's "day job" is as a lecturer in dentistry at Newcastle University, and he enjoys his youth volunteer work.



### Robert Seaton – Bass

Robert has performed with the Hexham Orpheus Choir on many occasions and we are pleased that he is able to join us again tonight. Performances with the choir in recent years have included Handel's *Messiah*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*, Brahms' *Requiem* and Orff's *Carmina Burana*.

Robert is well-known in the North of England for performances in all the major choral works: Beethoven's *Choral Symphony*, Haydn's *Creation*, the *Requiems* of Mozart, Brahms and Fauré, and the many choral works of Handel. He has sung the Verdi *Requiem*, Rachmaninov's *The Bells* in Russian and Bloch's *Sacred Service* in Hebrew. He has also performed at festivals and charity concerts around the country.



### Michael Haynes – Organ

Michael studied at The Birmingham Conservatoire and The Royal Academy of Music. He has been Director of Music at Hexham Abbey for 10 years, where he runs a Boys' and Men's Voices Choir, a Girls' Choir and an adult Chamber Choir. Previously he had worked at St Alban's Cathedral (Organ Scholar), Winchester College (Assistant Organist), Clifton College (Assistant Director of Music), Roedean School (Organ/Piano Teacher) and as Director of Music at the University Church in Cambridge. Michael holds a 1st Class Honours Degree in Music and the Fellowship and Choir Master Diplomas of the Royal College of Organists. He has recorded CDs and featured in various broadcasts both as an organist and choir director, and given recitals at King's College Cambridge and Westminster Abbey.

## ~ Tonight's Programme ~

### **Nunc Dimitis – Geoffrey Burgon (1941-2010)**

*Jessica Holmes (Soprano)*

*Mike Walton (Trumpet)*

### **Requiem – Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)**

*Emma Banks (Contralto)*

*Robert Seaton (Baritone)*

### **Interval**

### **Missa in Angustiis ('Nelson' Mass) – Josef Haydn (1732-1809)**

*Jessica Holmes (Soprano)*

*Emma Banks (Contralto)*

*Chris Vernazza (Tenor)*

*Robert Seaton (Bass)*

### **The Hexham Orpheus Choir would like to thank the following:**

Cogito Books, Hexham for being its principal sponsors.

Core Music for their support.

Canon Graham Usher and the staff of Hexham Abbey for making tonight's concert possible.

Jill Dexter for designing and producing the men's silk handkerchiefs, unveiled for the first time at tonight's performance.

Spouses and friends of the choir who assist with front of house and refreshments.

### **Our Next Performances**

**Friday 1 July – West End Methodist Church Hexham**

**Saturday 2 July – Allendale Village Hall**

**SUMMER CONCERT**

**Saturday 3 December – Hexham Abbey**  
**BACH – CHRISTMAS ORATORIO**



## Glenn Davis – Conductor

Glenn has been involved with choral music all his life, directing the Tynemouth Consort and then, from 1979 to 2007, the Priory Singers. Under Glenn's leadership the Hexham Orpheus Choir has gone from strength to strength. Concerts have included Brahms' *Requiem*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and Handel's *Messiah* in Hexham Abbey. In 2006 the choir gave the first performance in the North of England of the *Missa Aedes Christi* by Howard Goodall. In 2009 the choir gave a rapturously received performance of *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff and in 2010 an outstanding performance of the *Petite Messe Solennelle* by Rossini.

## ~ The Choir ~

### Sopranos

Sarah Barker  
Marion Bates  
Carolyn Below  
Evelyn Blenkinsop  
Elspeth Christie  
Janet Davies  
Jill Dexter  
Kelly Elliott  
Pip Emler  
Rosemarie Herdman  
Margaret Huntington  
Annette Marlowe  
Meg McCaldin  
Tanja Pless-Mulloli  
Claire Pritchard  
Bronya Read  
Ann Reed  
Nuala Rose  
Jay Thacker  
Carolyn Vasey  
Brenda Waton  
Caroline Watson

### Altos

Lou Baxter  
Wendy Busby  
Sheila Dance  
Liz Dixon  
Lynda Hassall  
Val Hooker  
Rita Howell  
Anita Jeffries  
Louise Khazaee  
Janette Kirton-Darling  
Judith Murray  
Liz Nisbet  
Rachel Ogilvie  
Pat Rose  
Janet Storrie  
Catherine Stott  
Gill Thompson  
Jean Wilks

### Tenors

Peter Arnold  
John Barker  
John Below  
John Brewster  
Malcolm Chainey  
Tom Frost  
Tim Grew  
Barry Kadleck  
Susan Kent  
Bruce Reed  
Peter Vasey

### Basses

James Arkless  
John Crawford  
Robert Firth  
Tom Kelsey  
Don Macleod  
Keith Mallinson  
Tony May  
John Rose  
Esme Ryder  
Jack Shiel  
Peter Stott

## ~ The Orchestra ~

### Violins

Julia Boulton (leader)  
Emma Fisk  
Charlotte Howes  
Kathryn Wakefield  
Michael Walton  
Jenny Watson  
Erardo Evans

### Violas

Eileen Evans  
Ian Whaley

### Cellos

Julia Watson (solo)  
Clarke Slater

### Bass

Jim Bickel  
Hannah Booth

### Trumpets

Mike Walton  
Alan Docherty  
David Gold

### Organ

Michael Haynes

### Timpani

Andy Booth