

DARTFORD CHORAL SOCIETY

Summer Concert



Brahms ***Requiem***

and items for our
102nd Anniversary

Saturday 11th June 2022
St. Michael's Church
Wilmington

Conductor: Michael Bell

Organ Accompanist: Ray Lewis

Soloists: Susannah Groome, Crispin Lewis

Tickets £10:00 (Concessions £8)
Available at the door

Registered charity No.1042096

www.dartfordchoral.org.uk



Affiliated to Making Music

PROGRAMME

1. *Let all the world in every corner sing* – R.Vaughan Williams
2. Duet: *My friend is mine* [from Cantata 140] – J.S.Bach
3. *Requiem* (op.45) - Johannes Brahms

Chorus: Blessed are they that mourn

Chorus: Behold, all flesh is as the grass

* * * I N T E R V A L * * *

(*Requiem* continued) :-

Solo & Chorus: Lord, let me know mine end

Chorus: How lovely are Thy dwellings fair

Solo & Chorus: Ye now have sorrow

Solo & Chorus: For we have no abiding city

Chorus: Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord

4. Coronation Anthem *Zadok the Priest* – G.F. Handel

This concert is only the fourth that Dartford Choral Society has undertaken since 2019, as the planned concert in celebration of our centenary had to be called off when Covid restrictions were imposed a week before-hand in March 2020. Our November concert last year did go ahead despite reduced numbers being able to participate. Only now did the Society feel confident enough to mark the ‘centenary’ at all.

As with many other choral groups nationwide, return to comparative normality has been painfully slow. So it is all the more welcome to turn to the words of George Herbert (1593-1633), which he entitled *Antiphon* – in more recent times a widely known church hymn. **Ralph Vaughan Williams** (1872-1958) – the 150th anniversary of his birth will be on October 12th - set these words for the last section of his song cycle *Five Mystical Songs*. It is frequently heard as an anthem in “places where they sing”...and quite often in DCS concerts.

Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!
The heavens are not too high,
His praise may thither fly;
The earth is not too low,
His praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!

Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!
The Church with psalms must shout,
No door can keep them out:
But above all, the heart
Must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King!

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) may have written his *German Requiem* in memory of his mother, or possibly of Schumann. Either way it was completed in 1867, though the soprano solo was added in 1869 for a performance in Leipzig. The version in English followed a few years later. The text is not that of a true Requiem and selects from the Psalms and Isaiah as well as from the New Testament:

Blessed are they that mourn : for they shall be comforted.

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

Who goeth forth and weepeth, and beareth precious seed, shall come again rejoicing, and bring his sheaves with him.

Behold, all flesh is as the grass, and all the glory of man is as the flower of the field. The grass is withered, and the flower thereof is fallen.

Now therefore be patient, O my brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. See how the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, till it receive in time the early and the latter rain. So be ye patient.

Behold, all flesh, etc,...

But yet the Lord's word standeth for evermore.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return again and come with singing unto Zion. Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads alway, gladness and joy shall they obtain, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Lord, let me know mine end, and the number of my days: let me know how frail I am, that I be made sure how long I have to live.

Surely, Thou hast made my days as an handbreath before Thee : And my lifetime is as nothing to Thee : Verily every man living is altogether vanity.

For surely man walketh as a shadow: and he disquieteth himself in vain, yea, all in vain: his riches, he knoweth not who shall gather them.

Now, Lord, what then do I hope for? My hope is in Thee.

But the righteous souls are in the hand of God: there shall no torment touch them.

How lovely are Thy dwellings fair, O Lord of hosts!

My soul longeth, yea longeth and fainteth for the courts of the Lord.

My heart and flesh ring out their joy unto the living God.

Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house: they praise Thee, Lord, evermore.

Ye now have sorrow : but I will again behold you, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy shall no man take from you.

Thee will I comfort, as one whom his mother comforts.

Now behold me, ye see how for a little while labour and toil were my lot, yet have I found much rest.

For we have no abiding city, but yet we seek that to come.

Behold, I show you a mystery : We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the last trumpet: for behold, the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?

Worthy art Thou, Lord, of praise and glory, honour and power: for Thou,

Almighty, hast created all things, and because of Thy will they were, and were created.

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth : even so, saith the Spirit; for they rest from their labours; and their works follow after them.

[The English version by Ivor Atkins (1869-1953)]

Soloists:- Susannah Groome (Soprano)
Crispin Lewis (Baritone)
Raymond Lewis (Organist)

All have performed many times at the Society's concerts – Raymond, indeed, on more than fifty occasions...

Susannah Groome is a Lyric Soprano specialising in Choral Music, Early Music, Oratorio and English Song. She has made many solo appearances in Cathedrals across the UK, many Central London Churches, Houses of Parliament and 10 Downing Street, St John's Smith Square, on both BBC radio and television and more recently on an American television music documentary demonstrating the acoustics of Salisbury Cathedral. Susannah sings professionally in the choir of St Matthew's Westminster, where she has been part of a small chamber ensemble in BBC broadcasts, podcasts and concerts. She featured as soloist and quartet in two recent BBC Radio 3 Choral Evensongs from St Matthew's Westminster. Susannah sings soprano oratorio solos regularly with choral societies and chamber choirs across the country. She teaches at Salisbury Cathedral School and deputises as a soprano in the Cathedral for services and concerts. Susannah graduated with a First Class Degree from the London College of Music where she also won several College prizes. Susannah currently studies singing with Sarah Pring.

Crispin Lewis studied at the Royal College of Music (postgraduate) and at Trinity Laban Conservatoire (undergraduate) as a violinist, before going on to study conducting and singing. He now works as a singer and conductor. Last month he played Salieri in a production of Rimsky Korsakov's rarely heard opera *Mozart and Salieri*. He has also performed opera roles including Mozart's Don Alfonso, Figaro and Leporello; King Rene in Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta*; and Daland in Wagner's *Flying Dutchman*.. He gives solo recitals regularly and is the soloist for many choral societies. He is a member of the professional quartet of St Giles-in-the-Fields. Crispin is the regular director of two choral societies and frequently directs other choirs. As a choral director he has directed his own

choirs and vocal ensembles at venues including Wigmore Hall, in many BBC Radio 3 broadcasts, and at St John's Smith Square, King's Place Hall One, Royal Opera House, Linbury Theatre, and at the South Bank Centre. He is the director of Choritalia, an annual summer choral course in Tuscany.

Raymond Lewis has followed a triple career as pianist, conductor and organist. Until he renewed his interest in early music most of his time was spent as a pianist, both as soloist and particularly in chamber music in various duos, trios and ensembles.

He was for many years Director of Music at St Stephen's Rochester Row in Westminster, and of Crown Court Church of Scotland (originally, the chapel of the Scottish Embassy) in Covent Garden. He has played at most of the major cathedrals of the UK and has given solo recitals in the cathedrals of Southwark, Rochester, St David's and Chichester, St Alban's Abbey and Central Hall Westminster.

As a composer, his output includes much church music (RSCM and Encore Publications), some music for strings, and a setting of the *Gloria* for baritone solo, choir and large orchestra. His anthem *It came even to pass* was described in the press as 'outstanding'. His compositions have been performed at the Barbican Centre, The Royal Festival Hall, St Alban's Abbey, Rochester Cathedral and Liverpool Cathedral.

Raymond was Director of Music at All Saints' Orpington from 1989 until 2018, conductor of All Saints' Festival Choir and Orchestra from 1992 until 2022, and conductor of Orpington Symphony Orchestra from 2003 until 2018.

Our Musical Director - Michael Bell

Michael Bell has been Musical Director of Dartford Choral Society since 1984 taking over the baton from David Atkinson. A graduate of Bristol University, Michael Bell trained additionally as a music teacher at the London Institute of Education. He is a fellow of the Royal College of Organists.

He was Director of Music at Dartford Grammar School from 1975 to 1992 and has served as Rochester Diocesan Organ Adviser. First prizewinner of

the 1983 West of England Organ Festival, he has subsequently given recitals at St. Paul's, Southwark and Rochester Cathedrals, and in many churches in London and the provinces (not to mention Scotland).

A former organist of Dartford Parish Church, Michael is currently Organist and Choirmaster of St. Nicholas Church, Chislehurst, Kent.

DARTFORD CHORAL SOCIETY

Director of Music: Michael Bell

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Pat Everington (*Chairman*)
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Rachel Miles
Rosemary Peel
Sharon Stirman
Barbara Toft

Altos

Katie Bell
Marilyn Davey
Nicky Garland
Louise Peterken
Mary Purcell
Gwen Rumble
Chris Settle
Mary Webb

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Basses

Stan Bearfoot
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Steve Jones
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The Dartford Choral Society is dependent upon financial assistance to continue giving public concerts with soloists of standing. If you would like to support us by becoming a Patron, please leave your name and address with a Choir member or Steward. Alternatively, contact the Patrons Secretary,

Andrew Dey – Tel.01322 555406.

The Dartford Choral Society greatly appreciates the financial assistance kindly given to us by our Patrons

Next D.C.S. Concert:

Saturday 19 November 2022

Autumn Concert, at St Michael's Church, Church Hill, Wilmington DA2 7EH
Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ralph Vaughan Williams
(12/10/1872):- *Toward the Unknown Region/O taste and see / Let all the world*

The programme will also include extracts from other melodious choral works:-

JSBach	<i>Cantata Sleepers, wake!</i>
Gabriel Fauré	<i>Cantique de Jean Racine</i>
Franz Schubert	<i>Mass in E flat</i>

... Just taste and see !

