

Come, Let's Rejoice!

Musical Director - Kevin Haighton
Guest Soloist - Rebecca Peace - Oboe
Organist - George Parsons

Summer Concert 2012
7.30 pm Saturday 21st July
St John's Church, Ranmoor



The
Abbeydale
Singers

A personal welcome from Kevin Haighton

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

We are delighted you are able to join us for this evening's performance which we hope you enjoy as much as we have enjoyed preparing for it. If I may, I would like to take a moment to share with you some of the highlights of our year which has been exciting, eventful and rewarding.

In October we welcomed Tideswell Male Voice Choir to Sheffield and enjoyed a joint concert with them here at St. John's and are very much looking forward to our 'return gig' at the Cathedral of the Peak in Tideswell this September. We then embarked upon our traditionally busy Christmas season which included carols for Renishaw Hall Christmas market, joining with Sheffield Fellowship in their Christmas Cavalcade at Sheffield City Hall and our annual concert at St. Mark's Broomhill. We concluded the festive period with a performance at Chesterfield's Winding Wheel followed by our customary carols in the hostels with this year's donations supporting The Anaphylaxis Campaign.

Since then life has been equally exciting. In March a small selection of singers entertained the children and staff at Ecclesall Infant's school as part of their 'talented parents' festival. We then performed a concert at St Luke's Church Lodge Moor in aid of Abbeyfield Housing following which we enjoyed a very successful collaboration with Sheffield Chamber Orchestra to perform excerpts from Bach's B minor Mass.

Also, this year, we've had the pleasure of singing at three weddings; the first, a daughter of a choir member, the second, a friend of a choir member, and the third, joy of joys, a choir member! And as if all that wasn't enough, our internet performance video clips have accrued over twenty thousand hits; you might like to check us out at our website!

For tonight's performance, we commence proceedings in our customary manner from the back of the church with a fine example of Renaissance polyphony from which the concert takes its name. We then perform a selection of English sacred music which gives us the opportunity to welcome back George Parsons as our accompanist. To conclude the first half and to celebrate this jubilee year we then perform four pieces from 'A Garland for the Queen', a song cycle commissioned to mark the Queen's coronation in 1953.

We temporarily 'cross the pond' in the second half for two wonderfully evocative pieces by Eric Whitacre before our 'nod' to the Olympics by way of Bryan Kelly's quirky and unusual London Songs and thereafter conclude proceedings in an unashamedly patriotic way by way of a variety of sea shanties.

In addition to the choral performances we're also delighted to welcome as our young guest soloist this evening the very gifted performer Rebecca Peace.

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.



Kevin Haighton, Musical Director

Tonight's Programme

Come, let's rejoice	<i>John Amner</i>
For lo I raise up	<i>Charles Villiers Stanford</i>
Ave verum corpus	<i>Colin Mawby</i>
Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis	<i>Herbert Murrill</i>

Rebecca Peace

<i>Sonata for Oboe, 2nd Movement</i>	<i>Camille Saint-Saens</i>
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Dance clarion air	<i>Michael Tippett</i>
The hills	<i>John Ireland</i>
Silence and music	<i>Ralph Vaughan Williams</i>
White-flow ering days	<i>Gerald Finzi</i>

Interval

Sleep	<i>Eric Whitacre</i>
This marriage	<i>Eric Whitacre</i>
Three London songs	<i>Bryan Kelly</i>
1. Missing	
2. Dusk	
3. Fruit machine	

Rebecca Peace

<i>Sarabande and Allegro</i>	<i>Gabriel Grovlez</i>
Bobby Shaftoe	<i>Arr. Daryl Runswick</i>
Marianne	<i>Arr. Philip Wilby</i>
The drunken sailor	<i>Arr. Robert Sund</i>
The mermaid	<i>Arr. John Whitworth</i>

During the interval the choir will serve you with complimentary refreshments

The Abbeydale Singers

Founded in Sheffield in 1986 as a group of twelve, the Abbeydale Singers have established a reputation as one of the region's foremost chamber choirs. Under Musical Director Kevin Houghton, numbers have increased to thirty two and the choir's repertoire has widened considerably ranging from the earliest madrigals to contemporary 21st Century music. The choir regularly sings in Latin, Italian, French, German and Spanish, with occasional excursions into Czech, Hungarian, Russian and Welsh.

Members share a love of choral music and enjoy exploring its rich, diverse heritage. Their philosophy is to strive for the highest musical standards, enjoying themselves in the process.

The choir has won many prizes in the UK and has sung in Dublin, Budapest, Bangor, Prague, Ghent, Bruges and, in late October, will visit Seville. They have recorded two CDs – *A Fine Song for Singing* and most recently *Christmas at Chatsworth* recorded at St Peter's Church, Edensor, and produced by the distinguished York-based composer Andrew Carter. Full details of these recordings appear on the website.

Originally from Studland in Dorset, Kevin Houghton started his career as a chorister and graduated in music from what is now Bath Spa University. Having enjoyed a distinguished career in music education he now divides his musical time between The Abbeydale Singers and Sheffield Chorale where he is Assistant Director.

Future dates for your diary:

Saturday 22 September - Joint concert with Tideswell Male Voice Choir - St John the Baptist Church, Tideswell

Saturday 15 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.

Rebecca Peace

Rebecca has been playing the oboe for 6 years and achieved her Grade 8 with distinction last summer. She plays with many orchestras – including the City of Sheffield Youth Orchestra who will be going on tour to Holland this summer and more recently the Leeds Haydn Players.

Rebecca loves folk music and plays oboe and tin whistle in her own band called Ceol which played at Shepley Folk Festival this year.

She is hoping to study music and composition at Cambridge as she was inspired by the fact that her GCSE composition was singled out by the examiners as being the best in the country. Her ultimate aim is to be a film composer and follow in the footsteps of John Williams and Howard Shore!

Rebecca has also this year received the Bradfield Festival of Music Young Musician Award which is awarded to the most promising male and female young musician from the Sheffield Music Service.

George Parsons – organ and piano accompaniment

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 Abbeydale Singers

Musical Director: Kevin Haighton



Photo: Andy Curtis

Sopranos: Naomi Baynes, Ann Charlett-Day, Jen Gladwell, Michelle Hayward, Aparna Kapoor, Kirsty Prince, Hilary Pye, Sarah Rooper, Anna Ryder, Rebecca Smith, Julia Stockton, Mary Taylor, Pat Turner

Contraltos: Helen Beach, Rachel Cockroft, Helen Cowen, Sue Haighton, 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

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.

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

With special thanks to:



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