

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*

Hexham Orpheus Choir

Registered Charity no. 514942

www.hexham-orpheus-choir.org.uk

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

(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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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

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|---------|---|
| Choir | Questo è il cielo di contenti , from <i>Alcina</i> (version 1) Georg Frideric Handel <i>Here is the pinnacle of delight, the centre of enjoyment. Here is Elysium for the living, where pleasure fashions heroes.</i> |
| Soprano | Piangerò, la sorte mia , from <i>Julius Caesar</i> Handel <i>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.</i> |
| Choir | Questo è il cielo di contenti (version 2) Handel |
| Choir | Prisoners' Chorus , from <i>Fidelio</i> (sung by Tenors and Basses) Ludwig van Beethoven <i>O what joy, to breathe easily in free air. Only here is life – the prison cell is a grave.</i> |
| | Tenor solo: <i>We place our trust in God's help, hope whispers to me softly: we shall be free, we shall find peace.</i> Chorus: <i>O heaven! Release! Such happiness! Is freedom returning?</i> |
| | Bass solo: <i>Speak softly, keep it to yourselves, eyes and ears are trained on us.</i> 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 <i>The Magic Flute</i> Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Sung by Carolyn Below, Pip Emler and Val Hooker |

Soprano and Choir

Placido è il mar, from IdomeneoMozart
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

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| Choir | Ave Maria <i>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.</i> | Anton Bruckner |
| Choir | O Salutaris Hostia <i>O saving victim, who opens wide the gate of heaven, strife and enmity press hard. Give strength, bring aid.</i> | Gioachino Rossini |
| Soprano | O Salutaris Hostia (from the Petite Messe Solennelle) | Rossini |
| Choir | Bogoroditsye Dyovo <i>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.</i> | Sergei Rachmaninov |
| Choir | Panis Angelicus <i>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.</i> | César Franck |

INTERVAL

LIGHTER MUSIC FROM THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

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| 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

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|-------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Soprano | Je veux vivre , from Roméo et Juliette <i>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)</i> | Charles Gounod |
| | <i>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).</i> | |
| | <i>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!</i> | |
| 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..... <i>Semi-chorus: Queen of Heaven, rejoice. He, whom worthily Thou bore, has risen from the dead, as He prophesied.</i> | Pietro Mascagni |
| | <i>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!</i> | |