

## **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. 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 were very pleased to be invited to take part in the Classical Sheffield Festival, which, although only a relatively short 'pop-up' performance in the Winter Gardens, was a very important musical event for us as it marked our three hundredth performance! Later that month we embarked upon our now traditional biennial choral trip, on this occasion a visit to Edinburgh. Here we were warmly welcomed by St. Mary's Cathedral where we sang Choral Eucharist and Evensong. We also gave a performance as part of the prestigious St. Giles' at Six Recital Programme and sang in the magnificent Great Hall at Edinburgh Castle.

On our return we commenced our traditionally busy Christmas season with a performance at a range of venues including Whirlow Farm and The Cutlers' Hall, culminating in our festive concert at St. Mark's, Broomhill. We concluded the season with our customary carols in the hostelries with this year's donations supporting St. Luke's Hospice.

Since then life has been equally exciting. In March we were delighted to provide music for the Classical Sheffield Spring Festival by way of a joint concert with four other Sheffield chamber choirs at St. Marie's Cathedral and in May we were especially privileged to be invited to be the lead choir in Music in the Round's Russian Festival concert 'Mirrors' at Sheffield Cathedral. As if that wasn't enough, during the course of the year we have provided the music for no less than four weddings!

For tonight's performance, we commence proceedings in our customary manner from the back of the church with a selection of sacred pieces, the final piece of which gives us the opportunity to welcome our accompanist Peter Heginbotham. We continue with music by Beethoven and Whitacre, pieces which are, rather unusually, accompanied by a string quartet in respect of which we are

also delighted to welcome members of the Berkeley Ensemble. In the second half we put on our dancing shoes by way of Britten's Choral Dances together with a choral suite from Riverdance, and, as is traditional, we conclude proceedings with music of a lighter style courtesy of John Rutter and Moses Hogan.

Given how fortunate we are to be joined by members of the Berkeley Ensemble we are also very pleased to welcome them as our guest soloists. During the day they have been busy providing a workshop to four young Sheffield players who will join with them for a performance in the second half.

Finally, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Haighton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Kevin Haighton, Musical Director**

**Peter Heginbotham** was a music scholar at Solihull School following which he was appointed to the Organ Scholarship of Truro Cathedral. He then moved north to become the Sir Henry Coward Organ Scholar at Sheffield Cathedral and University where he gained his degree. Following a year at Chester Cathedral, in 1999 he moved back to Sheffield as Assistant Master of the Music at Sheffield Cathedral. During this time the choir made visits to Paris, Washington DC and the east coast of the USA, Germany and within the UK. He also made 7 CD recordings and has appeared on every national BBC Radio station apart from Radio 1. He is a regular visitor to Notre Dame de Paris with various choirs and has played there for the National Commemoration Service for the Liberation of Paris.

As a recitalist he has played in most cathedrals in the UK, including St Paul's and Westminster Abbey. He works regularly as an accompanist with Sheffield Oratorio Chorus and Sheffield University Chamber Choir. Nowadays his proper job is as a police officer with South Yorkshire Police where, as well as upholding the Queen's Peace, he has directed the Police Band at Doncaster Races and until recently ran the SYP Male Voice Choir. He is currently one of the assisting organists at St Matthew's, Carver Street, Sheffield.

## **Tonight's Programme**

Coelos ascendit hodie	<i>Charles Villiers Stanford</i>
Faire is the Heaven	<i>William H. Harris</i>
Nunc dimittis	<i>Gustav Host</i>
Ubi caritas	<i>Ola Gjeilo</i>
For lo, I raise up	<i>Charles Villiers Stanford</i>

## **Berkeley Ensemble**

String quartet No.12 in C minor 'Quartettsatz'	<i>Franz Schubert</i>
Elegischer Gesang	<i>Ludwig van Beethoven</i>
Five Hebrew love songs	<i>Eric Whitacre</i>

## ***Interval***

Choral dances from Gloriana	<i>Benjamin Britten</i>
From the show Riverdance:	<i>Bill Whelan</i>
i. Cloudsong	
ii. The heart's cry	
iii. Home and the heartland	

## **Berkeley Ensemble and student musicians**

Two pieces for string octet, op. 11	<i>Dmitri Shostakovich</i>
i. Prelude	
ii. Scherzo	
Five childhood lyrics:	<i>John Rutter</i>
i. Monday's child	
ii. The owl and the pussy-cat	
iii. Windy nights	
iv. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John	
Elijah rock	<i>Trad arr Moses Hogan</i>

During the interval the choir will serve you with  
complimentary refreshments

**We hope you enjoy tonight's concert**

## **Translations**

### **Coelos ascendit hodie**

Today Jesus Christ, the King of glory, has ascended into the heavens,  
Alleluia!

He sits at the Father's right hand, ruling heaven and earth,  
Alleluia!

Now are David's songs fulfilled, now is the Lord with his Lord,  
Alleluia!

He sits upon the royal throne of God, in this his greatest triumph,  
Alleluia!

Let us bless the Lord: let the Holy Trinity be praised, let us give thanks  
to the Lord.

Alleluia! Amen.

### **Nunc dimittis**

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.

### **Ubi caritas**

Where charity and love are, God is there.  
The love of Christ has gathered us together.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
Let us revere and love the living God.  
And from a sincere heart let us love one another.  
Amen.

## Elegischer Gesang – Elegiac Song

Gently, as you lived, have you died, too holy for sorrow!  
Let no eye shed tears for the spirit's heavenly homecoming.

### Five Hebrew Love Songs

1. A picture is engraved in my heart;  
Moving between light and darkness:  
A sort of silence envelopes your body,  
And your hair falls upon your face just so.
- II. Light bride  
She is all mine,  
And lightly  
She will kiss me.
- III. "Mostly," said the roof to the sky,  
"the distance between you and I is endlessness;  
But a while ago two came up here,  
and only one centimeter was left between us."
- IV. What snow!  
Like little dreams  
Falling from the sky.
- V. He was full of tenderness;  
She was very hard.  
And much as she tried to stay thus,  
Simply, and with no good reason,  
He took her into himself,  
And set her down  
in the softest, softest place.

Hila Plitmann

## **Berkeley Ensemble**

Charlotte Maclet - Violin

Gemma Bass - Violin

Barnaby Adams - Viola

Gemma Wareham - Cello

Hailed as 'an instinctive collective' (*The Strad*) the Berkeley ensemble takes its name from two British composers of the last hundred years, father and son Sir Lennox and Michael Berkeley. It was formed in 2008 by members of Southbank Sinfonia, Britain's young professional orchestra, with the aim of exploring the wealth of little-known twentieth and twenty-first century British chamber music alongside more established repertoire. Taking its music to new audiences, most importantly through education work, is central to the ensemble's activities. The ensemble regularly coaches students in chamber performance at the University of York, is ensemble-in-residence at the University of Hull and Ibstock Place School in London and runs an annual residential chamber music course in Somerset.

Regular recording artists on the Resonus Classics label, their recent release 'Clarion Call' was praised by *Gramophone* for 'the vibrancy of the Berkeley Ensemble's performance even compared with Dennis Brain and friends in [the Ferguson Octet's] first recording.' The ensemble is rapidly building a reputation for innovative and thought-provoking programming and its flexible configuration and collaborative spirit has led to performances with leading musicians including Sir Thomas Allen, Richard Sisson, Gabriel Prokofiev and Nicholas Daniel.

Continuing in its aim to promote chamber music to younger generations, the Berkeley Ensemble is thrilled to be joined by four student string players in a side-by-side performance of Shostakovich's Two Pieces for String Octet.

### **Student musicians**

Thomas Hetherington – Violin

Lucas Ferguson – Violin

Clare Rees-Zimmerman – Viola

Kotryna Siugzdinyte - Cello

## **Abbeydale Singers**

**Musical Director:**     **Kevin Houghton**

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

**Contraltos:**   Helen Beach, Rachel Cockroft, Helen Cowen,  
Sue Houghton, Caroline Hallam, Lucy Kitchener,  
Pamela Mathieson, Alice Newitt, Rachael Nyarko,  
Rachel Scholey, Linda Wareham

**Tenors:**        Stuart Evans, Chris Nicholson, Peter Thompson,  
Chris Varnom

**Basses:**       Nick Baynes, Nigel Boucher, Michael Hannon,  
Steve Holden, Matthew Lovell, David Ryder

**Email**           enquiries@abbeydalesingers.org.uk

**Website**        www.abbeydalesingers.org.uk

**Date for the diary:**

**Saturday 9 December 2017**

**Christmas Concert, St Mark's Church, Broomhill**

Programme designed and compiled by Hilary Pye  
Cover art by Stephanie Spencer

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