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Cantorum Choir

Pre-European Tour

Concert

A Programme of

European Sacred Music

Conductor - Jonathan Miall

Organ - Keri Dexter

Saturday 17 March



St Mary's Church

Slough

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CANTORUM CHOIR

Cantorum Choir was founded by Jonathan Miall in 1981, specifically to provide an alternative to choral society traditions. The choir draws its membership from about thirty experienced and talented musicians and has a quality which far exceeds most amateur choirs. Commitments have included many large and small-scale concerts, services at the Cathedrals of Guildford and Winchester and St. George's Chapel Windsor, and Christmas Concerts at the Royal Albert Hall in conjunction with the London based Alexandra Choir.

The choir has been involved in several professional recordings including Christmas Carols with Westminster Cathedral Choir and chorus numbers in an album of the musical *Wuthering Heights* with Lesley Garrett, Bonnie Langford and Dave Willetts. There have also been TV appearances in *Inspector Morse*, *At Home with Wendy Craig* and the BBC 2 series *Out and About*. Cantorum performed abroad for the first time in 1998 with a highly successful concert tour in Paris. Its next concert tour will be to Bruges in April 2001. The choir has a varied repertoire and covers a wide range of musical styles including some original works. Three carols have been specially written for the choir and two anthems/part songs dedicated to it. The majority of Cantorum's performances are in aid of charitable causes and to date it has helped to raise over £30,000.

The choir is most fortunate in having three fine conductors in Jonathan Miall, its founder and president, Sally Stafford, and today's conductor Murray Hipkin.

For information about Cantorum Choir:

**Forthcoming Concerts, Mailing List, Membership, Tickets etc:
Please contact Val Snapes on 01753 866479**





JONATHAN MIALL

Jonathan Miall was educated at Desborough School Maidenhead and Manchester University, where he gained his first conducting experiences as director of the Hulme Ashburne Hall Choir. He also studied singing with Arthur Reckless at the Guildhall School of Music before becoming musical director for a number of stage shows including *Joseph*, *Oliver!*, *Oh What a Lovely War*, and *The Hired Man*.

He was Cantorum's principal conductor from its formation in 1981 until 1992, when he was joined by Murray Hipkin and Sally Stafford. He has since conducted the Choir on several occasions, usually about once a year. He appeared with them on tour in Paris, at Meaux Cathedral and the Church of La Trinite, in 1998. His most recent appearance was in December 2000, when he and the Choir were joined by the celebrated organist Wayne Marshall, and the East Berkshire Music Centre Chamber Choir, for Cantorum's twentieth anniversary concert.

Jonathan will be conducting three concerts in Belgium during the forthcoming tour in April of this year.

KERI DEXTER (ORGANIST)

Keri Dexter read Music at Cambridge and Reading Universities, before completing a PhD at Royal Holloway, University of London. He now combines freelance research with a post as production assistant for *Deux-Elles Classical Recordings*.

As organ scholar, Keri appeared with the renowned chapel choir of Clare College, Cambridge, on several broadcasts and recordings, and performed in major festivals in Europe and the USA. Whilst at Cambridge he studied organ with David Sanger and Stephen Farr.

He is also an accomplished baritone: a member of Cantorum since 1995, he has also sung with the choirs of St George's Chapel, Windsor, and St Martin-in-the-Fields.



JOSEPH HAYDN (1732-1809)

MISSA BREVIS ST JOANNIS DE DEO

Haydn was in friendly contact with the Order of the Brothers of Mercy, (Barmherzige Brüder), both with the Vienna house, for whom as a young man he played the organ on Sundays, and with the Eisenstadt convent. Haydn dedicated this work and several smaller church pieces to the Brothers of Mercy's Patron Saint, John of God (Joannis de Deo), Johannes Cuidad, 1495-1565, a Portuguese monk.

The autograph of the Mass has no date - a rare occurrence in Haydn manuscripts. From various philological data - handwriting, watermarks etc. - we may surmise the work's date as c. 1775.

The missa brevis form, in which this Mass is cast was popular in Austria and South Germany in the mid eighteenth century; the text was radically shortened by having two or more parts sing different words simultaneously; this process was usually reserved for the Gloria and Credo sections. On the other hand, as will be seen by examining the present work, it was quite customary for other movements - especially the Benedictus to be fully expanded.

It will be seen that the Benedictus introduces two new features - new to this Mass, that is; an extended organ solo and a soprano solo. Musically this is the high point of the work; it is also the explanation of the title, " Kleine Orgelmesse", under which the work has become famous. Haydn was "qua organista" at this particular point in his life with the Esterházy family; It seems certain that he conducted the first performance from the Convent Chapel.





PROGRAMMI



- 1. Jubilate Deo William Walton
(1902-1983)
- 2. Ave Maria Robert Parsons
(c.1530-1570)
- 3. Exsultate Justi Lodovico Viadana
(c.1560-1627)
- 4. Frohlocket, ihr Volker auf Erden Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)
- 5. Ecce Sacerdos Anton Bruckner
(1824-1896)
- 6. Crown Imperial William Walton
(1902-1983)
Organ solo: Keri Dexter
- 7. Ave Maria Anton Bruckner
(1824-1896)
- 8. Panis Angelicus Cesar Franck
(1822-1890)
Soprano: Claire Mousset
- 9. Magnificat 1989 Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)
Soprano: Susannah Riley



INTERVAL



- 10. I was glad when they said unto me C. Hubert H Parry
(1848-1918)
- 11. Hear my Prayer O Lord Henry Purcell
(1659-1695)
- 12. Verleih uns Frieden Felix Mendelssohn
(1809 – 1847)
- 13. Richte mich, Gott (Psalm 43) Felix Mendelssohn
(1809 – 1847)
- 14. Carillon de Longport Louis Vierne
(1870-1937)
Organ solo: Keri Dexter
- 15. Missa Brevis St Joannis de Deo Franz Josef Haydn
(1732-1809)
Kyrie
Gloria
Credo
Sanctus
Benedictus Soprano: Marianne Stork
Agnus Dei
- 16. Bogoroditsye Dyevo (Ave Maria) Sergei Rachmaninov
(1873 - 1943)
- 17. Te Deum Collegium Regale Herbert Howells
(1892-1983)





WILLIAM WALTON (1902-83)

CROWN IMPERIAL

The son of a Lancashire choirmaster, William Walton (1902-83) achieved national notoriety in 1923 with the first public performance of his *Facade* suite. Its indebtedness to both jazz and the music of Stravinsky marked him out as the *enfant terrible* of British music. But a second, contrasting, influence can also be found in his work: the romantic lyricism of Elgar. It is clearly apparent in *Crown Imperial*, which recalls the *Pomp and Circumstance* marches in both style and structure. Composed for the Coronation of George VI, it was first performed in Westminster Abbey on 12 May 1937. The organ transcription is by Herbert Murrill.

LOUIS VIERNE (1870-1937)

CARILLON DE LONGPORT

Louis Vierne was born in Poitiers in 1870. Although almost totally blind from birth, he studied organ and composition with Franck and Widor at the Paris Conservatoire. In 1900 he was appointed organist of Notre Dame, in Paris, a post which he held until his death – at the organ – in 1937. This *Carillon* is from his collection of *Vingt-quatre pièces en style libre*, composed in 1913. It is based on the chimes of the chapel at the Château de Longpont in Aisne.



**CANTORUM CHOIR
FORTHCOMING CONCERTS**



MID-SUMMER CONCERT

Saturday 30 June at Holy Trinity Church, Cookham
Summer programme to include favourite opera choruses

Conductor - Murray Hipkin

AUTUMN CONCERT

Saturday 13 October at All Saint's Church, Marlow
Mozart Requiem and Excerpts from Gerswain's Porgy and Bess

Conductor - Sally Stafford

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Sunday 16 December at Saint John the Baptist Church
Cookham Dean

Conductor - Sally Stafford

CANTORUM CHOIR

Sopranos

Catherine Arnold
Helen Baker
Bridget Bentley
Sara Bowring
Jill Goode
Claire Mousset
Susannah Riley
Valerie Snapes
Marianne Stork
Genevieve Usher



Tenors

Howard Faulks
Robert Goode
David Hazeldine
John Hasselt

Altos

Penny Bysshe
Anne Glover
Eleanor Griffiths
Mary Jefferies
Vivienne Mitchell
Jo Rodgers
Richard Sedding
Lorna Sykes

Basses

John Buck
Keri Dexter
Arthur Giorgi
Peter Griffiths
Charles Luxford
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- ~ Keri Dexter our rehearsal pianist
- ~ Marianne Stork for providing box office facilities
- ~ Lorna Sykes and Catherine Arnold for programme notes and compilation
- ~ Southern Electric & Southern Electric Gas for programme printing
(*"Gas welcome line" telephone number 0800 117 116.*)

And finally.....

Our thanks to the Rev Dr David Miell, and to the Head Verger, David Jewell of St Mary's Church, for the use of the church and organ.

