



## TAUNTON ASSOCIATION OF PERFORMING ARTS

~~~~~ CONCERTS OF MEMBER SOCIETIES IN OCTOBER ~~~~~

### MON TO SAT, 2 TO 7 OCTOBER

#### Taunton Amateur Operatic Society

Brewhouse Theatre, Taunton -  
7.45pm

*Pirates of Penzance - Broadway version*

Director - *Jeremy Tustin*

Music Director - *Mark Shelvey*

Matinees Thurs and Sat - 2.30pm

### SAT/SUN 14/15 OCTOBER

#### Phoenix Singers

*A weekend of singing in the  
West Country*

Church of St Michael, Lyme Regis -  
7.30pm (14 Oct)

St Paul's Church, Honiton - 2.30 pm (15  
Oct)

[www.thephoenixsingers.co.uk](http://www.thephoenixsingers.co.uk)

### SAT 21 OCTOBER

#### Somerset County Orchestra

St. James' Church, Taunton

Holst - Somerset Rhapsody

Prokofiev - Selection from Suites 1 and 2  
of Romeo and Juliet

Sibelius - Symphony no 5 in E flat major

[www.somersetcountyorchestra.org.uk](http://www.somersetcountyorchestra.org.uk)

### SAT 21 OCTOBER

#### Ron Tickner Memorial Trust

St. Mary Magdalene Church,

Taunton with Ian Carson and

Queen's College, Taunton with

Stephen Bell

#### Organ Workshops

Between 9.30 and 11.30 depending  
on venue ~ for pianists of Grade 5  
and above ~ priority given to those  
under 18.

Application forms available from

*Nancy Beveridge* 01823 288312

### SAT 28 OCTOBER

#### Taunton Camerata

St. George's Catholic Church,

Taunton - 2pm

#### Singing Day

Vivaldi - Gloria

Handel - Coronation Anthems

[www.tauntoncamerata.com](http://www.tauntoncamerata.com)

### SAT 28 OCTOBER

#### Wellington Arts Association

Wellington School, Wellington

#### Music Live 2006

All day music in partnership with  
Milverton Music Club. For further  
information call 01823 663718

Sunday 1 October 2006 at 3pm

All Saints' Parish Church, Martock

## Somerset Chamber Choir

*'One of the finest groups of singers in the region'*  
SOMERSET COUNTY GAZETTE



*Popular choral classics including*

**PARRY: BLEST PAIR OF SIRENS**  
*and choruses from*

|                    |   |              |
|--------------------|---|--------------|
| <b>HANDEL</b>      | • | Messiah      |
| <b>BACH</b>        | • | B Minor Mass |
| <b>HAYDN</b>       | • | Creation     |
| <b>MENDELSSOHN</b> | • | Elijah       |
| <b>STAINER</b>     | • | Crucifixion  |
| <b>JOHN RUTTER</b> | • | Requiem      |

*plus organ solos*

*Richard Pearce organ*

*Graham Caldbeck conductor*

**Tickets from MusicBox ~ 01275 349010**

or the Secretary of Guardians of Martock Church 01935 822706

Tickets £10 adults, £5 for children under 16  
*includes programme & post-concert refreshments*

*This concert is made possible through the support of the Benefactors,  
Gold Patrons and Patrons of the Somerset Chamber Choir*

Somerset Chamber Choir ~ Regd Charity 1003687 ~ President: Lally Goss  
[www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk](http://www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk)



*Great  
Choruses  
from favourite  
Oratorios*



*Arrive early to admire this beautiful  
parish church, the second largest in  
Somerset; the interior, with its lavishly  
decorated tie-beam roof, is one of the  
grandest in the County.*

For the complete TAPA diary, please visit their website

[www.tapa.org.uk](http://www.tapa.org.uk)

*TAPA is assisted by Taunton Deane Borough Council*

# PROGRAMME

## **Welcome!**

*from the trustees of Somerset Chamber Choir*

We should like to thank you for coming to support us and sincerely hope that you enjoy our concert.

We are indebted to the members of our Friends Scheme who have helped us to achieve so much and we are especially grateful, on this occasion, to the *Benefactors, Gold Patrons* and *Patrons* of the choir, who have made this concert possible through the additional financial contributions that they make.

Our choir has been running since 1984 and faces similar challenges now as it did then – recruiting new members, programming interesting music that both choir and audience will enjoy, reaching the general public and persuading them to come to our concerts, running the choir efficiently and then, somehow, paying for it all when ticket income rarely covers the cost of promoting a concert!

You can help us by...

- recommending us to talented singers over the age of 16, encouraging them to visit our website and apply for membership (*see additional information on the next page*)
- telling us what you think about our concerts – we are always happy to respond to feedback
- e-mailing or sending us your contact details, if you wish to be kept informed about our concerts
- encouraging others to attend our concerts, and providing us with their contact details (with their permission) if they, too, wish to receive details of our concerts
- supporting us financially – the easiest way to do this is to join our Friends Scheme (*see details at the end of this programme and on our website*)

We look forward to seeing you again soon.

## **Introduction**

*by Graham Caldbeck*

As the cliché has it, 'these works need no introduction' and so, somewhat superfluously, here is one!

Our programme this afternoon comprises a sequence of some of the most celebrated choruses of all time, stretching from Purcell's *Hail, bright Cecilia!* of 1692 to John Rutter's *Requiem*, first performed in 1985. Most of the choruses are taken from substantial, famous choral works – oratorios, cantatas or mass settings – and Richard Pearce also performs two well-known organ solos.

The *Baroque* period is represented by music by Purcell, Bach, Handel and Vivaldi - from England, Germany and Italy; the *Classical* period by the Austrian composers Haydn and Mozart; the *Romantic* period by Berlioz and Vienne from France, Mendelssohn from Germany, and Stainer, Parry and Elgar from the UK; and the programme is completed by 20<sup>th</sup> century music by three other British composers - Tippett, Mathias and John Rutter.

We hope that you rediscover (or, even more excitingly, discover for the first time) some personal favourites within the programme. So, as John Milton wrote in his poem *At a sol-emn music*, so memorably set by Sir Hubert Parry in the final work we perform today:

*O may we soon again renew that song  
And keep in tune with Heaven, till God ere long  
To his celestial concert us unite,  
To live with him and sing in endless morn of light.*

## **SOMERSET CHAMBER CHOIR**

**FORTHCOMING CONCERTS**

**25th February 2007 • 3pm**

**King's College, Taunton**

## ***La musique sacrée***

*A feast of French sacred music  
from three centuries*

*including*

## **Fauré *Requiem***

*& music by*

**Du Mont, Charpentier, Saint-Saëns,  
Franck, Poulenc, Vilette & Duruflé**

~~

**Richard Pearce *organ***

**Saturday 28 July 2007 • 7pm**

**Wells Cathedral**

## ***Baroque masterpieces***

**Somerset Chamber Choir**

*with*

**Canzona**

***Book the dates in your diary now!***

**[www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk](http://www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk)**

*The right is reserved, without incurring liability, to substitute artists and to vary the programmes for reasons beyond our control, although these details are correct at the time of going to print.*

Aye sung before the sapphire-coloured throne  
 To him that sits thereon,  
 With saintly shout and solemn jubilee;  
 Where the bright Seraphim, in burning row,  
 Their loud, uplifted angel-trumpets blow,  
 And the Cherubic host in thousand quires  
 Touch their immortal harps of golden wires,  
 With those just spirits, that wear victorious palms,  
 Hymns devout and holy psalms  
 Singing everlastingly.  
 That we on Earth with undiscording voice,  
 May rightly answer that melodious noise;  
 As once we did, till disproportioned sin  
 Jarr'd against Nature's chime, and with harsh din  
 Broke the fair music that all creatures made  
 To their great Lord, whose love their motion swayed  
 In perfect diapason, whilst they stood  
 In first obedience, and their state of good.  
 O may we soon again renew that song  
 And keep in tune with Heaven, till God ere long  
 To his celestial concert us unite,  
 To live with him and sing in endless morn of light.

[John Milton]

## SPREADING THE WORD

If you enjoy this afternoon's concert, please tell others about the choir and encourage them to come to our future concerts!

## WILL YOU BE A FRIEND?

Our popular Friends Scheme has five different membership levels, each giving a different range of benefits. The scheme now has over 150 members and each of these is acknowledged by name in our Taunton and Wells concert programmes. For venues where this is possible, all Friends have the opportunity to book tickets before the general public - this is often vital for getting the best seats in the house! We arrange regular receptions at which you can get to know the conductor, the members of the choir and other members of the Friends Scheme.

We should like to invite you to support the choir by joining the scheme. Subscriptions range from £8 to £100 and you will find full details in the separate leaflet at the back of the church.

More information is also available from Lin Winston at 3 Parkland Drive, Campion Meadow, Exeter, Devon EX2 5RX or from MusicBox on 01275 349010. You can also email us through the Friends section of our website at [www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk](http://www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We receive invaluable support from our President, Lady Gass, and our Vice-Presidents, Sir David Willcocks, Benjamin Luxon, Adrian Male and Chris Cutting. We are most grateful to them for their work behind the scenes on the Choir's behalf.

We are very grateful to the large number of volunteers who assist us with numerous aspects of the choir's administration. If you would like to volunteer to help us in any way, please leave a message on our Box Office voicemail on 01275 349010 and we will contact you.

We wish to thank the Guardians of Martock Church, particularly Mr & Mrs Lewis, for encouraging us to promote this concert and for their assistance in organising it.

# SOMERSET CHAMBER CHOIR

## About us

The choir was founded in 1984 by former members of the Somerset Youth Choir and is firmly established as one of the most exciting choirs in the South West region. It recruits from among the most talented singers in the area and places a strong emphasis on encouraging young people to join its ranks. The choir is renowned for its innovative and eclectic programmes and it regularly performs with many of the UK's top professional soloists and orchestras - its performances have been praised not only by press and public, but also by the professional musicians it works with.

*'One of the finest examples of amateur performers in the country... the choir's consistent high quality is a thing of wonder...some of the finest choral singing that I've heard for years.'* Somerset County Gazette

## About our conductor

Graham Caldbeck is one of Britain's leading conductors of amateur choirs, known for his wide-ranging musical skills, innovative programming and stylish performances. He studied music at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was a Choral Scholar under Richard Marlow, and has sung with the Cathedral Choirs of Guildford and Winchester. He holds both the Fellowship and Choir Training diplomas of the Royal College of Organists, is a former Assistant Organist at St. Martin-in-the-Fields and is currently Director of Music at St Mary The Boltons, SW10.

Graham also conducts the Nonsuch Singers, a London-based chamber choir whose concerts are regularly highlighted by the national press, and the Mayfield Festival Choir in East Sussex. For fifteen years, Graham held senior positions at the Royal College of Music and he now pursues a freelance career as conductor, organist, vocal coach and teacher.



## Would you like to sing with us?

We are a very friendly choir and place a great emphasis on having fun while, at the same time, working hard. Applications for membership are always welcome - we do not hold weekly rehearsals, but instead run six rehearsal weekends every year at which informal auditions are held. We like members to have some connection, past or present, with Somerset or the adjacent counties. As the choir rehearses mainly during holiday periods, it is also suitable for those formerly based in the area but who are now at university, or who work outside the county and would like to take the opportunity to travel back to visit family or friends - many members travel hundreds of miles to attend weekend rehearsals, a fact that perhaps speaks louder than words.

*For further details, please talk to any member of the choir, visit our website or e-mail the choir at [recruitment@somersetchamberchoir.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@somersetchamberchoir.org.uk)*

# PROGRAMME ORDER

*We should be grateful if you would reserve your applause  
until the gaps marked in the programme below*

|                            |                                                           |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Purcell</b> (1659-95)   | <b>Soul of the world</b> ( <i>Hail, Bright Cecilia!</i> ) |
| <b>Vivaldi</b> (1678-1741) | <b>Domine fili unigenite</b> ( <i>Gloria</i> )            |
| ~~~~~                      |                                                           |
| <b>Mozart</b> (1756-91)    | <b>Hostias</b> ( <i>Requiem</i> )                         |
| <b>Haydn</b> (1732-1809)   | <b>The heavens are telling</b> ( <i>The Creation</i> )    |
|                            | <i>Claire Palmer</i> soprano <i>Nick Bowditch</i> tenor   |
|                            | <i>Simon Francis</i> bass                                 |

*Organ Solo*

|                            |                                                           |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mathias</b> (1934-1992) | <b>Recessional op 96, no 4</b>                            |
| ~~~~~                      |                                                           |
| <b>Stainer</b> (1840-1901) | <b>Processional to Calvary</b> ( <i>The Crucifixion</i> ) |
|                            | <i>Nick Bowditch</i> tenor                                |

|                              |                                                     |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mendelssohn</b> (1809-47) | <b>He watching over Israel</b> ( <i>Elijah</i> )    |
| <b>Handel</b> (1685-1759)    | <b>And the glory of the Lord</b> ( <i>Messiah</i> ) |

|                                   |                                                    |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>J S Bach</b> (1685-1750)       | <b>Dona nobis pacem</b> ( <i>Mass in B Minor</i> ) |
| ~~~~~                             |                                                    |
| ~~~~~ INTERVAL (10 minutes) ~~~~~ |                                                    |

|                            |                                                               |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Berlioz</b> (1803-69)   | <b>The Shepherd's Farewell</b> ( <i>L'Enfance du Christ</i> ) |
| <b>John Rutter</b> (b1945) | <b>The Lord is my Shepherd</b> ( <i>Requiem</i> )             |
|                            | <i>Kate Winston</i> oboe                                      |

|                          |                                                   |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tippett</b> (1905-98) | <b>Two Spirituals from A Child of Our Time:</b>   |
|                          | (i) <b>Nobody knows the trouble I see</b>         |
|                          | (ii) <b>Go down, Moses</b>                        |
|                          | <i>Claire Palmer</i> soprano                      |
|                          | <i>Nick Bowditch</i> tenor <i>John Broad</i> bass |

*Organ Solo*

|                           |                                                                  |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Vierne</b> (1870-1937) | <b>Carillon de Westminster op 54, no 6</b>                       |
| ~~~~~                     |                                                                  |
| <b>Elgar</b> (1857-1934)  | <b>The spirit of the Lord is upon me</b> ( <i>The Apostles</i> ) |
| <b>Parry</b> (1848-1918)  | <b>Blest pair of Sirens</b>                                      |

*Complimentary tea and coffee will be available at the back of the church  
after the concert ~ we hope you will join us there.*

*Organ Solo*

**Vierne: Carillon de Westminster op 54, no 6**

Louis Vierne was born blind but partially regained sight at the age of six. He was a pupil of Franck and Widor and, in 1892, was appointed assistant to Widor at St Sulpice, and assistant to Widor and Guilmant at the Paris Conservatoire. He served as organist of Notre-Dame Cathedral from 1900 to 1937, where he died in the middle of giving an organ recital on 2nd June 1937.

Vierne developed the organ symphony after Franck and the models established by Charles-Marie Widor, deploying the orchestral sonorities provided by the Cavallé-Coll organs prevalent at the time in six large-scale, highly chromatic organ symphonies. He also composed 24 *Pièces de fantasie* in 1926-27, grouped in four suites of six pieces each. *Carillon de Westminster*, a brilliant toccata-like piece built over the familiar clock chimes, is the sixth piece in the third suite, and was dedicated to the English organ builder Henry Willis III. It is one of Vierne's best-known works.

**Elgar: The spirit of the Lord is upon me** (*The Apostles*)

The spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
Because He hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor  
He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted,  
To preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind  
To preach the acceptable year of the Lord  
To give unto them that mourn a garland for ashes,  
The oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;  
That they might be called trees of righteousness the planting of the Lord,  
That He might be glorified. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud,  
And as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth  
So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.  
As the earth bringeth forth her bud The spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
Because He hath anointed me to preach the Gospel.  
*[Isaiah 61]*

**Parry: Blest pair of Sirens**

Blest pair of Sirens, pledges of Heaven's joy,  
Sphere-born harmonious sisters, Voice and Verse,  
Wed your divine sounds, and mixt power employ,  
Dead things with inbreathed sense able to pierce;  
And to our high-raised phantasy present  
That undisturbed song of pure consent,

*Please turn page quietly*

### **John Rutter: The Lord is my Shepherd** (*Requiem*)

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture: and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. He shall convert my soul: and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me. Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me: thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full. But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

[*Psalm 23*]

### **Tippett: Two Spirituals from A Child of Our Time**

#### **(i) Nobody Knows**

*Nobody knows the trouble I see, Lord,  
Nobody knows the trouble I see,  
Nobody knows the trouble I see, Lord,  
Nobody knows like Jesus.*

O brothers, pray for me,  
And help me to drive old Satan away.

*Nobody knows the trouble I see, Lord...*

O mothers, pray for me,  
And help me to drive old Satan away.

*Nobody knows the trouble I see, Lord...*

#### **(ii) Go down, Moses**

*Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt land;  
Tell old Pharaoh to let my people go.*

When Israel was in Egypt land,  
Let my people go; tell old Pharaoh.  
Oppressed so hard they could not stand,  
Let my people go; tell old Pharaoh.  
"Thus spake the Lord," bold Moses said,  
Let my people go; tell old Pharaoh.  
"If not, I'll smite your first-born dead."  
Let my people go; tell old Pharaoh.

*Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt land;  
Tell old Pharaoh to let my people go.*

[*Traditional*]

## **TEXTS**

### **Purcell: Soul of the world** (*Hail, Bright Cecilia*)

Soul of the world, inspired by thee,  
The jarring sounds of matter did agree.  
Thou dist the scatter'd atoms bind,  
Which by thy laws of true proportion joined  
Made up of various parts, one perfect harmony.

[*Nicholas Brady*]

### **Vivaldi: Domine fili unigenite** (*Gloria*)

Domine fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.  
*Lord Jesus Christ the only-begotten Son.*

[*from the Gloria of the Mass*]

### **Mozart: Hostias** (*Requiem*)

Hostias et preces, tibi, Domine, laudis offerimus;  
Tu suscipe pro animabus illis, quarum hodie memoriam facimus;  
Fac eas, Domine, de morte transire ad vitam.  
Quam olim Abrahae promisisti et semini ejus.

*We offer Thee, O Lord, a sacrifice of praise and prayer;  
Accept them on behalf of the souls we commemorate this day,  
And let them, O Lord, pass from death to life.  
Which Thou didst promise of old to Abraham and his seed.*

[*Requiem Mass*]

### **Haydn: The heavens are telling** (*The Creation*)

The heavens are telling the glory of God,  
The wonder of his work displays the firmament;

Today that is coming, speaks it the day,  
The night that is gone to following night.  
In all the lands resounds the word,  
Never unperceivèd, ever understood.

The heavens are telling the glory of God,  
The wonder of his work displays the firmament.

[*from Psalm 19*]

### *Organ Solo*

#### **Mathias: Recessional op 96, no 4**

William Mathias was born in Whitland, Dyfed, and began to compose at an early age, studying first at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and subsequently at the Royal Academy of Music. From 1970 to 1988 he was Head of the Music Department at the University College of North Wales, Bangor.

His compositions cover an extraordinarily wide range and the work *Lux Aeterna* has been hailed by some as one of the finest British choral/orchestral works of the last century. Works composed to celebrate royal occasions include *Let the people praise Thee, O God* - an anthem especially composed for the wedding of The Prince and Princess of Wales in 1981.

Matthias made a highly significant contribution to 20th-century organ music, in particular, his *Organ Concerto* scored a great success in the 1984 BBC Promenade Concerts. The *Recessional* is typical of much of his organ solo repertoire - jubilant, rhythmic and forthright - and is occasionally reminiscent of William Walton.

#### **Stainer: Processional to Calvary (*The Crucifixion*)**

##### *Choir*

Fling wide the gates! for the Saviour waits  
To tread on his royal way;  
He has come from above, in his power and love,  
To die on this Passion day.

His cross is a sign of a love divine,  
His crown is the thorn-wreath of woe,  
He bears his load on the sorrowful road,  
And bends beneath the burden low.

##### *Tenor solo*

How sweet is the grace of His sacred Face  
And lovely beyond compare;  
Though weary and worn with the merciless scorn  
Of a world He has come to spare.

The burden of wrong that earth bears along,  
Past evil, and evil to be,  
All sins of man since the world began,  
They are laid, dear Lord, on Thee.

##### *Choir*

Then on to the end, my God and my Friend,  
With Thy banner lifted high!  
Thou art come from above in Thy power and love,  
To endure and suffer and die.

Fling wide the gates! for the Saviour waits  
Then on to the end, my God and my Friend,  
To suffer, endure and die.

[J Sparrow-Simpson]

#### **Mendelssohn: He watching over Israel (*Elijah*)**

He watching over Israel slumbers not, nor sleeps.  
Shoulds't thou, walking in grief, languish, he will quicken thee.

[Based on Psalm 121]

#### **Handel: And the glory of the Lord (*Messiah*)**

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
And all flesh shall see it together;  
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

[Isaiah 40: 5]

#### **J S Bach: Dona nobis pacem (*Mass in B Minor*)**

Dona nobis pacem.

*Grant us peace.*

[from the Mass]

~~~~~ **INTERVAL (10 minutes)** ~~~~~

#### **Berlioz: The Shepherds' Farewell (*L'Enfance du Christ*)**

Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling,  
The humble crib, the stable bare,  
Babe, all mortal babes excelling,  
Content our earthly lot to share,  
Loving father, loving mother,  
Shelter thee with tender care!

Blessed Jesus, we implore thee  
With humble love and holy fear,  
In the land that lies before thee,  
Forget not us who linger here!  
May the shepherd's lowly calling,  
Ever to thy heart be dear!

Blest are ye beyond all measure,  
Thou happy father, mother mild!  
Guard ye well your heav'nly treasure,  
The Prince of Peace, the Holy Child!  
God go with you, God protect you,  
Guide you safely through the wild!

[Paul England]