

The Abbeydale Singers



Lunchtime Concert, 1.15 pm

Wednesday 29th October

St Ann's Church, Dawson Street

The Abbeydale Singers

Founded in Sheffield in 1986 by our Musical Director Kevin Houghton, the choir has gradually expanded from an original eight voices to its present total of 34 singers. As one of the North of England's foremost vocal ensembles, the choir has a reputation for outstanding singing and enthusiastic engagement with our audiences. Our repertoire is wide, ranging from renaissance motets to contemporary choral pieces.

Our overseas concert tours have taken us to Dublin (in 2000), Bangor, Budapest, Prague, Bruges, Ghent and, most recently, Seville where our singing in a Latin Mass was described by the congregation as "absolutely breath-taking, heavenly, out of this world".

We're delighted to be back in Ireland today and to have the privilege of singing in this beautiful church.

Our programme today ranges from Thomas Tallis and William Byrd, through Mendelssohn, Bruckner and Duruflé, to two contemporary composers – Michael McGlynn, who directs the superb *Anuna* choir here in Dublin, and our good friend Andrew Carter from York. We have included three Michael McGlynn pieces which are new to us; they were very well received in Sheffield when we performed them for the first time at our summer concert in July.

Maintaining the Irish theme, we're finishing with three pieces by Andrew Carter: *I would be true*, set to the Londonderry Air, *The Lark in the Clear Air* and his new setting of Yeats' poem *The Cloths of Heaven*, which was specially commissioned for us in 2009.

Today's Programme

If ye love me	<i>Thomas Tallis</i>
Sing joyfully	<i>William Byrd</i>
Ave Maria	<i>Robert Parsons</i>
Locus iste Christus factus est	<i>Anton Bruckner</i> <i>Anton Bruckner</i>
Tu es Petrus Ubi caritas	<i>Maurice Duruflé</i> <i>Maurice Duruflé</i>
Pie Jesu Pater noster Behind the closed eye	<i>Michael McGlynn</i> <i>Michael McGlynn</i> <i>Michael McGlynn</i>
The hills	<i>John Ireland</i>
Lay a garland	<i>Robert Lucas de Pearsall</i>
Never weather beaten sail	<i>Richard Shephard</i>
I would be true The cloths of heaven The lark in the clear air	<i>Trad arr Andrew Carter</i> <i>Andrew Carter</i> <i>Andrew Carter</i>

Thank you so much for coming to hear us today.
We hope you enjoy our singing and that if you ever find
yourselves in Sheffield you'll come to hear us again!

The Abbeydale Singers



Photo: Andy Curtis

Musical Director: Kevin Haighton

Sopranos: Esther Ankcorn, Naomi Baynes, Sarah Brown, Ann Charlett-Day, Michelle Hayward, Emily Pieters, Kirsty Prince, Hilary Pye, Sarah Rooper, Anna Ryder, Stephanie Spencer, Julia Stockton, Mary Taylor, Pat Turner

Contraltos: Helen Beach, Rachel Cockroft, Helen Cowen, Sue Haighton, Pam Mathieson, Philippa Matthews, Alice Newitt, 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

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