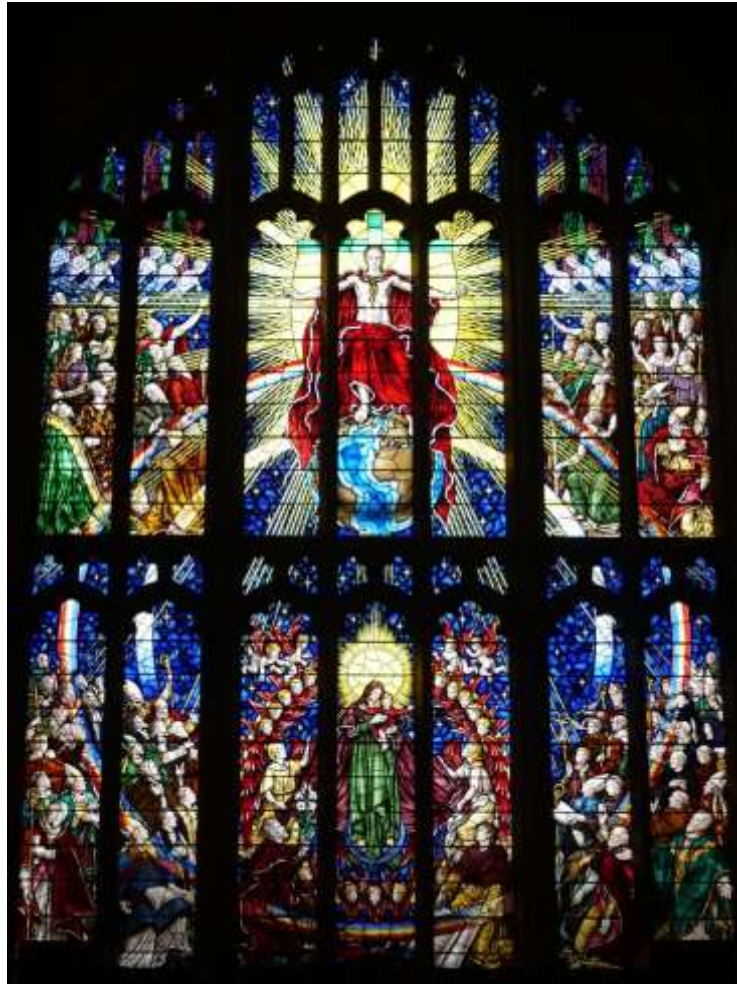


Holy Trinity Church Coventry



A CONCERT BY THE SINGERS

Newcastle upon Tyne

Saturday 19 October 2019

4 pm

HOLY TRINITY, COVENTRY

Saturday 19 October 2019, 4 pm

The Singers

Conductor Donald Halliday

PROGRAMME

O sing joyfully

Adrian Batten (1591 – 1637)

O sing joyfully unto God our strength
Make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob.
Take the song, bring hither the tabret,
The merry harp with the lute.
Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, ev'n in
the time appointed, and upon our solemn feast
day.
For this was made a statute for Israel and a law of
the God of Jacob.

Jesu, joy of man's desiring

J S Bach (1685 – 1750)
(*organist* Alison Rudd)

Jesu, joy of man's desiring,
Holy wisdom, Love most bright,
Drawn by thee, our souls aspiring
Soar to uncreated light.
Word of God, our flesh that fashioned
With the fire of life impassioned,
Striving still to truth unknown,
Soaring, dying round thy throne

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!).

We are delighted to be able to sing in this
beautiful church today to support the Holy Trinity
Organ Appeal. We are singing for the 10:30 am
and 4 pm services in Coventry Cathedral
tomorrow. We will also be singing Edmund Hunt's
Vita Hominum again in the cathedral at 2.30 pm.
Please come along and join us.

THE SINGERS

singers.org.uk

Sopranos

Helen Barber, Stephanie Delvin, Rachel Elliot,
Heather Harrison, Suzanne Longley, Lindsey
Nicholls, Charlotte Treglown

Altos

Pamela Cummins, Ann Hill, Edmund Hunt, Lisa
McMaster, Alison Rudd, Christiane Wiebe,
Gabriele Wright

Tenors

Chris Hunwick, Martin Lay, Philip Mountain,
Alistair McGubbin

Basses

Matthew Dunford, Andrew Elliot, Steve Locks,
Alex Moon, Chris Tradgett, Ian Wainwright

Conductor

Donald Halliday



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 in July in St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh.



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.