



COLCHESTER CHAMBER CHOIR

Director Roderick Earle

ONE EQUAL MUSIC

programme £2

COLCHESTER CHAMBER CHOIR

Our first concert was in January 2010. Since then we have performed in an increasing number of venues to an ever-growing audience. We are proud of our reputation for performances of unusual quality, musicality, drama and imagination. This season we number thirty-three auditioned singers from a wide area around Colchester.

We present varied programmes exploring the more challenging and less well-known repertoire, particularly from the pre-baroque and 19th and 20th centuries. Where possible we sing in the original language. This season as well as singing in Colchester we will give recitals and concerts in many churches in East Anglia and perform as guests at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich, St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds and the 2013 Harwich Festival.

Michael Roderick Earle, the choir's director and founder, studied as a choral scholar in the renowned St. John's College Choir, Cambridge and sang with the BBC Singers and Monteverdi Choir before embarking on a career in opera. A principal baritone with the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, for twenty-one years performing over sixty solo roles, he has sung in opera and concerts all over the world and is a singing professor at The Royal College of Music.

Peter Humphrey is the choir's rehearsal pianist.

**This concert is fondly dedicated to the memory of Dennis Bowen (1928-2013)
member of Colchester Chamber Choir since its inauguration.**

sopranos		altos	tenors	basses
Liz Curry	Lesley Orrock	Lehla Abbott	Terry Blunden	John Campbell
Anita Filer	Linda Pearsall	Eleanor Campbell	Paul Burt	Joseph Cowie
Amy Jackson	Libby Ridley	Patsy Cosgrove	Tom Chippendale	Sean Moriarty
Julia King	Hilary Sellers	Tessa Freebairn	Andrew Marsden	Peter Newton
Sarah Lock	Olivia Surguy	Lynne McKay	Amrit Nasta	Martin Richardson
Jill Newton	Maxine Taylor	Anne Marie O'Callaghan	Will Potten	Stephen Smith
		Meg Prolingheuer		Paul Torrington
		Mary Stamp		

...no noise nor silence, but one equal music... John Donne

All of the pieces in tonight's programme have several things in common. They were all composed within about a hundred years and by English speaking composers. They are all for unaccompanied voices, but most especially they all try to express some sense of a world 'beyond', a heavenly paradise which transcends our human existence and the material world. They do this by employing lush harmonic writing, and by being divided into as many as eight parts, or vocal lines. These are sometimes divided between two choirs of four parts.

Charles Villiers Stanford was a prolific composer best known today for his church music. His *Three Motets*, op 38 were published in 1905 for the choir of Trinity College, Cambridge. Stanford had been organist there at the end of the previous century. These pieces are written for between 4 and 8 parts.

William Walton's *Litany: Drop, drop slow tears*, was written at the age of 15 in 1917, and is a remarkably mature work for such a young man. *Set me as a seal* was written in 1938 - the same year as the Violin Concerto - for the society wedding of two friends.

Samuel Barber's *Agnus Dei* was written in 1967. This was a reworking of his Adagio for Strings, 1936, which in turn was a rewriting of the second movement of his String Quartet op 11 of the same year. The part writing is extremely demanding with each voice being taken to the extremes of the vocal range.

Morten Lauridsen's compositions have become hugely popular with choirs in his native America and throughout the world. His style of writing has been copied and developed by many younger composers who have further developed this purely choral contemporary genre. *O Magnum Mysterium* is his best known work and was written in 1994 for the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

Edward Elgar's elegy *They are at rest* was written (at the same time as his Violin Concerto) for the ninth anniversary of the death of Queen Victoria and first performed in the Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore on 22 January 1910. The words are by Cardinal Newman whose poem 'The Dream of Gerontius' was also set to music by Elgar.

William Harris was an organist and composer whose last appointment was to St. George's Chapel, Windsor. *Faire is the Heaven* was written in 1925 and *Bring us, O Lord* in 1959. These two double choir works are his best known compositions and hold a secure and much loved place in the repertoire of the great Anglican choral foundations.

In 1883, **Stanford** was invited to be the first Professor of Composition at the newly founded Royal College of Music. In this position he became mentor to many of the next generation of British composers, not least Herbert Howells and Gustav Holst. Richard Terry held the position of Director of Music at the newly built Westminster Cathedral from 1901-1924, where he did much to revive the performance of Renaissance polyphony in this country. Stanford was said to encourage his pupils to go to Westminster to hear 'Palestrina for tuppence', the cost of the bus fare from South Kensington. Many young composers thus developed an interest in writing for the Catholic liturgy inspired by the models of the 16th and 17th centuries. Howells *Salve Regina* and *Regina Caeli* are all that survive of Four Anthems of the Blessed Virgin Mary, written for Westminster Cathedral when the composer was 23.

Holst's *Nunc Dimittis* was also written for Terry and Westminster Cathedral and was first performed on Easter Day 1915.

PROGRAMME

3 Motets Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Justorum Animae

Beati Quorum Via

Coelos Ascendit Hodie

Litany: Drop, drop slow tears

William Walton (1902-1983)

Set me as a seal

Agnus Dei

Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

INTERVAL

complimentary refreshments are available during the interval

O Magnum Mysterium

Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

They are at rest

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Faire is the heaven

William Harris (1883-1973)

Bring us, O Lord

Regina Coeli

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Salve Regina

Nunc Dimittis

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

3 Motets Charles Villiers Stanford

Justorum Animae

Justorum animae in manu Dei sunt,
et non tanget illos tormentum mortis.
Visi sunt oculis insipientium mori,
illi autem sunt in pace.
(the Book of Wisdom)

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and the torment of death shall not touch them.
In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die;
but they are in peace.

Beati Quorum

Beati quorum via integra est,
qui ambulant in lege Domini.
(Psalm 119, verse 1)

Blessed are they whose way is pure,
who walk in the law of the Lord.

Coelos ascendit hodie

Coelos ascendit hodie
Jesus Christus Rex Gloriam:
Sedet ad Patris dexteram,
Gubernat coelum et terram.
Iam finem habent omnia
Patris Davidis carmina.
Iam Dominus cum Domino
Sedet in Dei solio:
In hoc triumpho maximo
Benedicamus Domino.
Laudetur Sancta Trinitas,
Deo dicamus gratias,
Alleluia. Amen.
(12th century hymn)

Today into the heavens has ascended
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Alleluia!
He sits at the Father's right hand,
and rules heaven and earth, Alleluia!
Now have been fulfilled all of
Father David's songs,
Now God is with God, Alleluia!
He sits upon the royal throne of God,
in this his greatest triumph, Alleluia!
Let us bless the Lord:
Let the Holy Trinity be praised,
let us give thanks to the Lord,
Alleluia! Amen.



A Litany: Drop, drop, slow tears William Walton

Drop, drop, slow tears,
And bathe those beautiful feet
Which brought from Heaven
The news and Prince of Peace.

Cease not, wet eyes,
His mercy to entreat;
To cry for vengeance
Sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods
Drown all my faults and fears;
Nor let His eye
See sin, but through my tears.
(Phineas Fletcher. 1580–1650)



Set me as a seal

Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm:
for love is strong as death;
Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it.
(Song of Solomon)

Agnus Dei Samuel Barber

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

(from the Ordinary of the Mass)

Lamb of God,
who take away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God,
who take away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God,
who take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

O Magnum Mysterium Morten Lauridsen

O magnum mysterium,
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,
jacentem in praesepio!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera
meruerunt portare Dominum Christum.

Alleluia

(responsorial chant from the Matins of Christmas)

O great mystery,
and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord,
lying in a manger!

Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.

Alleluia.



They are at rest Edward Elgar

They are at rest.

We may not stir the heav'n of their repose
By rude invoking voice, or prayer address
In waywardness to those
Who in the mountain grotts of Eden lie,
And hear the fourfold river as it murmurs by.

And soothing sounds
Blend with the neighb'ring waters as they glide;
Posted along the haunted garden's bounds,
Angelic forms abide,
Echoing, as words of watch, o'er lawn and grove
The verses of that hymn which Seraphs chant above.

They are at rest.

(John Henry Newman, 1801-1890)

Faire is the heaven William Harris

Faire is the heaven where happy soules have place
In full enjoyment of felicitie;
Whence they do still behold the glorious face
Of the Divine, Eternall Majestie;

Yet farre more faire be those bright Cherubins
Which all with golden wings are overdight.
And those eternall burning Seraphins
Which from their faces dart out fiery light;

Yet fairer than they both and much more bright
Be the Angels and Archangels
Which attend on God's owne person without rest or end.
These then in faire each other farre excelling
As to the Highest they approach more neare,
Yet is that Highest farre beyond all telling

Fairer than all the rest which there appeare
Though all their beauties joynd together were;
How then can mortal tongue hope to expresse
The image of such endlesse perfectnesse?
(Edmund Spenser, c1552-1599)

Bring us O Lord

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening
into the house and gate of heaven,
to enter into that gate and dwell in that house,
where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling,
but one equal light;
no noise nor silence, but one equal music;
no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;
no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity,
in the habitation of thy glory and dominion,
world without end. Amen.

(John Donne (1572-1631)



Regina Caeli Herbert Howells

Regina caeli, lætare, alleluia:

Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,

Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia,

Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

(Marian antiphon)

Salve Regina

Salve Regina, salve Mater Misericordiae,
vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, Salve!

Ad te clamamus, exsules filii Hevae;

ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes,

In hac lacrimarum valle.

Eia ergo, Advocata nostra,

illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte

et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,

nobis, post hoc exilium, ostende.

O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

(Marian antiphon)

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

For He whom you deserved to bear, alleluia.

He has risen, as He promised, alleluia.

Pray for us to God, alleluia.

Hail, Holy Queen, hail Mother of Mercy,
our life, our sweetness and our hope.

To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve;

to you do we send up our sighs,

mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.

Turn then, most gracious Advocate,

your eyes of mercy toward us;

and after this our exile,

show to us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.

O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.



Nunc Dimittis Gustav Holst

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine,
secundum verbum tuum in pace:

Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum

Quod parasti ante faciem

omnium populorum:

Lumen ad revelationem gentium,

et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart
in peace according to Thy word.

For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

Which thou hast prepared

before the face of all people

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles

and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Gloria Patri, et Filio,

et Spiritui Sancto,

Sicut erat in principio,

et nunc, et semper,

et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now,

and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen.

(Luke 2:29–32)



**FAIRE
IS THE
HEAVEN**

Forthcoming concerts

For spring and summer 2013 we are continuing our theme of British and American 20th century sacred choral music with a series of recitals and concerts right across the area.

On March 9th at Holy Trinity, Chrishall we revisit our One Equal Music programme. On the 1st and 2nd of June we will be performing a recital based on this repertoire entitled **Faire is the Heaven**. Audiences at St Mary the Virgin, Wivenhoe, St Barnabas, Alphamstone, St Peter and St Paul in St Osyth and other local churches will not only enjoy these recitals but are also using them to help raise funds for their needs.



MAGNIFICAT

On June 1st at St Peter's Boxted, June 15th at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist Norwich and June 29th at St Peter's Harwich (part of the 2013 Harwich Festival) we will be performing an extended programme featuring Stanford's mighty Magnificat for Double Choir.

Further details of all these concerts will be posted on our website www.colchesterchamberchoir.org as they come available.

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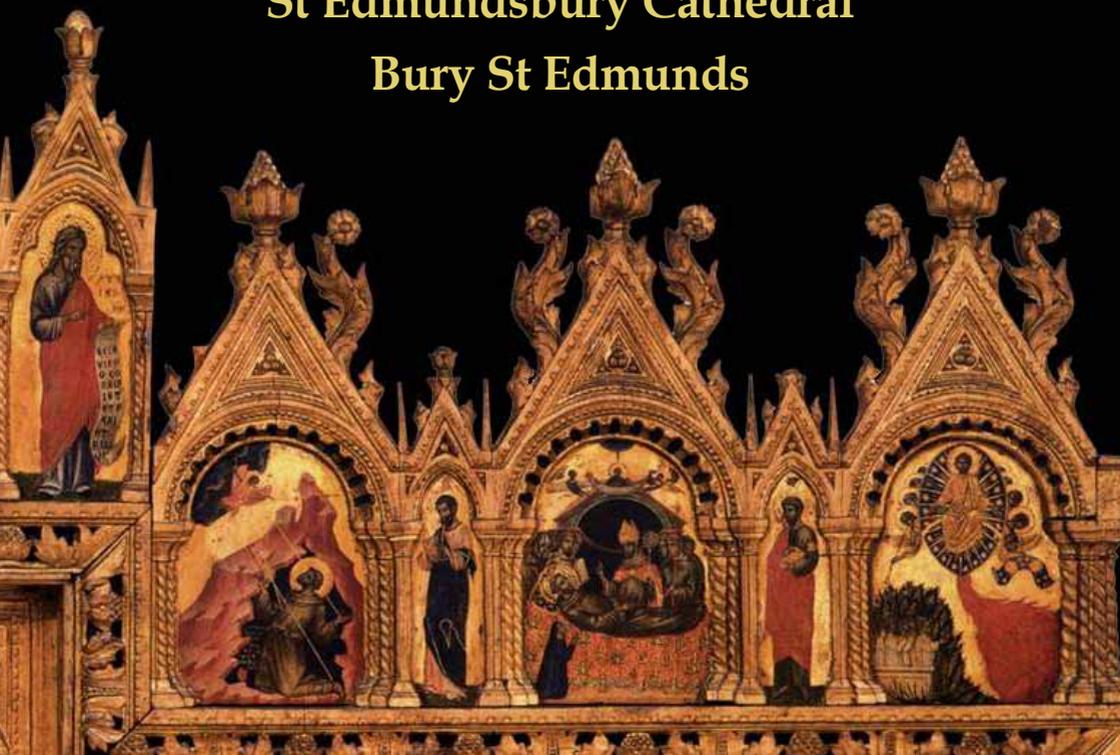
MASS AND VESPERS

1610 1640 1650

Saturday 26 October 7.30pm

St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Bury St Edmunds



Help the choir by giving us your financial support

Each year, Colchester Chamber Choir performs to around 1,000 highly discerning audience members both in Colchester and the wider area of East Anglia. Hundreds buy our programmes and visit our website, while thousands read our posters.

Thank you for coming to this concert. Would you like to help or support us further? Any sponsorship can make a difference, helping us to sustain and develop our work. Please consider sponsoring a piece of music or a young professional musician to accompany us in one of our concerts, or help with the cost of producing our information leaflets or posters, which would then carry your logo. You might also think of placing an advertisement in one of our programmes.



Colchester Chamber Choir is available to perform at festivals or other public events. In June 2013 we are performing again at Harwich Festival of the Arts. To discuss this or other ways of supporting and sponsoring the choir please contact the Choir Chairman Peter Newton on 01206 572883 or email chair@colchesterchamberchoir.org

For more information about future programmes, how to buy tickets or join our mailing list, please visit our website www.colchesterchamberchoir.org

email: info@colchesterchamberchoir.org

