

# THE ABBEYDALE SINGERS

MUSICAL DIRECTOR - KEVIN HAIGHTON  
GUEST SOLOIST - KATHERINE WAREHAM (FLUTE)

# 25<sup>th</sup>

## Anniversary Concert

# 2011

**Saturday 16th July, 7.30pm**  
**St John's Church, Ranmoor**

### A personal welcome from Kevin Haighton

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

We are so pleased you are able to join us for this evening's performance, a very special event for the choir and myself, which we hope you enjoy. We are particularly honoured tonight to welcome The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Councillor Dr Sylvia Dunkley, and the Lord Mayor's Consort, Mr John Dunkley. We know that they are both keen singers, with Escafeld Chorale and the Sterndale Singers respectively, so we are especially delighted that they have come to help us celebrate our 25th Anniversary. We offer them the warmest of welcomes and our heartfelt thanks.

I would like to take a moment to share with you some of the highlights of our year, which has been an exciting, eventful and rewarding one for us. In October we embarked upon our now traditional biennial trip abroad, on this occasion travelling to Belgium. Here we joined forces with Schola Cantorum, a choir based in Ghent, to perform a joint concert in the cavernous Ghent cathedral. We also sang in Bruges at The Church of Our Lady and thereafter in Ypres. On our return we enjoyed preparing for and performing our annual Christmas concert at St. Mark's Church, Broomhill.

In February we competed in the Mrs Sunderland Music Festival at Huddersfield where we were awarded two trophies, the pieces for which we will be singing this evening. Following this we had the pleasure of performing at St. Peter's Church, Edensor where we were able to support their roof restoration appeal, as a thank you for allowing us to record our 'Christmas at Chatsworth' CD there. The Sheffield Fellowship Cavalcade kept us busy during May which brings us to this evening.

As always, we have something for everyone this evening and given the occasion, many of our particular favourites too. We commence proceedings from the back of the church with a hint of plainsong and a joyous Renaissance Alleluia. Without a break we continue with sacred music as itemised on the programme, initially from England and thereafter travelling to Germany, Scotland and France before returning once more to England.

The first and final pieces of this group give us the opportunity of performing with the fine organ of St John's and we are so pleased again to welcome our excellent accompanist George Parsons. The first half concludes with a selection of part songs which have proved extremely popular with our audiences over the years.

We start the second half with a collection of folk song arrangements, all of which display a wide variety of style, subject matter and emotional content. Following this, as is now traditional for an Abbeydale Singers' concert, we conclude proceedings with an assortment of popular favourites. There could also be an additional surprise should you request it!

In addition to tonight's choral performances we are delighted to welcome Katherine Wareham as our solo flautist, accompanied on the piano by Dominic John; you will find details of their musical careers later in this programme.

Thank you so much for supporting us. We do very much hope you enjoy this evening's performance and look forward to seeing you again soon.



**Kevin Haighton, Musical Director**

## **Katherine Wareham**



Katherine is an amateur flautist, living in London, trying to cram as much playing into her non-working hours as possible. Having studied with Judith Mellor in Sheffield and Averil Williams in London, Katherine recently obtained the Licentiate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in flute performance, with a distinction. She has played with many London amateur orchestras including Kingston Philharmonia and Kensington Symphony Orchestra (at the Queen Elizabeth Hall), but most regularly with the Fulham Symphony Orchestra. This has led to numerous opportunities to play in partnership with the BBC Symphony Orchestra as well as at venues such as St John's Smith Square, the Barbican and the Royal Festival Hall.

Other musical activities include playing in the flute quartet, "Flautette", co-founding a new lunchtime concert series, Munster Square Music Live, teaching piano and conducting a local community choir.

Her day job as a fundraiser and project manager for the National Autistic Society, is the latest role in a 10 year career in the charity sector that she somewhat fell into following studying both Mathematics and Educational Psychology at Manchester University.

The Abbeydale Singers have been a fairly permanent fixture in her life, from listening (when supposed to be asleep) to "a grasshopper sittin' on the railroad track a pickin' his teeth with a carpet tack" through the floor boards of her childhood home as the Abbeydale Singers rehearsed below, to performing solos in their concerts in her teens, to the memorial concert for her father in 2004 at St John's Ranmoor. It is with great pleasure that she returns to perform movements from Muczynski's Flute Sonata and Borne's Carmen Fantasy.

## Tonight's Programme

I was glad when they said unto me  
Ave Maria  
Christus vincit  
Tota pulchra es  
Greater love hath no man

*Hubert Parry*  
*Franz Biebl*  
*James MacMillan*  
*Maurice Duruflé*  
*John Ireland*

### **Katherine Wareham with Dominic John**

Flute Sonata

*Robert Muczynski*

My spirit sang all day  
Lay a garland  
Music, when soft voices die  
i thank You God for most this amazing day  
Everyone suddenly burst out singing

*Gerald Finzi*  
*Robert Pearsall*  
*Edward Bairstow*  
*Eric Whitacre*  
*C. S. Lang*

## Interval

The song of the blacksmith  
Harry  
Shenendoah  
Tom the piper's son  
She moved through the fair

*arr. Gustav Holst*  
*Howe arr. Thom Meredith*  
*arr. James Erb*  
*Edmund Walters*  
*arr. Daryl Runswick*

### **Katherine Wareham with Dominic John**

Carmen Fantasy

*François Borne*

Country dances  
I got rhythm  
Pastime with good company  
Plenty good room (on the glory train)

*arr. Ward Swingle*  
*Gershwin arr. Christopher Clapham*  
*Henry VIII arr. Ward Swingle*  
*Kirby Shaw*

During the interval the choir will serve you with  
complimentary celebratory refreshments

At the end of the concert we would ask you to remain in your seats until the Lord  
Mayor and Consort have left the church - thank you.

## Dominic John



Born in 1980, Dominic John began piano lessons with his mother. He studied at the Junior Royal Academy of Music under Patsy Toh. He continued his studies at the Royal College of Music with John Barstow and Andrew Ball, where he held the RCM Society Junior Fellowship from 2004-2006. A versatile musician, Dominic is an active soloist, member of various chamber ensembles and accompanist to a wide variety of singers and instrumentalists. Performances in this country include the Wigmore Hall, St. John's Smith Square, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Purcell Room, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Fairfield Hall and the Barbican Hall. Overseas he has played in France, Holland, Poland, America, Korea and Japan.

He has won several prizes including First Prize in the 22nd Brant International Piano Competition, the prestigious Chappell Gold Medal of the RCM, a Director's Golden Jubilee Award at the RCM, 2004 British Music Society Awards, 2004 Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra Young Soloist Competition and 4th Prize in the 2005 Corpus Christi, U.S.A. International Competition for Piano and Strings.

He has given Concerto performances of the Beethoven "Emperor", Grieg, Liszt No.1, Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue, Rachmaninov 3rd and Prokofiev 2nd. Of particular note was a performance with Itzhak Perlman at an evening soirée and performances of the Tchaikovsky Concerto and Saint-Saens' "Carnival of the Animals" with the Osaka Philharmonic in Symphony Hall, Osaka.

Recent highlights include working on BBC 2 "Maestro", solo recitals in Oxford, duo recitals at Wigmore Hall, Brighton Festival plus various music societies. This year he co-founded a new lunchtime concert series in London, 'Munster Square Music Live' ([www.munstersquaremusiclive.typepad.com](http://www.munstersquaremusiclive.typepad.com)) and released his debut album *Variations With Sound*. Dominic is a staff accompanist at the Junior Department, Royal Academy of Music.

## George Parsons – organ

George is a freelance musician living in Sheffield. In addition to teaching the piano and the organ he is currently studying for a PhD, researching music by James MacMillan and Olivier Messiaen. He did his BA degree in Music at The Queen's College Oxford where he was also an organ scholar and has previously spent a year studying the organ at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam. He remains active as an organ recitalist and accompanist and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. Prior to becoming a student again, George worked as the Music Coordinator at Christchurch Fulwood in Sheffield, the church he is still happy to call his home.

The choir would also like to thank Pat Cornwell and Andy Curtis for video, audio recording and photography services.

The Abbeydale Singers are available to sing at special events of all kinds such as weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, conferences and dinners. Contact our Secretary for further information.

**Secretary:** Hilary Pye Tel: 0114 2685493  
**Email:** enquiries@abbeydalesingers.org.uk  
**Website:** www.abbeydalesingers.org.uk

Copies of the choir's CDs will be available for sale tonight:  
*Christmas at Chatsworth* - £10, *A Fine Song for Singing* - £8, or both CDs together for £15.

### Future dates for your diary:

Saturday 15 October - Joint concert with Tideswell Male Voice Choir St John's Church, Ranmoor, Sheffield

Saturday 17 December  
Christmas Concert, St Mark's Church, Broomhill, Sheffield

If you would like to join our email contact list, please fill in one of our contact slips and hand it to a member of the choir.

## The Abbeydale Singers

**Musical Director: Kevin Houghton\***



Photo: Andy Curtis

**Sopranos:** Naomi Baynes, Ann Charlett-Day, Michelle Hayward, Aparna Kapoor, Martha Oddy, Kirsty Parsons, Hilary Pye, Sarah Rooper, Anna Ryder, Rebecca Smith, Julia Stockton, Mary Taylor, Pat Turner\*

**Contraltos:** Helen Beach, Rachel Cockroft, Helen Cowen, Sue Houghton\*, Alice Newitt, Rachel Pointon, Rachael Nyarko, Linda Wareham\*

**Tenors:** Nick Baynes, Stuart Evans, Peter King\*, Chris Nicholson, Chris Varnom

**Basses:** Nigel Boucher, Michael Hannon, Steve Holden, Matthew Lovell\*, Peter Thompson, Robert Wareham

\* Founder member

Programme designed and compiled by Hilary Pye  
Cover art by Robert Wareham.

With special thanks to:



**MAIL BOXES ETC.**  
For expert printing services.