

**Hexham Orpheus Choir**

*Conductor Glenn Davis*

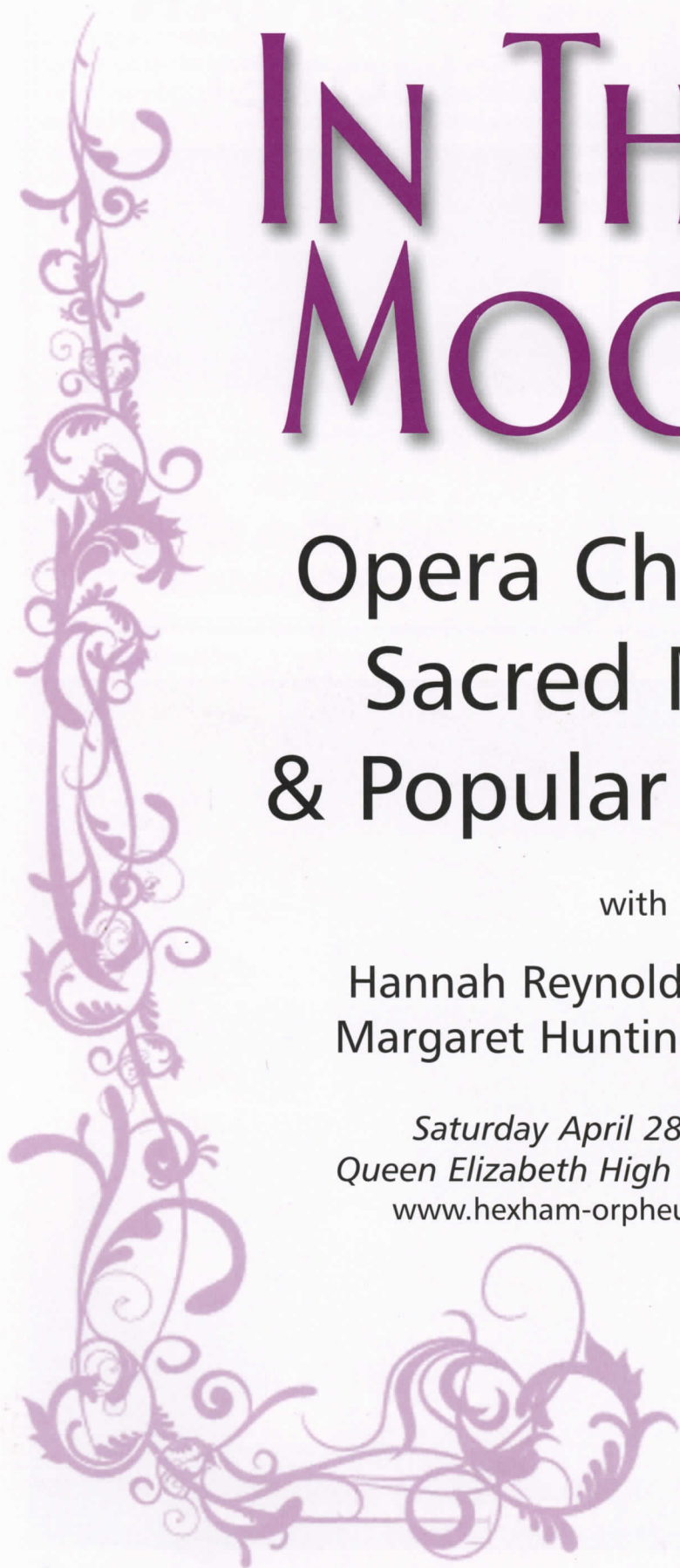
# IN THREE MOODS

Opera Choruses,  
Sacred Music  
& Popular Classics

with

Hannah Reynolds (Soprano)  
Margaret Huntington (Piano)

*Saturday April 28th, 7.30pm*  
*Queen Elizabeth High School, Hexham*  
[www.hexham-orpheus-choir.org.uk](http://www.hexham-orpheus-choir.org.uk)



# Hexham Orpheus Choir

Registered Charity no. 514942

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## Our Choir

As a non-auditioned choir, the Orpheus encourages people of differing musical backgrounds and levels of musical skill to meet in order to perform classical choral music. We have sung works ranging from the Renaissance to the late twentieth century. We give three major concerts each year, performing in Hexham's Abbey and local High School, as well as churches throughout the region. In addition, Christmas carol-singing (sometimes in a formal concert, but also *al fresco*) is a standard activity. We also have sung for local charities and are available for private functions. New members will find a warm, friendly group with a busy social calendar.



### Sopranos

Claire Arnold  
Sarah Barker  
Marion Bates  
Carolyn Below  
Evelyn Blenkinsop  
Geraldine Coombes  
Judi Cornforth  
Jill Dexter  
Pip Emler  
Nancy Gash  
Rosemarie Herdman  
Frances Hughes  
Margaret Huntington  
Leila Jolly  
Annette Marlowe  
Meg McCaldin  
Rachel Quinn  
Bronya Read  
Ann Reed  
Nuala Rose  
Jay Thacker  
Brenda Waton

### Altos

Lou Baxter  
Sheila Bell  
Jennifer Britton  
Wendy Busby  
Sheila Dance  
Elizabeth Dixon  
Davina Dwyer  
Liz Haldon  
Val Hooker  
Claire Huddleston  
Joan Kendle  
Linda Lord  
Judith Murray  
Liz Nisbet  
Rachel Ogilvie  
Audrey Shiel  
Janet Storrie  
Jean Wilks

### Tenors

John Barker  
John Below  
John Brewster  
Malcolm Chainey  
Tom Frost  
Tim Grew  
Barry Kadleck  
Brian Laing  
Bruce Reed  
Peter Vasey

### Basses

Barry Bates  
Paul Berry  
Bill Cairns  
Robert Firth  
Chris Little  
Nick Lord  
Keith Mallinson  
Tony May  
Owen McArdle  
Don Macleod  
Jack Shiel

*New members are always made very welcome. We rehearse at Trinity Methodist Church, Beaumont Street, Hexham NE46 3LS, on Wednesday evenings in school term-time from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. The annual membership fee is £65. If you are tempted to join us, please feel free to come along to a rehearsal, or contact us for more information on [info@hexham-orpheus-choir.org.uk](mailto:info@hexham-orpheus-choir.org.uk)*

(List of singers correct at time of going to press)

### Our next concert:

**POPULAR CLASSICS FROM THE BAROQUE ERA**  
**Saturday July 14, St Andrew's Church, Corbridge, 7.45 pm**  
**In aid of Tynedale Hospice at Home**

The programme, given with a small orchestra, will include the celebrated Miserere by Allegri, Handel's Coronation Anthem, Let Thy Hand be Strengthened, and Vivaldi's equally celebrated Gloria. Guest soloist: Mary Houlton, Soprano.

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Tel: 01434 602 555





### Glenn Davis, Conductor and Musical Director

Glenn has been involved with choral music all his life since singing in the Ripieno choir in Bach's *St Matthew Passion* at the age of 12. His serious choral conducting began in 1979 with the founding of the (coast-based) Priory Singers. He took over the Hexham Orpheus Choir in 1998, and under his leadership the choir has gone from strength to strength. Recent concerts have included Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, *Requiems* by Duruflé and Brahms, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Goodall's *Missa Aedis Christi*, and Handel's *Messiah*. He has benefitted most of all from the training given by Simon Halsey at Canford in the 1980s, and by keenly observing the professionals who train and conduct the Sinfonia Chorus, where he sings Bass.



### Hannah Reynolds, Soprano

Hannah started singing at the age of six. She studied at Cardiff University with John Hugh Thomas, and has since studied with Ghislaine Morgan, Claire Powell, Betty Roe, Elizabeth Cragg, and her current teacher Poppy Holden. A prolific choral singer, Hannah was awarded a place in the Choir and Orchestra of the Stuttgart Bach Festival in 2001, performing under Helmut Rilling. Since joining Northern Sinfonia Chorus in 2006 she has worked with many eminent conductors and soloists, and has taken several semi chorus and small solo roles. She also sings with local chamber choir Voices of Hope.

Hannah's solo repertoire has included the youth in Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, and also his *Hymn of Praise*, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*, Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, Mozart's *Mass in C Minor*, *Requiem* and *Coronation Mass*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Bach's *Magnificat*; and Fauré's *Requiem*. She recently performed solo operatic arias from *Carmen* and *Dido and Aeneas* with Northern Sinfonia and Simon Fidler in Hall One at The Sage Gateshead. In recital her passion lies in early opera and American and English song.



### Margaret Huntington, Accompanist and Rehearsal Pianist

Born in Birmingham, Margaret studied piano at King Edward VI High School, and later studied piano with Joan Scourse and singing with Joan Gray. In 1974 she obtained her singing FTCL with Mary Bullock, followed in 1984 by her piano teacher's LRAM. She is a busy teacher, accompanist, organist and director, and runs the AB exams for the Newcastle area in her capacity as Hon. Local Representative for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

#### WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

**Cogito Books, Hexham**, our principal sponsors, for their continuing support;  
**Paul Berry, Susan Davis and Margaret Huntington**, for their help in training the choir;  
**Queen Elizabeth High School, Hexham**;  
**Core Music and Corbridge Pianos**, for their professional support.

## Hexham Orpheus Choir Spring Concert: 'In Three Moods'

### OPERA

- Choir **Questo è il cielo di contenti**, from *Alcina* (version 1) .....Georg Frideric Handel  
*Here is the pinnacle of delight, the centre of enjoyment. Here is Elysium for the living, where pleasure fashions heroes.*
- Soprano **Piangerò, la sorte mia**, from *Julius Caesar* .....Handel  
*I shall lament my fate, so cruel and so pitiless, as long as I have breath in my breast. But when I am dead my ghost will, wherever he may be, torment the tyrant by night and by day.*
- Choir **Questo è il cielo di contenti** (version 2) .....Handel
- Choir **Prisoners' Chorus**, from *Fidelio* (sung by Tenors and Bases) .....Ludwig van Beethoven  
*O what joy, to breathe easily in free air. Only here is life – the prison cell is a grave.*
- Tenor solo: *We place our trust in God's help, hope whispers to me softly: we shall be free, we shall find peace.* Chorus: *O heaven! Release! Such happiness! Is freedom returning?*
- Bass solo: *Speak softly, keep it to yourselves, eyes and ears are trained on us.*  
 This is repeated by the chorus, who then reprise the opening text before returning to these last lines.
- Trio **Now for the second time we greet you**, from *The Magic Flute* .....Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
 Sung by Carolyn Below, Pip Emler and Val Hooker

Soprano and Choir

**Placido è il mar**, from *Idomeneo* .....Mozart  
Electra, recitative: *Shores of Sidonia, you who for me were the cruel harbour of tears and sorrow, the enemy of love, now that a more kindly star removes me from you, I forgive you, and in peace as I happily depart, at last I must leave you and bid you a final farewell!*

Chorus: *The sea's calm, let's depart, everything reassures us. We shall have a happy outcome, let's leave straight away.*

Electra, solo: *Soft zephyrs, you alone shall blow and calm the wrath of the cold north wind. Be kind to us with your amiable breath as you spread love around.* Then a reprise of the chorus.

## SACRED MUSIC FROM THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

- Choir **Ave Maria** .....Anton Bruckner  
*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee. Blessed art Thou among women and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, pray for us sinners now and in the time of our death. Amen.*
- Choir **O Salutaris Hostia** .....Gioachino Rossini  
*O saving victim, who opens wide the gate of heaven, strife and enmity press hard. Give strength, bring aid.*
- Soprano **O Salutaris Hostia** (from the *Petite Messe Solennelle*) .....Rossini
- Choir **Bogoroditsye Dyevo** .....Sergei Rachmaninov  
*God-bearer, Virgin, hail: the Lord is with Thee. Blessed art Thou among women and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, for Thou hast brought forth the Saviour who redeemed our souls.*
- Choir **Panis Angelicus** .....César Franck  
*The bread of angels is made as bread for mankind. The bread of heaven puts an end to all symbols. A wonderful thing! The Lord will nourish the poorest, the servant and the humble.*

## INTERVAL

## LIGHTER MUSIC FROM THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

- Choir **Let's do it** .....Cole Porter arr. David Blackwell
- Choir **Blue Moon** .....Richard Rodgers, arr. Blackwell
- Piano **Novelette in Fourths** .....George Gershwin  
Played by Margaret Huntington
- Soprano **The Girl in 14g** .....Jeanine Tesori
- Choir **Autumn Leaves** .....Joseph Kosma, arr. Andrew Carter

## OPERA

- Soprano **Je veux vivre**, from *Roméo et Juliette* .....Charles Gounod  
*Ah! Let me live in this dream, this lovely magical dream, all my life long! Deep within my soul I shall treasure this moment; I'll remember it for ever more! (Ah! Let me live, etc)*  
*But alas the joys of youth are fleeting and soon fade away. Flown forever joy and pleasure, tears will fill every day. Forever flown all joys of youth! (Ah! Let me live, etc).*  
*Ah! Let me slumber sweetly far way from the sad winter day and let me breathe the roses, breathe their scent while I still may. Ah! Sweetest moment of delight, stay within my soul for ever more!*
- Choir **Humming Chorus**, from *Madam Butterfly* .....Giacomo Puccini
- Choir **Peasant Girls' Chorus** from *Eugene Onegin* (sung by Sopranos and Altos) .....Piotr Illych Tchaikovsky
- Soprano and choir  
**Easter Hymn** from *Cavalleria Rusticana* .....Pietro Mascagni  
Semi-chorus: *Queen of Heaven, rejoice. He, whom worthily Thou bore, has risen from the dead, as He prophesied.*  
Main chorus and solo: *Let us give praise: the Lord is not dead; radiant, He has opened up the tomb. Let us give praise to the risen Lord, ascended today into the glory of heaven!*