



*The Chiltern Choir*

President Patricia Parkes

Conductor Michael Cayton

# Songs in the Summer

Saturday 5 July 2014, 7.30 pm  
Christ Church, Chorleywood

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The Chiltern Choir is a Registered Charity, Reg. No. 284064

## Welcome from the Chair

A warm welcome to our concert tonight in Christ Church. It is good to be singing at our local church again. Tonight we have a very English programme. In addition to John Rutter's *Feel the Spirit*, our programme is entirely music by Vaughan Williams – his beautiful *Five Mystical Songs*, some folk songs and anthems, and piano and organ solos by our accompanist Anna le Hair and our music director Michael Cayton. We do hope you enjoy them.

This is turning out to be a busy summer for the choir. Some 30 of us have just returned from Dardilly in southern France (which is twinned with Chorleywood), where we performed many of the pieces in tonight's concert and some pieces jointly with their local choir. And next weekend we are looking forward to singing at St John's Wood church, where Michael Cayton is director of music, as part of their centenary celebrations.

We are already looking forward to our next season's programme. We will be back at St Mary's Rickmansworth for our Christmas concert on Saturday 6th December, performing Mozart's *Coronation Mass* and a selection of festive music. Our spring concert Bach by Candlelight on Saturday 21st March at the Royal Masonic School chapel will be a real treat for those who love Bach. And our summer concert on 27th June will have a strongly French flavour, with works by Fauré, Saint-Saëns, Duruflé, Franck, Poulenc and Messiaen. For further details of these concerts and the rest of next year's programme, please see the back cover.

Do please get in touch if you would like to join the choir, and come to our open rehearsal on Tuesday 16th September. And please let us know if you would like to become a patron or go on to our mailing list for details of concerts and social events.

With best wishes for a musical and enjoyable summer.

**Gillian Pugh** Chair, Chiltern Choir 01923 285505



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Planning a function or event? Do you need choral entertainment?

A boost to congregational singing?

A small group of singers, made up of choir members, has recently formed and is now taking bookings. Proceeds to choir funds.

Contact John Haslam: [chamber-group@chilternchoir.org.uk](mailto:chamber-group@chilternchoir.org.uk)

# *This Evening's Programme*

## *PART ONE - works of Ralph Vaughan Williams*

### *Five Mystical Songs:*

*words by George Herbert; soloist Helen Stanley*

#### *1. Easter*

Rise heart; thy Lord is risen. Sing his praise  
Without delays,  
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise  
With him mayst rise:  
That, as his death calcined thee to dust,  
His life may make thee gold, and much more, just.  
Awake, my lute, and struggle for thy part  
With all thy art.  
The cross taught all wood to resound his name,  
Who bore the same.  
His stretched sinews taught all strings, what key  
Is best to celebrate this most high day.  
Consort both heart and lute, and twist a song  
Pleasant and long:  
Or since all music is but three parts vied  
And multiplied;  
O let thy blessed Spirit bear a part,  
And make up our defects with his sweet art.

#### *2. I got me flowers*

I got me flowers to strew thy way:  
I got me boughs off many a tree:  
But thou wast up by break of day,  
And brought'st thy sweets along with thee.  
The Sun arising in the East,  
Though he give light, and the East perfume;  
If they should offer to contest  
With thy arising, they presume.  
Can there be any day but this,  
Though many suns to shine endeavour?  
We count three hundred, but we miss:  
There is but one, and that one ever.

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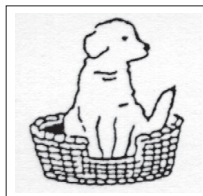
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### ***3. Love bade me welcome***

Love bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,  
Guilty of dust and sin.  
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack  
From my first entrance in,  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning  
If I lack'd anything.  
'A guest,' I answer'd, 'worthy to be here:'  
Love said, 'You shall be he.'  
'I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,  
I cannot look on Thee.'  
Love took my hand and smiling did reply,  
'Who made the eyes but I?'  
'Truth, Lord; but I have marr'd them: let my shame  
Go where it doth deserve.'  
'And know you not,' says Love, 'Who bore the blame?'  
'My dear, then I will serve.'  
'You must sit down,' says Love, 'and taste my meat.'  
So I did sit and eat.

### ***4. The call***

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:  
Such a Way, as gives us breath:  
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:  
And such a Life, as killeth death.  
Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:  
Such a Light, as shows a feast:  
Such a Feast, as mends in length:  
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.  
Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:  
Such a Joy, as none can move:  
Such a Love, as none can part:  
Such a Heart, as joys in love.

### ***5. Antiphon***

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.

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.

### *Piano Solo The Lake in the Mountains*

Anna Le Hair

### *Two Anthems:*

#### *O taste and see*

words Psalm 34, v8; soloist Merriss Ratliffe

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is:  
blest is the man that trusteth in him.

#### *O how amiable are thy dwellings*

words from Psalm 84 and Psalm 90

O how amiable are thy dwellings; thou Lord of hosts!  
My soul hath a desire and longing  
to enter into the courts of the Lord:  
My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.  
Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:  
Even thy altars O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.  
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house:  
They will be always praising thee.  
The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us:  
prosper thou the work of our hands upon us.  
O prosper thou our handy work,  
O prosper thou our handy work.  
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

### *Organ Solo Rhosymedre*

Michael Cayton

### *English Folk Songs:*

#### *The dark eyed sailor*

It was a comely young lady fair,  
Was walking out for to take the air,

She met a sailor all on her way  
So I paid attention, so I paid attention  
To what they did say.

Said William, "Lady, why walk alone?  
The night is coming, and the day near gone."  
She said, while tears from her eyes did fall,  
"It's a dark-eyed sailor, it's a dark-eyed sailor  
That's proving my downfall.

It's two long years since he left the land,  
He took a gold ring from off my hand;  
We broke the token, here's part with me,  
And the other lies rolling, and the other lies rolling  
At the bottom of the sea."

Then half the ring did young William show;  
She was distracted midst joy and woe:  
"O welcome, William, I've lands and gold,  
For my dark-eyed sailor, for my dark-eyed sailor  
So manly, true, and bold."

Then in a village down by the sea  
They joined in wedlock, and well agree.  
So, maids, be true while your love's away -  
For a cloudy morning, for a cloudy morning  
Brings forth a shining day.

### ***The spring time of the year***

As I walked out one morning  
In the springtime of the year,  
I overheard a sailor boy, Likewise a lady fair.  
They sang a song together, Made the valleys for to ring,  
While the birds on spray and the meadows gay,  
Proclaimed the lovely spring.

### ***The lover's ghost***

Well met, well met, my own true love.  
Long time I have been absent from thee.  
I am lately come from the salt sea,  
And 'tis all for the sake, my love, of thee.  
I have three ships all on the salt sea  
And one of them has brought me to land.  
I've four and twenty mariners on board:  
You shall have music at your command.

The ship wherein my love shall sail  
Is glorious for to behold.  
The sails shall be of shining silk,  
The mast shall be of the fine beaten gold.  
I might have had a king's daughter,  
And fain she would have married me.  
But I forsook her crown of gold,  
And 'tis all for the sake, my love, of thee.

***Just as the tide was flowing***

One morning in the month of May,  
Down by some rolling river,  
A jolly sailor, I did stray,  
When I beheld my lover,  
She carelessly along did stray,  
A-picking of the daisies gay;  
And sweetly sang her roundelay,  
Just as the tide was flowing.  
O! her dress it was so white as milk,  
And jewels did adorn her.  
Her shoes were made of the crimson silk,  
Just like some lady of honour.  
Her cheeks were red, her eyes were brown,  
Her hair in ringlets hanging down;  
She'd a lovely brow, without a frown,  
Just as the tide was flowing.  
I made a bow and said, "Fair maid,  
How came you here so early?  
My heart, by you it is betray'd  
For I do love you dearly.  
I am a sailor come from sea,  
If you will accept of my company  
To walk and view the fishes play,"  
Just as the tide was flowing.  
No more we said, but on our way  
We gang'd along together;  
The small birds sang, and the lambs did play,  
And pleasant was the weather.  
When we were weary we did sit down  
Beneath a tree with branches round;  
For my true love at last I'd found,  
Just as the tide was flowing.

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## *Interval*

during which refreshments will be provided

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## *PART TWO*

### *Feel the Spirit*

a cycle of spirituals arranged by John Rutter

- 1. Joshua fit the battle of Jericho*
- 2. Steal away*
- 3. I got a robe*
- 4. Sometimes I feel like a motherless child*
- 5. Ev'ry time I feel the spirit*
- 6. Deep river*
- 7. When the saints go marching in*

*The End*



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# Programme Notes

## Vaughan Williams

Ralph Vaughan Williams was born on 12 October 1872 in Down Ampney, Gloucestershire. The surname Vaughan Williams is an unhyphenated double-barrelled name of Welsh origin. After learning the violin as a boy he attended Charterhouse School where his musical gifts were encouraged. He went on to study at the Royal College of Music and was a student of both Charles Villiers Stanford and Hubert Parry. At the RCM, he became friends with Gustav Holst and Leopold Stokowski, the latter whom was to conduct and record many of Vaughan Williams' symphonies.

His compositional output was prodigious with nine symphonies, film and radio music and a treasury of songs, hymn tunes and carols. He spent a great deal of time researching English folk songs and carols which were fast becoming extinct as the oral tradition through which they existed was being undermined by an increase in literacy. Vaughan Williams had a particular genius in his ability to weave these folk songs into his compositions. At the heart of the music there is a link to our past culture, echoing the songs sung in England for hundreds of years. Through our performance this evening we will bring some of these folk songs and almost forgotten melodies to you.

## Feel the Spirit

African-American Spirituals have been a draw for many composers. Particularly famous is Michael Tippett's setting of spirituals in *A Child of our Time* where he combines the rich sonorous sound of double choir with a high soprano soloist. John Rutter plumbs the emotional depths of the spirituals with a single choir and Mezzo Soprano soloist and we are delighted to have Helen Stanley as our soloist this evening. Rutter treats us to some fun, foot tapping numbers such as *Joshua fit the battle of Jericho*, *I got a robe* and *When the Saints go marching in*. You could be forgiven for thinking you were in a Broadway musical with *Ev'ry time I feel the spirit*. However, *Sometimes I feel like a motherless child* is a desolate and heart wrenching moment in the piece when we feel the loneliness in the words, "A long ways from home". A particularly beautiful moment in the series is *Steal Away*. In its tender way it works through the image of slaves stealing away to shelters during rain storms where the gang masters were likely to leave them alone for a bit. There they could pray, comfort each other and sing.

Notes by Michael Cayton

## This Evening's Performers

### Helen Stanley, Mezzo-Soprano...



...was born in Edinburgh and studied at Trinity College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music, where she was supported by the JC Findlay Foundation and the Josephine Baker Trust. Her most recent concert performances have included Handel *Dixit Dominus* with the Southbank Sinfonia, Vivaldi *Gloria* at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Elgar *Sea Pictures* and Mendelssohn *St Paul*. Other solo work has included Schmitt *La Tragedie de Salome* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and Daniel-Lesur *Cantique des Cantiques* with the BBC Symphony Chorus, as part of the BBC Proms. She has also performed in masterclasses with Wolfgang Holzmair, Håkan Hagegård at the Oxford Lieder Festival, Robert Tear and Simon Keenlyside at the London Song Festival.

Helen's opera roles have included Mrs Herring (*Albert Herring*), Olga (*Eugene Onegin*) and Hyäle (*Actéon*). She has also spent two summers in the chorus of Grange Park Opera, and covered the role of Filipyevna in their *Eugene Onegin*. She is particularly interested in 20th and 21st century opera, and has taken part in performances of new works at the Grimeborn Festival, Tête à Tête Opera



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Festival and Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Most recently, she created the roles of Hildigunnr in *Red as Blood* by Joel Rust and Bellisant in *Bare* by Philip Ashworth, and performed in a workshop on new opera writing with the conductor Stephen Barlow. Helen is currently appearing as Dorabella in Pop-Up Opera's touring production of *Così fan tutte*. She is represented by Sarah Spooner at Cantabile Artists.

### **Michael Cayton, *Conductor and organist...***



...was born in Burnley and began his musical career serving in the band of the Grenadier Guards as a trumpeter and pianist. He then studied at the Royal College of Music, on a scholarship awarded by the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers, gaining his ARCM and BMus and winning the Hilda Anderson Deane Prize for conducting and improvisation. While staying on to pursue postgraduate répétiteur studies he was appointed the first Millennium organ Scholar at the Royal Hospital Chelsea,

where he continued his organ studies with Ian Curror.

Since 2003 he has simultaneously held the posts of conductor of the Chiltern Choir, Director of Music at St John's Wood Church, organist at Belsize Square Synagogue and Acting Assistant organist at St Martin-in-the-Fields. And in September 2014 Michael will take up the post as Conductor for Watford Philharmonic Chorus and Orchestra. He is in demand as a conductor, choir trainer and accompanist and has worked with many ensembles, large and small throughout the country. He has given several radio and television broadcasts, featuring on BBC1's Songs of Praise, Radio 4's morning service and has broadcast on Radio 2, Radio 3, Radio 5 Live and the World Service. His church music is published by Redemptorist, the responsorial psalms now a staple of parish churches up and down the country.

### **Anna Le Hair, *pianist...***



...started playing the piano as soon as she could reach the keys. She gained an honours degree in music at Edinburgh University where she studied piano with Colin Kingsley, and harmony with Kenneth Leighton. Her postgraduate studies were at the Royal College of Music, London, where her professors included Peter Element and Hubert Dawkes.

Since then, Anna has enjoyed a busy and varied career as a performer and piano teacher. Engagements have included recitals, both solo and as chamber musician and accompanist, in many venues in London, including the Queen Elizabeth Hall, and around Britain and abroad. Within the last five years she has given performances of five

piano concertos and many chamber works of the 19th and 20th centuries. Anna has performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and at festivals in Canterbury, Rayleigh, Porec (Croatia) and Buxton, where she was nominated for the title of 'Performer of the Fringe'. She has recently accompanied Coro Stellante under Michael Kibblewhite at the Costa Barcelona music festival and Polymnia under John Byron at the Music in the Mountains festival in Andalucia. Anna is a Senior House Pianist at AIMS International Summer School in Eastbourne, where she has repetitured many opera scenes, and also works with choirs and opera groups including Polymnia and City Chamber Choir, as well as Aeolian Singers in Hemel Hempstead and Chiltern Choir in Chorleywood, with whom she is touring to France at the end of June. She is also a regular accompanist at Jackdaws Educational Trust in Somerset, where she has worked with the tenor Ian Partridge and the mezzo Sarah Walker.

In addition, Anna has done such diverse things as playing background music in London hotels and restaurants and touring the UK and Channel Islands with the Lewis London Ballet. Anna has a thriving piano teaching practice and is a visiting piano teacher at Abbots Hill School in Hemel Hempstead. She is much in demand as an accompanist for singers and instrumentalists. Anna gave a concert tour in February this year in New Zealand with the violinist Arwen Newband. Details of future concerts can be found on her website, [www.annalehair.co.uk](http://www.annalehair.co.uk).

### *The Chiltern Choir - Members Singing This Evening*

#### **Sopranos:**

Caroline Bartlett, Hilary Broadbent, Marion Bryan, Lu Chadder, Susan Denbow, Anni Facer, Jenny Gorsuch, Beverley Grayley, Anne Grove, Ann Hanford, Jill Haslam, Sue Kesteven, Sue Lloyd, Janet Lowndes, Teresa Oliver, Gillian Proctor, Merriss Ratliff, Beverley Small, Hilary Walmsley, Lyndsay Ward.

#### **Altos:**

Cathy Amos, Jane Anderson, Roy Cottrell, Ana De'Ath, Rita Fryer, Philippa Goss, Helen Heenan, Anne Keyworth, Sylvia Lawman, Fiona Lean, Liz Pendered, Gillian Pugh, Maggie Shrive, Jill Swainson, Rhona Taylor, Brenda Tomsett, Marian Wax, Jenny West, Beryl Whittaker.

#### **Tenors:**

Simon Allard, Mick Currey, Andy Etchells, Paul Jenkins, Colin Parkes, Isabel Walker.

#### **Basses:**

Henry Bell, Simon Boulcott, Steven Frank, Tim Goodwin, John Haslam, John King, Stuart Marshall, Keith Pulford, Martin Robinson.

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# *The Chiltern Choir*

*2014-15 Season*

## **Christmas Concert**

6 December 2014, 7.30pm at St Mary's, Rickmansworth

*Mozart Coronation Mass KV 317*

*Rutter When Icicles Hang*

*Choir Carols*

*Solo items for Soprano and Harp*

## **Spring Concert Bach by Candlelight**

21 March 2015, 7.30pm at the Royal Masonic chapel

*Cantata 147 BWV 147*

*Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 in F major, BWV 1047*

*Lobet Den Herrn BWV 230*

*Cantata 182 BWV 182*

## **Summer Concert**

27 June 2015, 7.30pm at St Mary's Rickmansworth

*Fauré Requiem*

*Fauré Cantique de Jean Racine*

*Saint-Saëns Ave Maria*

*Duruflé 4 Motets*

*Franck Panis Angelicus*

*Poulenc Salve Regina*

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