



J S BACH

Christmas

Oratorio

Saturday 15th December 2001 at 7.30pm

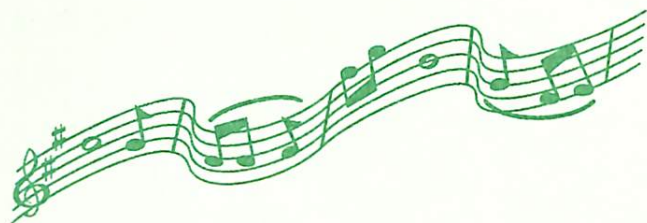
ORCHESTRA: THAMES SINFONIA

CONDUCTOR: ROBIN PAGE

All Saints Parish Church
Kingston upon Thames

PROGRAMME £1





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Kingston Choral Society

Conductor: Robin Page

Orchestra: Thames Sinfonia

present

Christmas Oratorio

by

J S Bach

Soloists:

Evelyn Tubb (Soprano)

Lucy Ballard (Mezzo Soprano)

Joshua Ellicott (Tenor)

Graham Dinnage (Bass)

Saturday 15 December 2001 at 7.30pm

at

All Saints Parish Church, Kingston upon Thames

Kingston Choral Society

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

Kingston Choral Society is a registered Charity no: 261522

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 and 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 during 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 Society at the Fairfield Hall, Croydon, Brahms' Requiem, Hymnus Amoris by Carl Nielsen and Stainer's Crucifixion. For details of our future concerts please see later in this programme or contact 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.



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Robin Page - Musical Director

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

Robin has given acclaimed performances of Sibelius and Nielsen symphonies and conducted the inaugural concert of the UK Sibelius Society in London. He has also given the first performances of many Swedish works, including such composers as Stenhammer, Rosenberg, Lidholm and Börtz. He is guest conductor to Sundsvalls Kammarorkester in Sweden and has broadcast on Swedish National Radio. Robin also has close links with the Baltic States. As guest conductor to the Estonian State Symphony Orchestra he gave the first Estonian performance and broadcast of Elgar's Enigma Variations. Elsewhere in Europe he has recently recorded film scores with the Budapest Symphony Orchestra and the Bulgarian Symphony Orchestra and given concert performances and broadcasts with the Polish Radio National Symphony Orchestra, the Hungarian State Opera Orchestra and the Silesian State Philharmonic Orchestra.

In the UK Robin travels widely. For many years he was the principal conductor of the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra and has also conducted the Hallé Choir, Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra, Worthing Symphony Orchestra and the West Sussex Philharmonic Choir where he is currently their musical director. He has given broadcasts on BBC Radio 3, with the BBC Ulster Orchestra and has appeared on BBC Television.

As well as conducting Robin is in great demand as an adjudicator, with regular appearances at the National Festival of Music for Youth at the Royal Festival Hall. He is also visiting lecturer at Kingston University and has given classes for the Bandmaster Course at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall.

Robin studied at Magdalen College School, Oxford, as a choral scholar, Gonville and Caius Colleges, Cambridge, as a choral exhibitor and, as a postgraduate, at the Royal Academy of Music, London. He has been choirmaster of Kingston Choral Society since 1982.

Mark Uglow - Organist and Rehearsal Pianist

Mark Uglow was born in London. He was a chorister at Westminster Abbey and subsequently organ scholar at both Cranleigh School and Exeter College, Oxford. He was a pupil of the late Nicholas Danby and James Dalton. He won prizes for gaining the top aggregate marks for his year at the examinations for both Associateship and Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists. Mark has been assistant organist at some of London's most notable churches, St Clement Danes', Hampstead Parish Church and Marylebone Parish Church and spent a period as one of the assistants at St Paul's Cathedral.

Since 1986, he has been Director of Music at the Parish Church of Kensington, St Mary Abbots and, since 1994, the Professor of Harmony and Composition at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall.

He is director of The Abbots Choir, a semi-professional chamber choir, which has performed at many venues throughout the country. For many of its concerts, he edits his own performing editions, specialising particularly in music of the English Renaissance.

As an organist and accompanist, he has broadcast on both BBC and ORTF and made the first commercial recording of the organ sonatas of CPE Bach. As well as accompanying the Kingston Choral Society he also works with other local groups including, in the last year, the Ashford and Staines Choral Society and the Epsom Chamber Choir.

Flowers for this evening's concert were donated by



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Johann Sebastian Bach

Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach on 21 March 1685, the eighth child of Johann Ambrosius Bach, and Maria Lämmerhirt and was educated at the Lateinschule, which was renowned for its humanist and theological education. Johann Sebastian's musical education was begun by his father, a renowned musician and violinist, but when he died in 1695, Sebastian, aged 10, went to live with his older brother Johann Christoph, organist at St. Michael's Church, Ohrdruf. Although Christoph gave keyboard lessons to Sebastian, he did not teach him composition, indeed it is believed that he actively discouraged it.

Sebastian had an uncommonly fine soprano voice and in 1700 went to Lüneberg and joined the choir of the Michaelisschule. Whilst there, he befriended the organist of the Johanniskirche, Georg Böhm (1661-1733), who fostered Bach's interest in the instrument. It was probably at Böhm's urging that he made several trips to Hamburg, some thirty miles away, to hear Johann Adam Reinken playing at the Katherinkirche. Reinken was Böhm's teacher, and an influential figure in organ music of the North German School.

In 1703, having left Lüneberg, Bach acted as an examiner for a newly built organ in Arnstadt. He so impressed the authorities with his playing that he was made the organist over the head of the existing incumbent. In June 1707 he left to become organist at Mühlhausen and four months later married his cousin Maria Barbara Bach. In 1708 he was appointed organist and chamber musician to the Duke of Saxe-Weimar. He spent nine years in this post during which time he wrote his most famous works for the instrument.

In 1717 Bach was offered the post of Kapellmeister to Prince Leopold of Cöthen. He was at first refused permission to leave Weimar, even being imprisoned for a month before being dismissed in disgrace. The prince was a talented musician and a Calvinist. Bach, now freed from having to compose church music, concentrated on instrumental composition. In 1720 Maria Barbara died and in December 1721 Bach married Anna Magdalena Wilcke, daughter of a court trumpeter at Weissenfels.

A week after Bach's wedding, the Prince married, and as his wife showed little interest in the arts, Bach's duties at Cöthen reduced and when the position of Kantor of the Thomaskirche in Leipzig became free, Bach applied and was appointed. From 1729 Bach composed less church music, writing instead works intended either for instruction or as a testimonial to his skills. From this period date the *Christmas Oratorio*, the *B minor Mass*, the *Musical Offering* and *The Art of Fugue*.

In 1749 Bach's eyesight deteriorated until he was completely blind. He was operated on by the eminent English surgeon, John Taylor (who was later to perform a similar operation on Handel) but it was only partially successful and had to be repeated. The operation and the treatments Bach received

probably hastened his death from a stroke on 28th July 1750.

Programme Christmas Oratorio

by
Johann Sebastian Bach

Part I - For Christmas Day

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | Chorus | Come now with gladness and welcome the morrow |
| 2 | Recitative | And it came to pass in those days |
| 3 | Aria | Behold the Bridegroom full of grace |
| 4 | Aria | Prepare yourself, Zion, in sweet expectation |
| 5 | Chorale | O Lord of all creation |
| 6 | Recitative | And she brought forth her first-born son |
| 7 | Recitative with Chorale | Our Lord who comes to earth below |
| 8 | Aria | Mighty Lord and King of glory |
| 9 | Chorale | Ah, dearest Jesus, babe divine |

PART II - On the second day of Christmas

- | | | |
|----|------------|---|
| 10 | Sinfonia | |
| 11 | Recitative | And there were shepherds in that same country |
| 12 | Chorale | Break forth, O glorious morning-light |
| 13 | Recitative | And the Angel said to them |
| 14 | Recitative | And this is the sign to you: |

15	Chorale	Behold! Within a humble stall
16	Recitative	Ye shepherds haste with pure delight
17	Aria	Slumber beloved, in blissful repose
18	Recitative	And suddenly there was with the Angel
19	Chorus	Glory to God in the highest
20	Recitative	'Tis good to hear the Angels singing
21	Chorale	We sing to Thee, almighty King

PART III - On the third day of Christmas

22	Chorus	Lord of Creation we lift up our voices
23	Recitative	And when the Angels were gone
24	Chorus	Let us, even now, go to Bethlehem
25	Recitative	He comes, the Lord supreme
26	Chorale	Our God hath all these wonders done
27	Aria duet	Lord, Thy mercy, Thy compassion
28	Recitative	And they came with haste
29	Aria	Keep, O my spirit, this blessing and wonder
30	Recitative	Ah, yes! For ever let me cherish
31	Chorale	Let me love Thee, King supernal
		Interval
32	Recitative	And the shepherds, after this, returned
33	Chorale	Rejoice and sing!

PART IV - On the feast of the circumcision

34	Chorus	Come! Be thankful and adore Him
35	Recitative	And when eight days were accomplished
36	Recit and Chorale	Emmanuel, oh blessed name!
37	Aria	"Jesus, Saviour," Name we treasure
38	Recit and Chorale	Dear Lord! Your name shall be my guide
39	Aria	How can I worthily adore Thee?
40	Chorale	Jesus, be at my beginning

PART V - For Sunday after New Year

41	Chorus	Glory to the Lord for ever
42	Recitative	When Jesus was born for us in Bethlehem
43	Chorus and Recit	Where is this new-born King of the Jews
44	Chorale	Thy glorious face drives gloom away
45	Recitative	Now when King Herod heard these things
46	Arioso	With fear why are ye quaking?
47	Recitative	And when he had gathered all the chief priests
48	Trio	Ah, when shall we see salvation
49	Recitative	Our sin shall be atoned!
50	Chorale	This poor heart in which I hold thee

PART VI - For the feast of Epiphany

51	Chorus	Lord, when the foe is howling madly
52	Recitative	Then did Herod privily call the wise men
53	Aria	With His hand the Lord can vanquish
54	Recitative	And when the Wise Men heard King Herod
55	Chorale	Beside Thy cradle here I stand
56	Recitative	And being warned of God in a dream
57	Recitative	Depart? But why? My treasured Lord shall stay
58	Aria	Although so many foes surround me
59	Recitative	What shall become of Hell's domain
60	Chorale	Now vengeance has been taken



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This evening's soloists

Evelyn Tubb (Soprano) Evelyn has been singing professionally for 25 years. Her main interest and fame has come from performing innovative solo recital programmes with fellow musicians, together bringing light to composers that have been left somewhat in the shadows. After completing her studies at the Guildhall School of Music, she has spent these years working with many distinguished conductors and musicians all over the globe. This evening she is delighted to be back in Kingston as she always finds it a positive and friendly musical experience here. She has recently been in Finland helping direct a performance of *Ordo Virtutum* by Hildegard von Bingen, with talented young singers and tomorrow she flies to Basel where she is voice professor at the Schola Cantorum.

Lucy Ballard (Mezzo Soprano) began singing while at school in Oxford. After completing a BSc in Archaeological Conservation at Cardiff University, she went on to study at the Royal College of Music. She now studies with Sue McCulloch. Since leaving college in 1995, Lucy has built up a thriving career in solo and consort singing, performing and recording with many of the leading early music ensembles both in the UK and abroad. These include the Consort of Musicke with Anthony Rooley; the Monteverdi Choir with Sir John Eliot Gardiner; the Clerks' Group with Edward Wickham; the Gabrieli Consort with Paul McCreesh and the Tallis Scholars with Peter Phillips. Recent work has included tours to the USA, China and the Far East with the Tallis Scholars, participation in the Monteverdi Choir's *J.S. Bach* Cantata Pilgrimage, and headlining the York Early Music Festival with a new Consort of Musicke programme entitled 'Ghosts, Kings, Harlots and Penitents' to be performed again in Germany and the Isle of Man later this year. Lucy performs regularly on Radio 3, and appears as a soloist on many recordings, with the Monteverdi Choir, the Clerks' group and with the Consort of Musicke. She also has plans for a CD of renaissance chamber music with her own trio, *Jouissance des Dames*.

Joshua Ellicott (Tenor) Josh Ellicott graduated with a music degree from the University of York in 1998 before going on to study at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He has recently finished the Opera course there where he has studied with Adrian Thompson. Recent solo engagements have included: Handel's *Messiah* at the Royal Albert

Hall with Sir David Willcocks, Verdi's *Requiem* with the orchestra of Opera North and Peter Seymour, Handel's *Acis and Galatea* at the Wigmore Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall with Early Opera Company and New London Consort, Berlioz *Te Deum* in York Minster with the English Northern Philharmonia and a live Radio 3 concert performance of Copland's opera *The Second Hurricane* with the BBC Concert Orchestra and Leonard Slatkin. Other recent performances have been *Dido and Aeneas* at the Cheltenham Festival, Mozart's *Requiem* with York Musical Society, Britten canticle *Still Falls the Rain*, various operatic excerpts, Bach Bmin Mass and St John Passion (Evangelist and arias). Forthcoming concerts include Haydn *Nelson Mass* and Mozart *Requiem* with the Yorkshire Bach Choir and Baroque Soloists and a concert of early lieder and song at the Purcell Room.

Graham Dinnage (Bass) graduated from Trinity College with first class honours and the Grace Wylie Prize in 1992. He now combines solo performing as a singer and organist, academic research and writing for music journals with his post as a professor and course tutor at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He has extensive performing experience as a soloist in London, the UK and Europe and has made numerous solo recordings. He has also recorded for the BBC and Classic FM, and with ensembles including Concertare, A Capella Portuguesa and Corydon Singers. He was a founder member of the solo ensemble Major Sixth (four singers with two pianists) and performs with them around Britain. He is a regular oratorio soloist for several choral societies and choirs, and concert appearances have taken him to a variety of major venues in the UK and Europe.

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Forthcoming Concerts

Saturday 23 February 2002 Mozart: Ave Verum;
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Saturday 8 June 2002 Bernstein: Chichester
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Kingston Choral Society

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