



*“Where words fail,
music speaks”*

A concert of choral music that stirs the soul

sung by

Viva la Musica

conducted by Simon Lumby

Saturday 30th September 2017

at 7.30pm

at Trinity Methodist Church Centre, Royland Rd,
Loughborough LE11 2EH

with

Jo Boddison - soprano

Michael Overbury - organ

Programme £2.00



Viva la Musica

is a chamber choir based in Loughborough.

It was formed in 2002 by a group of singers who enjoy singing together and welcome the challenges and experiences that being part of a small ensemble brings. It sings a wide range of music from early to modern, sacred to secular, largely in the a capella style. As well as performing locally, the choir has begun to travel further afield, with a concert weekend in Haworth in 2013, Tideswell in 2015 and Worcester in 2016.

Viva la Musica has been busy this past year - especially featuring a critically acclaimed residency at Worcester Cathedral at the beginning of September before a sell out Christmas concert in Leicester. If you would like to be notified of these and other concerts, please email info@vivalamusica.org.uk to be added to our mailing list.

soprano:

Louise Houslip, Claire Parkyns†*, Gail Stiven, Jeni Beasley, Meg Burton, Jenny Kemp

alto:

Eleri Bristow, Clare Ward-Campbell, Joanna Milner, Lis Muller*

tenor:

Mike Bailey, Richard Thomas*, Peter Finch, Che Gayton*

bass:

Simon Collins, John Thawley*, Kevin Norman, James Ward-Campbell*

** tonight's soloists*

† We are indebted to Claire Parkyns, who is deputising this evening for one of our first sopranos who was not able to be with us because of a prior engagement.

Programme

Faire is the Heaven

William Harris 1883 - 1973

Faire is the heav'n, where happy soules have place, in full enjoyment of felicitie, whence they doe still behold the glorious face of the divine, eternall Majestie. Yet farre more faire be those bright Cherubins which all with golden wings are overdight, and those eternall burning Seraphins, which from their faces dart out fiery light; yet fairer than they both, and much more bright, be th' Angels and Archangels which attend on God's owne person, without rest or end.

These then in faire each other farre excelling as to the Highest they approach more neare, Yet is that Highest farre beyond all telling fairer than all the rest which there appeare, though all their beauties joynd together were: how then can mortall tongue hope to expresse the image of such endlesse perfectnesse?

Words by Edmund Spencer 1552 - 99

Three Partsongs

Charles Stanford 1852 - 1924

Farewell my joy

Farewell, my joy! For other hearts the Spring,
For other eyes the roses; but for me
The iron gate, the shadowy cypress-tree,
The solemn dirge that cloistered voices sing.

Farewell, my joy! Alas, I loved thee well!
For no light matter had I let thee go.
I cherished thee in rain, and wind, and snow.
I bound thee to my breast with many a spell.

Hail and farewell, my joy! If I might give
To one sweet friend the rapture that I miss,
Read in her eyes that ecstasy of bliss,
Tho' death were in my own, I yet should live.

Words by Mary Coleridge 1861 - 1907

Blue Bird

The lake lay blue below the hill. O'er it, as I looked, there flew
Across the waters, cold and still, a bird whose wings were palest blue.

The sky above was blue at last, the sky beneath me blue in blue.
A moment, ere the bird had passed, it caught his image as he flew.

Words by Mary Coleridge 1861 - 1907

Quick! We have but a second

Quick! we have but a second, fill round the cup while you may;
For time, the churl, hath beckon'd, and we must away, away!
Grasp the pleasure that's flying, for oh, not Orpheus' strain
Could keep sweet hours from dying, or charm them to life again.
Then, quick! we have but a second, fill round the cup while you may!
For Time, the churl hath beckon'd, and we must away, away.

See the glass, how it flushes, like some young Hebe's lip,
and half meets thine, and blushes that thou should'st delay to sip.
Shame, oh shame unto thee, if ever thou see'st that day,
When a cup or lip shall woo thee, and turn untouch'd away.
Then, quick! we have but a second, fill round the cup while you may,
For Time, the churl, hath beckon'd, and we must away, away!

Words – Thomas Moore 1779 - 1852

‘Crucifixion’ from Symphonie Passion - Marcel Dupré 1886 - 1971

Vidi Speciosam

Tomas Luis de Victoria 1548 – 1610

I saw the fair one rising like a dove above the streams of water:
whose priceless fragrance clung to her garments. And as on a
spring day, she was surrounded by roses and lily-of-the-valley. Who
is this who rises from the desert like a pillar of smoke from incense
of myrrh and frankincense? And as on a spring day, she was
surrounded by roses and lily-of-the-valley.

Words – from the Benedictus Responsory at Matins for the feast of the
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Three Partsongs

Gerald Finzi 1901 - 1956

Words by Robert Bridges 1844 – 1930

I praise the tender flower

I praise the tender flower, that on a mournful day
Bloomed in my garden bower and made the winter gay.
Its loveliness contented my heart tormented.
I praise the gentle maid whose happy voice and smile
To confidence betrayed my doleful heart awhile;
And gave my spirit deploring fresh wings for soaring.
The maid for very fear of love I durst not tell:
The rose could never hear, though I bespake her well:
So in my song I bind them for all to find them.

Clear and gentle stream

Clear and gentle stream! Known and loved so long,
That hast heard the song and the idle dream
Of my boyish day; while I once again
Down thy margin stray, in the selfsame strain
Still my voice is spent, with my old lament
And my idle dream, clear and gentle stream!

Where my old seat was here again I sit,
Where the long boughs knit over stream and grass
A translucent eaves: where back eddies play
Shipwreck with the leaves, and the proud swans stray,
Sailing one by one out of stream and sun,
And the fish lie cool in their chosen pool.

Many an afternoon of the summer day
Dreaming here I lay; and I know how soon,
Idly at its hour, first the deep bell hums
From the minster tower, and then evening comes,
Creeping up the glade, with her lengthening shade,
And the tardy boon of her brightening moon.

Clear and gentle stream! Ere again I go
Where thou dost not flow, well does it beseem
Thee to hear again once my youthful song,
That familiar strain silent now so long:
Be as I content with my old lament
And my idle dream, clear and gentle stream.

My spirit sang all day

My spirit sang all day O my joy.
Nothing my tongue could say, only My joy!
My heart an echo caught O my joy
And spake, tell me thy thought,
Hide not thy joy.
My eyes gan peer around, O my joy
What beauty hast thou found?
Shew us thy joy.
My jealous ears grew whist; O my joy
Music from heaven is't, Sent for our joy?
She also came and heard; O my joy,
What, said she, is this word?
What is thy joy?
And I replied, O see, O my joy,
'Tis thee, I cried, 'tis thee:
Thou art my joy.

Blute Nur, du liebes Herz from The Saint Matthew Passion

- Johann Sebastian Bach 1685 - 1750

A boy and a girl

Eric Whitacre *born 1970*

Stretched out on the grass, a boy and a girl.
Savouring their oranges, giving their kisses like waves exchanging foam.

Stretched out on the beach, a boy and a girl.
Savouring their limes, giving their kisses like clouds exchanging foam.

Stretched out underground, a boy and a girl.
Saying nothing, never kissing, giving silence for silence.

Words by Octavio Paz 1914 - 1998

Cantique de Jean Racine

Gabriel Faure 1845 – 1924

Word of God, one with the Most High, in Whom alone we have
our hope, eternal Day of heaven and earth, we break the silence
of the peaceful night; Saviour Divine, cast your eyes upon us!

Pour on us the fire of your powerful grace, that all hell may flee at
the sound of your voice; banish the slumber of a weary soul, That
brings forgetfulness of your laws!

O Christ, look with favour upon your faithful people now
gathered here to praise you; receive their hymns offered to your
immortal glory; may they go forth filled with your gifts.

Words – Jean Racine 1639 - 1699

(which are a paraphrase of the Latin hymn *Consors paterni luminis*)

Agnus Dei

Samuel Barber 1910 – 1981

Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

Words from the 'Missa Normativa'

Interval

Five Spirituals from 'A Child of our Time' Michael Tippett 1905 - 1998

Steal Away to Jesus

Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus,
Steal away, steal away home; I han't got long to stay here.

My Lord, he calls me, he calls me by the thunder,
The trumpet sounds within-a my soul; I han't got long to stay here.
Green trees a-bending, poor sinner stands a-trembling,
The trumpet sounds within-a my soul; I han't got long to stay here.

Nobody knows the trouble I've seen Lord

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

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

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, oppressed so hard they could not stand,
"Thus spake the Lord" bold Moses said
"If not, I'll smite your first born dead".

O by and by

O by and by I'm going to lay down my heavy load.

I know my robe's going to fit me well:
I've tried it on at the gates of hell.
Hell is deep and a dark despair:
O stop, poor sinner, and don't go there.

Deep River

Deep river, my home is over Jordan,
Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into camp-ground.

Oh chillun! O don't you want to go to that gospel feast,
That promised land, that land where all is peace.
Walk into heaven, and take my seat,
And cast my crown at Jesus' feet.

Song for Athene

John Tavener 1944 – 2013

Alleluia. Alleluia.
May flights of angels sing thee to thy rest
Alleluia. Alleluia.
Remember me, O Lord, when you come into your kingdom
Alleluia. Alleluia.
Give rest, O Lord, to your handmaid who has fallen asleep
Alleluia. Alleluia.
The Choir of Saints have found the well-spring of life and door of paradise
Alleluia. Alleluia.
Life: a shadow and a dream
Alleluia. Alleluia.
'Weeping at the grave creates the song: Alleluia.'
Alleluia. Alleluia.
Come, enjoy rewards and crowns I have prepared for you.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Words selected by Mother Thelka 1918 – 2011
(of the Orthodox Monastery of Whitby)

Après un rêve

Gabriel Fauré 1845 - 1924

Sleep

Eric Whitacre *born 1970*

The evening hangs beneath the moon,
A silver thread on darkened dune.
With closing eyes and resting head
I know that sleep is coming soon.

Upon my pillow, safe in bed,
A thousand pictures fill my head.
I cannot sleep, my mind's a-flight;
And yet my limbs seem made of lead.

If there are noises in the night,
A frightening shadow, flickering light,
Then I surrender unto sleep,
Where clouds of dream give second sight,

What dreams may come, both dark and deep,
Of flying wings and soaring leap
As I surrender unto sleep,
As I surrender unto sleep.

Words by Charles Antony Silvestri *born 1965*

Nunc DimittisPhilip Stopford *born 1977**from the Truro Evening Canticles*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen.

Words from the Book of Common Prayer 1662.

‘Resurrection’ from *Symphonie Passion* - Marcel Dupré 1886 - 1971**Lux aeterna**

Edward Elgar 1857 – 1954

May light eternal shine upon them, O Lord, with Thy saints forever,
for Thou art kind. Eternal rest give to them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Words from the Commendation of the Requiem Mass

Seek him that maketh Jonathan Dove *born 1959*

Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion and turneth the shadow
of death into the morning. Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as the day,
the night is light about me.

Words from Psalm 130 and Amos 5: 8





Jo Boddison, soprano, trained at Bretton Hall College with Jean Allister and James Ashworth, and later undertook graduate teacher training at Leeds University. Having worked as a Head of Department in three schools in the East Midlands, she is now a freelance music teacher and soloist.

During the early part of her career, Jo performed regularly in the North of England, as soloist with St. Peter's Singers in Leeds, at Salford Cathedral, and with the Britten Singers with whom she undertook recordings for BBC Radio 3 and Chandos

Records. Jo is also a member of the award-winning choir, Choros Amici and regularly travels abroad giving concerts and participating in competitions. As a founder member of the International Touring Choir, Sine Nomine, she has a vast experience of choral singing, working this year with George Vass at the Presteigne Music Festival in Wales.

Solo work has been varied and has included Handel's Messiah, Purcell's King Arthur, Carrisimi's Jephtha, Monteverdi's Vespers, Bach's Christmas Oratorio, St. Matthew & St. John Passions, B Minor Mass and Cantatas 30, 78 and 140, and also Haydn's Creation.

Jo made her solo London debut with Haydn's Nelson Mass at St John's, Smith Square with the Cavendish Singers. Recent performances in the Midlands have included the Monteverdi Vespers, Haydn's Theresienmesse, Rutter's Magnificat, and also the role of Eve in Morricone's Beatitude Mass, performed in Leicester Cathedral.



Organist and harpsichordist **Michael Overbury**'s early musical influences centred on Farnham and London. At his local Parish Church, St Andrew's, he was introduced as chorister and Assistant Organist, to the glories of the English liturgical tradition, and it was here also that his organ teacher Stephen Thomson inspired in him a love of the harpsichord. Also during these years at Farnham Grammar School, the nationally acclaimed Farnham Festivals provided opportunity for Michael to give a number of first performances on solo piano, including works by Richard Rodney Bennett and Leonard Bernstein. These exciting and formative experiences were complemented by Saturday mornings at Trinity College of Music, London, where he held a Junior Exhibition, being awarded a diploma in piano-playing whilst still at school.



Horizons broadened with an Organ Scholarship to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he read music and studied the organ with Gillian Weir. Harpsichord tuition continued with Kenneth Gilbert. After graduating he was successively, an assisting organ scholar at King's College, Cambridge, Assistant Organist at New College, Oxford, a deputy organist and choir master at the Cathedral and Abbey Church at St Alban's, Director of Music at Eagle House Preparatory School for Boys, and Master of the Song School at Newark, Nottinghamshire. He was for 25 years Director of Music of Nottingham Boys Choir.

After winning First Prize in the 1982 Manchester International Organ Competition, he appeared twice as soloist at the Royal Festival Hall, and has continued to play with numerous choirs and orchestras, including Sinfonia Viva (formerly the East of England Orchestra), the Wren Orchestra, the Orchestra of St John's Smith Square, the Milton Keynes Chamber orchestra, and English Sinfonia, and has featured on several recordings, including five solo discs.

Michael was for 15 years Director of Music of the Priory Church of Our Lady and St Cuthbert, Worksop, currently remains a founder member of Musica Donvm Dei, playing on period instruments mainly in the East Midlands, with whom he recently appeared on Radio Three's Eighteenth-Century season on In Tune live from Kedleston Hall. Michael is also harpsichordist for the chamber trio Continuum, with whom he has performed twice at the Handel House Museum in London. He has been accompanist to Nottingham Harmonic Society, and for many years has written reviews for the Organists' Review and he has mainly liturgical compositions published.

Many of his CD recordings are on sale here tonight during the interval.



Simon Lumby was born in Birmingham in 1970 and studied organ principally with Andrew Fletcher before taking up a place on the Opera Course at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, to study with Robert Alderson.

As a singer, Simon has performed with many of the leading orchestras in this country including Handel's *Messiah* for the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* with the Royal Northern Sinfonia and Finzi's *Dies Natalis* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

As an organist, Simon has given recitals at the Cathedrals of Hereford, Coventry, and Liverpool.

Other organ concerts of note have included a recital of British organ music at the De Montfort Hall in Leicester and several *Battles of the Organs* with the flamboyant American virtuoso, the late Carlo Curley. In more recent times, Simon has been very involved with the organisation of music for some of the larger church events – such as 'Stand up for Jesus' that featured Simon playing the mighty Father Willis organ at the Royal Albert Hall. Other festivals that have seen Simon playing the organ have included York Minster, Lincoln Cathedral and Norwich Cathedral and he is currently organising festivals for the Northern Province at the Cathedrals of Wakefield and Ripon.

Simon is now more or less retired from professional music making and in June 2003 was ordained to the Sacred Priesthood of the Church of England. He is currently serving as Parish Priest at the Church of Saint Aidan in New Parks. The last 10 years have been an exciting time for Saint Aidan's and in 2009 they were celebrating their 50th birthday, the highpoint of which was the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, who officially opened six months of celebrations on 22nd March of that year.

Simon has released two solo recordings, which have both been met with popular and critical acclaim. 'Loud Organs His Glory Forttelling in Deep Tone' was the first recording to be made on the new organ that was installed in Saint Aidan's, New Parks, in 2007 and features a programme of popular organ masterworks. 'A Grateful Heart' is a collection of English Song that Simon recorded with pianist Helen Davies and features works by Ivor Gurney, Michael Head and a complete recording of Vaughan Williams Songs of Travel. Both are being sold in aid of the Saint Aidan's Hall Renovation Appeal.

Simon's next releases include a recording of British organ music, including the First Organ Sonata of Basil Harwood, played on the organ at Saint Aidan's being released in July this year and an album of lyrical song by composers including Haydn, Brahms, Richard Strauss and the great love of his musical life, Gabriel Fauré.

Simon has been conducting *Viva* for two years and has been very excited to be making music with such a talented ensemble of capable singers. He is very much looking forward to more musical adventures with *Viva* in the coming months and years.

Forthcoming Viva Events

Choral Evensong at Southwell Minster

Church Street, Southwell, NG25 0HD

sung by

Viva la Musica

Saturday 24th February at 5.45pm

Music includes

The Truro Canticles - **Philip Stopford**

Preces and Responses - **Bernard Rose**

Beati Quorum via - **Charles Stanford**

Bring us O Lord our God - **William Harris**

Entry to this is free as it marks the daily worship of the Cathedral - however retiring collections are encouraged and welcomed.

‘Sing we and chant it...’

Three hundred years of Madrigals and Part Songs

sung by

Viva la Musica

on Saturday 14th April at 7.30pm

at **Leicester Guildhall, Guildhall Lane, Leicester LE1 5FQ**

Music includes

Fire Madrigals - **Morten Lauridsen**

When Vesta was - **Thomas Weelkes**

Six Part Songs - **Charles Stanford**

as well as works by **Finzi** and **Pearsall**

Tickets - £10

Available in advance from www.vivalamusica.org.uk



Eternal Source of Heavenly Light
Music for a Royal Occasion by Georg Frederick Handel

Saturday 23rd June 2018 at 7.30pm

at Saint Aidan's Parish Church,
New Parks, LE3 6RJ.

Music includes
Coronation Anthems: Zadok the Priest
Let thy hand be strengthened
The King shall rejoice
My heart is Inditing

Birthday Ode for Queen Mary - 'Eternal Source of Heavenly Light'

sung by

Viva la Musica

featuring

Judit Feltzeghy - soprano
Tom Williams - counter tenor

The Musical and Amicable Society Chamber Orchestra

Conducted by Simon Lumby

Tickets - £10 (£8 concessions)
Available in advance from **www.vivalamusica.org.uk**

This concert forms part of the Saint Aidan's Festival
more details for which can be found at
www.saintaidansfestival.co.uk
or by ringing **0116 287 2342**



LOVE *Came Down*

with

Viva la Musica

Sunday 10th December 2017 at 7.00pm

Saint Aidan's Church
Leicester

*followed by dinner in
the Church Hall*



Tickets - **£15** (*concert with dinner*), **£7.50** (*concert only*)

Music includes works by Jonathan Rathbone, Amy Bebbington
Simon Preston, Phillip Stopford and (*of course*) John Rutter

please ring **01530 231502** *for more details*
or **www.vivalamusica.org.uk** *to buy tickets*