



Monteverdi Beatus Vir

Schütz

FIVE

Gesualdo

Handl

Centuries of

Lassus

Gabrieli

Choral

Lotti

Bruckner
Motets

Classics

Grieg
Psalms

Orchestra: Thames Sinfonia Chamber Ensemble

CONDUCTOR: ROBIN PAGE

Saturday 16th JUNE 2001 at 7.30pm

Programme £1.00

All Saints Parish Church
Kingston upon Thames

Kingston Choral Society

PATRON: The Worshipful the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

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MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Robin Page MA(Hons) Cantab LRAM

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Kingston Choral Society gratefully acknowledges the continuing financial assistance of The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

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Kingston Choral Society

Musical Director: Robin Page

Thames Sinfonia Chamber Ensemble

Peter Hine - Baritone

present

FIVE CENTURIES OF CHORAL CLASSICS

**Saturday 16 June 2001 at 7.30pm
at**

**All Saints Parish Church
Kingston upon Thames**

Kingston Choral Society

Since its formation in 1948, Kingston Choral Society has earned a reputation for concerts of a high standard and for performing a wide range of music. Under the guidance of Robin Page, Kingston Choral Society is not afraid of taking on ambitious projects and has, for example, performed Prokofiev's Alexander Nevsky in Russian. However, the choir also enjoys singing the more familiar favourites of the choral repertoire as demonstrated by the programme for the current season.

The Society has about one hundred members drawn from a wide area of South West London and North Surrey. New members are always welcome. The choir performs four concerts each year, usually in Kingston Parish Church. Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings at Hollyfield School, Surbiton (term time only). In addition, the Society holds regular social and fund raising events and occasional workshops. If you are interested in joining, we look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to talk to members of the choir in the interval or at the end of the concert. Alternatively, contact the Membership Secretary on 020 8398 3545 for further information.

This season sees an exciting and varied programme of music. Last year the Society performed Verdi's Requiem jointly with the West Sussex Philharmonic Choir at the Fairfield Hall, Croydon and Brahms' Requiem and the Hymnus Amoris by Carl Nielsen.

Details of our future concerts are available from the box office on 020 8977 8665. If you become a Friend of Kingston Choral Society we will send you advance notification of all our concerts.

Thames Sinfonia Chamber Ensemble

The Thames Sinfonia was formed in 1982 from the very best musicians just entering the profession. Its members are now to be found in all the major London orchestras and play all over the world.

The orchestra plays regularly throughout the south of England and has appeared at the Bournemouth and Exeter International Festivals. The orchestra has accompanied Kingston Choral Society on many occasions.

Robin Page - Musical Director

Robin is based in London where he is the Principal Conductor and Musical Director of Thames Sinfonia, the Purcell Orchestra and Kingston Choral Society. He has also worked with the London Symphony Orchestra Chorus and has made many appearances at the Royal Academy of Music, London, as a conductor and lecturer specialising in the contemporary repertoire and Scandinavian music.

Robin specialises in the Nordic repertoire, giving acclaimed performances of Sibelius and Nielsen symphonies, and conducting the inaugural concert of the UK Sibelius Society in London. He has also given first UK performances of many Swedish works, including such composers as Stenhammar, Rosenberg, Lidholm and Bortz. Recently, Robin travelled to Sweden as guest conductor with the Sundsvalls Kammarorkester.

Robin has strong links with the Baltic States. As guest conductor of the Estonian State Symphony Orchestra he gave the first Estonian performance and broadcast of Elgar's Enigma Variations. He has also performed and broadcast in Poland and Hungary. For many years Robin was principal conductor of the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra, and he has also conducted the Halle Choir, Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra and the West Sussex Philharmonic Choir, where he is musical director.

Robin has given broadcasts on BBC Radio 3 and with the BBC Ulster Orchestra, and has also appeared on BBC Television.

Robin studied at Magdalen College School, Oxford, Cambridge University and the Royal Academy of Music, London. He is a visiting lecturer at Kingston University.

Peter Hine - Baritone

Peter Hine was born and grew up in York. From ecclesiastical beginnings he grew up to sing Opera and Oratorio around the North East.

Since returning to the operatic stage in the south he has enjoyed singing Leporello, Figaro & Count Almaviva (but not at the same time), Osmin (Seraglio), Tonio (Pagliacci) and Sid (Albert Herring), Nabucco and Luna (Trovatore). His most recent operatic performance was as the title role in Verdi's Falstaff for Opera for All in London and then repeated for Chorleywood Opera.

Peter is a regular singer on the London church circuit and has been the professional bass in the choir at St Mary Abbots, Kensington, for more years than Mark Uglow (their Director of Music) would probably care to remember. Recent concert work has included Bach's St. Matthew and St. John passions, Handel's Messiah (for HRH Princess Anne [and others]), Vaughan Williams' Pilgrims Journey and Horowitz' Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo.

Peter is married to the American soprano Nancy Mathis and lives in Berkhamsted.

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Bentalls

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Programme

Grieg	Ave Maris Stella
Grieg	Four Norwegian Psalms • <i>How Fair is thy Face</i> • <i>God's Son has Set me Free</i> • <i>Jesus Christ, Our Lord, is Risen</i> • <i>In Heaven Above</i>
Schubert	String Quintet in C Major • <i>Adagio</i>
Bruckner	Motets • <i>Tantum Ergo</i> • <i>Libera me</i> • <i>Afferentur Regi</i> • <i>Christus Factus Est</i> • <i>Tota Pulcra Est</i> • <i>Ecce Sacerdos Est</i>

Interval

Josquin	Ave Maria
Palestrina	Exultate Deo
Lassus	Timor et Tremor
Handl	Pater Noster
Instrumental Item	
Gabrieli	Jubilate Deo
Gesualdo	O Vos Omnes
Lotti	Crucifixus a 8
Schütz	Psalm 100
Instrumental Item	
Monteverdi	Cantate Domino
Monteverdi	Beatus Vir
Monteverdi	Madrigal – Hor Ch'el Ciel e la Terra

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Edvard Grieg (1843 – 1907)

Ave Maris Stella

This charming miniature dates from 1898 and is a choral arrangement of one of Grieg's solo songs with piano. The text portrays Mary as a star guiding mortals across the sea of life; an image of personal significance to the composer who lived for much of his life at the North sea port of Bergen.

Edvard Grieg (1843 – 1907)

Four Norwegian Psalms

These four pieces were Grieg's last composition. The melodies are derived from Norwegian church melodies. The composer Percy Grainger provided the English translation.

Franz Schubert (1797 – 1828)

Adagio from String Quintet in C

Schubert's String Quintet in C Major is regarded by many as one of the most outstanding pieces of music ever written. It's hauntingly beautiful second movement is one of the most frequent requests on Radio 4's "Desert Island Disks". Schubert probably wrote the quintet in the last year of his life, but it was not performed in public until 1850, 22 years after his death.

Anton Bruckner (1824 – 1896)

Motets

Bruckner, a virtuoso organist, is mostly famed for his symphonic output but throughout his career he composed sacred choral music. The motets performed tonight give some idea of the skill of his vocal writing, especially the wide harmonic expression and the contrasts of dynamics and texture.

Josquin Desprez (c.1440 – 1521)

Ave Maria

Josquin was the greatest master of the Early Renaissance period. This motet demonstrates his intricate contrapuntal writing, particularly his use of canon at the opening and his often rhythmically complex writing.

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525 – 1594)

Exultate Deo

Palestrina was the central figure of Late Renaissance music, his works being studied as the model of contrapuntal writing. As this motet shows there was far more to his music than mere abstract part-writing. Note the joyful tunefulness and sheer exuberance of the atmosphere he evokes.

Orlande de Lassus (1532 – 1594)

Timor et tremor

Lassus was Palestrina's contemporary though his style was far more cosmopolitan and open to outside influence. He travelled widely in Europe, unlike Palestrina who remained in Rome for almost all his life. This motet contrasts the fears and uncertainties inherent in life to the stability of the faithful love of God.

Jacob Handl (1550 – 1591)

Pater Noster

Handl (1550-1591) was one of the foremost composers of his time working mainly in Vienna and Prague. His music shows the influence of the Venetian polychoral style and to the Renaissance masters such as Josquin and Palestrina.

Instrumental Item

Giovanni Gabrieli (1557 – 1612)

Jubilate Deo

Gabrieli was one of the pioneers of the polychoral style that was one of the most influential 'modern' techniques of the early baroque period, especially in its use of contrast of texture as a basis for expression. Although this motet is not 'polychora' (there is only one eight part choir) there are plenty of examples of changing textures that give this piece a special flavour.

Carlo Gesualdo (c.1561 – 1613)

O Vos Omnes

Gesualdo is famous (apart from his murder of his wife and her lover!) for his eccentric harmonic progressions and his daring chromaticisms. Indeed, even today, his language seems 'modern.'

Antonio Lotti (c.1667 – 1740)

Crucifixus a 8

Lotti (c. 1660-1740) worked for most of his life in Venice taking over the most prestigious musical post there, in charge of music at St.Mark's Church, for the final four years of his life. He was a famed and prolific composer in his day although only a handful of pieces are regularly performed today, notably this eight-part Crucifixus.

Heinrich Schütz (1585 – 1672)

Psalm 100

Schütz is now rightly recognised as the finest German composer before Johann Sebastian Bach. This psalm setting comes from his Psalmen Davids of 1619 and is a highly successful blend of Venetian polychoral writing and the more straightforward German style of the Lutheran tradition.

Instrumental Item

Claudio Monteverdi (1567 – 1643)

Cantate Domino

Monteverdi, the central figure of the Early baroque period, wrote church music throughout his life. This festive piece was written for one of the many Church festivals in Venice.

Claudio Monteverdi (1567 – 1643)

Beatus Vir

Like many other composers, before and since, Monteverdi uses his own previously composed secular themes in this work and this, no doubt, helps to give it a bright and lively style.

Claudio Monteverdi (1567 – 1643)

Madrigal: Hor Ch'el Ciel e la Terra

The concert ends with a secular work, a madrigal from Monteverdi's Sixth Book of Madrigals published in 1614.

Text Translation: Now that sky, land and wind are silent, and beasts and birds are in the arms of sleep, night drives on her starry chariot and the sea lies unruffled in its bed; I lie awake and think, worry and weep of she who is my undoing, she who is before my eyes to give me sweet sorrow. My state is war, full of anger and pain, yet I find solace only in thinking of her.



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