



# FEEL THE SPIRIT

# HEXHAM ORPHEUS CHOIR J'S & B'S SINGERS

## MUSICAL DIRECTORS

# MARK EDWARDS

## **SIMON DAVIES-FIDLER**

## HEXHAM ORPHEUS CHOIR AND J'S AND B'S SINGERS

In July last year, Hexham Orpheus Choir combined forces with the choir of St James' and St Basil's church in Fenham to sing *Requiems* of Gabriel Fauré and Len Young in a very successful concert. This year we are repeating the idea and singing again in the wonderful acoustic of St James' and St Basil's Church.

We hope you enjoy it!

### INSANAE ET VANAE CURAE

JOSEPH HAYDN (1732-1809)

This sacred motet started life as part of an oratorio in Italian that Joseph Haydn had been commissioned to write in 1775. The original piece, which didn't include this chorus, was performed at a concert organised by a Viennese musician's benevolent society, to raise funds to provide for the widows and orphans of its members. The oratorio was called *Il ritorno di Tobia*, and told the story of the blind man, Tobit, from the Biblical Apocrypha. The text emphasises the value of prayer, of giving alms and the sanctity of marriage, all possible reasons why Haydn chose it for this commission.

This chorus, *Insanae et Vanae Curae*, was added for a performance nearly a decade later. Subsequently, when it was obvious to Haydn that the oratorio was not going to be a lasting success, he rescued this chorus and rewrote it in Latin. It became a staple of the Latin liturgy, and popular as a choral work in its own right.

*Insanae et Vanae Curae* is divided into two distinct sections, with each section being repeated. The dramatic opening moves relentlessly forward, railing against humanity's preoccupation with earthly concerns. A gentler, more lyrical section reassures us that there is hope as long as we put our trust in God.

Insanae et vanae curae  
invadunt mentes nostras,  
saepe furore replent corda,  
privata spe.

Quid prodest O mortalis  
conari pro mondanis,  
si coelos negligas.  
Sunt fausta tibi cuncta,  
si Deus est pro te.

Foolish and stupid worries  
flood our minds,  
often with madness they fill our hearts,  
which are bereft of hope.

What does it profit you, O mortal man,  
to strive after earthly things,  
if you neglect those of heaven.  
All things are favourable to you  
if God is with you.

## MISSA BREVIS IN D (KV194)

MOZART (1756-1791)

The Missa Brevis in D major was completed on 8 August 1774. It was scored for four soloists, SATB choir, 2 violins, 3 trombones and basso continuo. In this performance it is accompanied by the organ.

This Missa Brevis is thought to have been composed for ordinary liturgical use in the Salzburg Cathedral, under the directive of Archbishop Colloredo. Mozart tried to satisfy Colloredo's demands for brevity in the composition of this mass; none of the movements have an orchestral prelude, the orchestra itself is highly reduced, there is very little fugal writing, and much of the setting is homophonic. In 1793, the Lotter house published the mass posthumously; it was the first of Mozart's works to appear in print. The mass consists of six movements.

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|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Kyrie  | 4. Sanctus    |
| 2. Gloria | 5. Benedictus |
| 3. Credo  | 6. Agnus Dei  |

### —SHORT INTERVAL—

## RUTTER FEEL THE SPIRIT

JOHN RUTTER (1945-)

The great heritage of the spiritual has been a source of inspiration for composers and performer for more than a hundred years. There have been many arrangements and interpretations, though rarely combining the forces of soloist, choir and orchestra.

*Feel the Spirit* is a cycle of seven spirituals arranged by John Rutter. It was designed in collaboration with the mezzo soprano Melanie Marshall and first performed at the Carnegie Hall, New York in June 2001. The cycle of seven spirituals is beautifully balanced as a whole, with each individual song being full of harmonic and rhythmic excitement, and finished with sparkling accompaniment providing interest throughout. Much of Rutter's output has been sacred music, and although he claims to veer more towards being agnostic than Christian ("I'm more a fellow traveller than a believer"), he also says about Christianity: "it's given me my values and a strong sense of faith."

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|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Joshua Fit the battle of Jericho            | 5. Ev'ry time I feel the spirit   |
| 2. Steal away                                  | 6. Deep river                     |
| 3. I got a robe                                | 7. When the saints go marching in |
| 4. Sometimes I feel like a<br>motherless child |                                   |

## MUSICAL DIRECTORS, SOLOISTS & ACCOMPANISTS

### **Haydn *Insanae et Vanae Curae* and Mozart *Missa Brevis***

Directed by Mark Edwards

Bonny Brin (Soprano) Gail Davies-Fidler (Contralto)

Simon Davies-Fidler (Tenor) Chris Davies (Bass)

Warren Smith (Organ)

### **Rutter *Feel the Spirit***

Directed by Simon Davies-Fidler

Bonny Brin (Soprano) Len Young (Piano)

## **HEXHAM ORPHEUS CHOIR**

Hexham Orpheus Choir performs several concerts each year. In addition, the choir participates in a variety of musical events, such as carol concerts and charity fundraising events, and has appeared over the years at various venues including Hexham Abbey, and churches throughout the region.

As a non-auditioned choir, we provide a platform for people of differing musical backgrounds to come together and perform a wide variety of choral music, from renaissance to contemporary. New members are always made very welcome, and are encouraged to participate in the choir's active social calendar.

Rehearsals take place at **Trinity Methodist Church Hall** (Beaumont Street, Hexham) on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

## **Js AND Bs SINGERS**

J's and B's singers is an 'open to all' choir that meets at the church on Monday evenings. There is a focus on classical music with the group singing both secular and non-secular choral works in the ideal acoustic of J's & B's. Music Director Simon Davies-Fidler will help Js and Bs singers to develop music reading skills and choral singing technique whilst working towards performances each term. There is no audition required for this ensemble, so come and give it a go!

Rehearsals take place **St. James' and St. Basil's Church** (Fenham, Newcastle upon Tyne) on Monday evenings 7.30pm – 9.30pm