

## ST GILES AT SIX

Sunday 22 October 2023, 6 pm

### The Singers

Conductor Donald Halliday



#### PROGRAMME

##### Pilgrim's Hymn

Stephen Paulus [1949 – **October 19**, 2014]  
Words by Michael Dennis Browne [b. 1940]

Even before we call on your name to ask you, O  
God,  
When we seek for the words to glorify you, you  
hear our prayer;  
Unceasing love, O unceasing love, surpassing all  
we know.  
Glory to the Father, And to the Son,  
And to the Holy Spirit.

Even with the darkness sealing us in,  
We breathe your name,  
And through all the days that follow so fast, we  
trust in you;  
Endless your grace, O endless your grace, beyond  
all mortal dream.  
Both now and for ever, and unto ages and ages,  
Amen.

---

##### O Lord, grant the King a long life

Thomas Weelkes [1576 – **1623**]

O Lord, grant the king a long life,  
that his years may endure throughout all  
generations.  
He shall dwell before thee for ever.

O, prepare thy loving mercy and faithfulness,  
that they may preserve him.  
So shall we always sing and praise thy name  
Amen.

---

##### Bogoroditse Djevo

Sergei Rachmaninov [1873 –1943]  
From the All-Night Vigil, sung in Church Slavonic

Rejoice, virgin mother of God,  
Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,  
for you have borne the Saviour of our souls.

---

##### Open Thy Gates

Julius Harrison [1885 – **1963**]  
Words Robert Herrick [baptised 1591 – buried 15  
October 1674]

Open Thy gates for him who weeping waits  
And might come in but that held back by sin.  
Let mercy be so kind to set me free  
And I will strait come in.

---

##### Ah, Robin, gentle Robin

William Cornysh [1465 – **October 1523**]

Ah, Robin, gentle, Robin,  
Tell me how thy leman\* doth  
and thou shalt know of mine.

My lady is unkind I wis,  
Alack why is she so?  
She lov'th another better than me,  
and yet she will say no.

I cannot think such doubleness  
for I find women true,  
In faith my lady lov'th me well  
she will change for no new.

Ah, Robin, gentle, Robin,  
Tell me how thy leman doth  
and thou shalt know of mine.

\* leman = lover

---

## Stars

Ēriks Ešenvalds [b. 1977]

Words Sara Teasdale [1884 – 1933]

Alone in the night on a dark hill  
With pines around me spicy and still  
And a heaven full of stars over my head  
White and topaz and misty red;

Myriads with beating hearts of fire  
The aeons cannot vex or tire;  
Up the dome of heaven like a great hill  
I watch them marching stately and still

And I know that I am honoured to be  
Witness of so much majesty

---

## Last Night of Stars

Don Macdonald [b. born 1966]

### *Composer notes:*

*A child lies in her bed at night staring out of her high-rise window at a view obscured by a thick haze, her bedroom flooded with sounds from the city. One child such as this may be the voice that brings about the changes needed to remedy our relationship with the planet.*

Last night of stars, shroud is descending.  
Black is invading canvas and frame.  
Sweet child of twilight in your nest made of iron,  
come out from the shadows.  
It is time for our passing and your dawning.  
Take this next breath with me,  
fill the night with your melody.  
Starlight dimmed and shuttered moon,  
sing them all aglow, all aglow at last.

Last night of stars, dark shroud descending.  
Black is invading canvas and frame.  
Last child of Autumn, last child before the storm.  
Restless tides of fear may drown us,  
you must rise to meet them.  
Take this next breath with me.  
Fill the night with your melody.  
Sirens shrill and rumbles deep, sing them all to  
silence.

Silence at last. Last day of whispers,  
silenced by tremors.

Songs in the distance are thundered,  
then mute.

Child of twilight in your nest made of iron,  
come out from the shadows.  
It is time, sing it all to silence.

---

## Haec dies

William Byrd [c. 1539 – 1623]

Sung in Latin

This is the day which the Lord hath made:  
let us be glad and rejoice therein. (*Psalm 118:24*)  
Alleluia.

---

## As one who has slept

John Tavener [1944 – November 2013]

Words from the Liturgy of St Basil for Great and  
Holy Saturday

As one who has slept the Lord has risen  
And rising he has saved us. Alleluia.

---

## The Road Home

Tune: Prospect, arr. Stephen Paulus (1949 – 2014)

Words: Michael Dennis Browne (b. 1940)

Tell me, where is the road I can call my own,  
That I left, that I lost so long ago?  
All these years I have wandered, oh when will I  
know  
There's a way, there's a road that will lead me  
home?

After wind, after rain, when the dark is done,  
As I wake from a dream in the gold of day,  
Through the air there's a calling from far away,  
There's a voice I can hear that will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me, come away, is the call,  
With the love in your heart as the only song;  
There is no such beauty as where you belong;  
Rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.

**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 the third weekend most months in Newcastle.

This is our eleventh concert here in St Giles. We have also deputised here for the St Giles Singers when they have toured abroad. The Singers sing regularly in Durham Cathedral, Southwark Cathedral, and Cologne Cathedral as well as St George's, Windsor and Liverpool, Chester, Coventry, Blackburn and Carlisle cathedrals. The Singers hope to perform, in time, in all twelve, beautiful Romanesque churches in Cologne (still five to go!). The Singers will be singing in York Minster for the first time in April 2024.

Our last concert here in St Giles was in 2019 when we performed compositions by choir members Lisa McMaster and Edmund Hunt, both of whom still sing regularly with the choir. Edmund's *Vita Hominum* was written for The Singers who recorded it for broadcast on BBC Radio 3. The Singers have also been finalists in the BBC Choir of the Year competition.

The Singers next performance *Christmas with The Singers* will be in Newcastle on 16 December 2024. More details of all our activities on our website – [singers.org.uk](http://singers.org.uk).

## Tonight's singers

### **Sopranos**

Helen Barber  
Suzanne Longley  
Rachel Lyons  
Sarah Matthews  
Lindsey Nicholls

### **Altos**

Alice Gilmore  
Lisa McMaster  
Elize Petrovska  
Alison Rudd  
Emmy Shaw  
Alice Ward  
Gaby Wright

### **Tenors**

Chris Hunwick  
Philip Mountain

### **Basses**

Matthew Dunford  
Richard Kerr  
Steve Locks  
Alex Moon  
Ian Wainwright

### **Further information**

See [singers.org.uk](http://singers.org.uk)

### **Joining The Singers**

Our singers come from all over, from Montrose to Chester. We meet once a month in Newcastle upon Tyne to explore demanding, mainly unaccompanied choral repertoire. If you are interested in joining us please see our website and contact our conductor Donald Halliday.

---

**THE SINGERS**  
singers.org.uk