

ST GILES AT SIX

Sunday 14 July 2019, 6 pm

The Singers

Conductor Donald Halliday



PROGRAMME

Morning song of praise

Max Bruch (1838 – 1920)

6 parts, sung in English (orig. German)

Lo! the glorious sun has risen,
flooding the earth with golden rays;
Song of lark and harvest blessing
follow where the sunlight strays,
Wake from your slumbers and tarry no more!
God, who has granted you sunlight,
adore! Sorrow and care that have weighed down
the heart, touch'd with the blush of the morn',
shall depart.

Two Introits on Icelandic Texts

Lisa McMaster

Speak, my soul, the Almighty's praise

Words: Hallgrímur Pétursson (1614 – 1674)

Speak, my soul, the Almighty's praise sweetly
with joyful heart's accord, give your thanks on all
your days to your ever-living Lord who life and
strength and health bestowed, help and grace
and mercy showed, against suffering's strain,
assuaged every pain, your misery with bliss
endowed.

Sumarkveðja 1770

Words: Jón Þorláksson from Bægisá (1744 – 1819)

As long as God grants us to live,
let us use these days to sing the praise of Him
whose gift it is to give.
Evil ways in ancient times in tears we repent,
weep for our crimes and spare us God's scourge
and chastisement.

Ascendens Christus in altum

Tomas Luis de Victoria (1548 – 1611)

5 parts, sung in the original Latin

Christ ascended up on high, alleluja.
And took captivity prisoner, alleluja.
He gave gifts to mankind, alleluja.

God rose in jubilation, and the Lord with the
sound of the trumpet, alleluja.
He gave gifts to mankind, alleluja.

Ave verum Corpus

Peter Philips (c.1560 – 1628)

5 parts, sung in original Latin

Hail true Body, born of the Virgin Mary that truly
suffered, sacrificed on the cross for man;
You whose pierced side flowed with a wave of
blood, let us foretaste of you in the trial of our
death.

O sweet! O merciful! O Jesus son of Mary, have
mercy upon me.

God so loved the world

John Stainer (1840 – 1901)

text from John 3:16 – 17

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only
begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him
should not perish, but have eternal life.

Locus iste

Anton Bruckner (1824 – 1896)

This place was made by God, a priceless mystery;
it is without reproof.

Vita Hominum

Sung in Latin

Words by Bede (672/3 – 26 May 735)

Music by Edmund Hunt

English translations by Christopher Hunwick and
Gabriele Wright

Soloists: Lindsey Nicholls (soprano) Martin Lay
(tenor)

I ... Thus this life of man appears for a short
while: but what follows, or what went before,
we know not at all. Meanwhile, since the
condition of every generation of man is fragile
and whirling like the waves, when suddenly a
storm arises ...

II I know that when you board the ship, a
contrary wind and storms will come upon
you, but you must remember to pour this oil,
which I give to you, upon the sea; and, at
once, as the winds quieten, a pleasant, calm
sea will follow you and send you home the
way you desire.

III Christ is the morning star, who, when the
night of this world has passed, promises to his
saints the light of life, and lays it open
eternally.

IV Thanks be to God. Go in peace.

Schweigend sinkt die Nacht

Fanny Hensel (1805 – 1847)

8 parts, sung in the original German

Silently the night drops down,
Quietly smoulders the evening splendour,
Softly our songs fade away,
The wave sounds quieter again.
Our journey, it is done.
Quiet, quiet, good night.

**A very warm thank you to all who have come to
support this concert.**

THE SINGERS

The Singers is a chamber choir of around twenty
two mixed voices based in Newcastle upon Tyne.
Singers come mainly from Newcastle and
Northumberland but others travel considerable
distances to participate. A high standard of
musicianship and sight-reading is required as the
group does not meet on a regular weekly basis
largely owing to the numerous other musical
commitments of members. The choir rehearses
one weekend a month in Newcastle.

The choir sings regularly in Durham Cathedral, St
Giles Cathedral, Southwark Cathedral, and
Cologne Cathedral as well as St George's, Windsor
and Liverpool and Blackburn cathedrals. The
Singers hope to perform, in time, in all twelve,
beautiful Romanesque churches in Cologne (still
five to go!)

The Singers next performances will be in Coventry
on 19 and 20 October. The Singers will give a
concert in Holy Trinity Church on the Saturday
and will sing the services in Coventry Cathedral
on the Sunday. More details on our website –
singers.org.uk.

Tonight's singers:

Sopranos

Helen Barber, Rachel Elliot, Heather Harrison,
Jessica Hawkins, Suzanne Longley, Lindsey
Nicholls, Charlotte Treglown

Altos

Pamela Cummins, Edmund Hunt, Lisa McMaster,
Alison Rudd, Ann Tarn, Gabriele Wright

Tenors

Aidan Campbell, Chris Hunwick, Martin Lay, Philip
Mountain, Alistair McGubbin

Basses

Matthew Dunford, Steve Locks, Alex Moon, Ian
Wainwright



LISA McMASTER

Lisa McMaster graduated in Music from Bristol University in 1985. She studied composition with, among others, Raymond Warren, Wyndham Thomas and Robert Saxton. She now teaches music in a Scottish school but for eight years she lived and worked in Iceland. This gave her the opportunity to acquaint herself with the Icelandic language and music both ancient and contemporary that is rarely heard outside the country.

The texts for the two introits are translations from texts by Icelandic poets of the 17th and 18th centuries, Hallgrímur Pétursson and Jón Þorláksson of Bægisá. Hallgrímur Pétursson is especially celebrated by Icelanders. He wrote the much beloved Passíusalmar or Passion Hymns, many of which have been set to music. An iconic church in Reykjavík is named after Hallgrímur.

Other compositions by Lisa include Three Icelandic Folktales, premiered by the North Icelandic Chamber Choir, and a Missa Brevis that has been performed in several English cathedrals.

Lisa sang with the North Icelandic Chamber Choir from 2008 – 2014 and joined The Singers in 2017.

Lisa's Two Introits on Icelandic Texts were written for The Singers and premiered at today's services.



EDMUND HUNT

Edmund Hunt is a British composer. His work has been played in the UK and abroad by ensembles including Psappha, The Royal Northern Sinfonia, the Birmingham Conservatoire Symphony Orchestra, The Curious Chamber Players and CoMA (Contemporary Music for All). In 2014, he was selected for the London Philharmonic Orchestra's Leverhulme Young Composers' programme. His composition 'Argatnéll' was performed by the LPO in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, and was reviewed in the Telegraph as 'the most delicately beautiful piece of the evening'.

Edmund has an MA from the University of Cambridge and an MMus from Newcastle University. He has recently completed a PhD in composition at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, where he is now a Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

Much of Edmund's music is inspired by the early mediaeval literature of northern Europe. Although he often uses early texts, his approach is innovative and contemporary.

Edmund's Vita Hominum was written for The Singers and premiered on 15 December 2018. The performance was recorded by the BBC and broadcast on Radio 3 on 8 January 2019.

THE SINGERS
singers.org.uk