

Good evening to you all and a warm welcome to our summer concert which we anticipate will be a fabulous evening of music-making.

From the wide variety of music in the programme you will find a theme emerging of light, water, nature and human joy. Hopefully there will be something for everyone!

Tonight, in line with our commitment to showcase young musicians, we are pleased to be able to share our concert with Sheffield Young Singers (SYS), a leading community youth choir comprising of singers aged from 11 to 18.

Both choirs will be directed by Helen Cowen and accompanied by Peter Heginbotham on organ and Rosie Attwood-Harris on piano.

We're also delighted to welcome as our guest vocal soloist this evening the very talented musician, Isabel Lovell accompanied by Linda Wareham

We should also like to take this opportunity to say a public thank you to Kevin Houghton for his dedicated service to, and musical leadership of, Abbeydale Singers which he formed in 1986, and without which the choir could not be what it is today.

Finally, to you - thank you so much for supporting us. We do hope you enjoy this evening's performance and very much look forward to seeing you again.

**Abbeydale Singers**

## Tonight's Programme

O thou the central orb	<i>Charles Wood</i>
In this place	<i>Will Todd</i>
O nata lux	<i>Thomas Tallis</i>
Northern lights	<i>Ola Gjeilo</i>
Das ist meine Freude	<i>Johann Ludwig Bach</i>

### **Sheffield Young Singers**

The water of Tyne	<i>English folk song arr. Michael Neaum</i>
Seven rivers	<i>Richard Chew</i>
The seal lullaby	<i>Eric Whitacre</i>

Il est bel et bon	<i>Pierre Passereau</i>
Les fleurs et les arbres	<i>Camille Saint-Saëns</i>
Cantique de Jean Racine	<i>Gabriel Fauré</i>
Trois chansons	<i>Maurice Ravel</i>

### ***Interval***

Stars	<i>Eriks Ešenvalds</i>
Des Tages Weihe	<i>Franz Schubert</i>
Lebenslust	<i>Franz Schubert</i>
The cloths of heaven	<i>Andrew Carter</i>
Like a singing bird (with SYS)	<i>Bob Chilcott</i>

### **Isabel Lovell**

My True Love	<i>Maury Yeston</i>
The Girl in 14G	<i>Jeanine Tesori</i>

Wild mountain thyme	<i>trad. folk song arr. Chris Mallinson</i>
Plenty good room	<i>Kirby Shaw</i>
Blue moon	<i>Richard Rodgers, arr. David Blackwell</i>
Pastime with good company	<i>Arr. Ward Swingle</i>
Underneath the stars	<i>Kate Rusby, arr. Jim Clements</i>

During the interval the choir will serve you with  
complimentary refreshments

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

## **Helen Cowen**

Helen has worked in music education for over 30 years and choral directing at all levels has always been one of her main passions. She was Head of Music at Tapton School for 20 years and was voted Classic FM Music Teacher of the Year in 2005.

More recently Helen worked at the University of Huddersfield as a Senior Lecturer on the ITE Music Teacher Training Programme. Helen has been a freelance music consultant, providing support for teachers in both primary and secondary schools and collaborating with partners such as Music in the Round and the Sheffield Music Hub.

Helen is currently musical director of Sheffield Young Singers set up with Tracey Shibli in 2007 in which she runs two choirs with singers aged 7-11 and 11-18. Five years ago she added an adult community choir which now has over 50 members and meets on Friday afternoons.

Since Kevin Houghton stood down as Musical Director of Abbeydale Singers Helen has embraced the opportunity to direct the choir. She also looks forward to singing again with this vibrant group when a new Musical Director is appointed later on this year.

## **Sheffield Young Singers**

Now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, Sheffield Young Singers has established a reputation locally and nationally. Many of the singers tonight (SYS) began with the junior group (SJS) and are now embracing the challenges of a wider repertoire and more complex part-singing. They are drawn from across the city and attend 9 different secondary schools. There are no auditions and they are brought together by their passion for singing.

Sheffield Young Singers perform regularly in venues around Sheffield. Since 2015 they have been invited to perform at the Voices Now Festival in London's Roundhouse and enjoyed singing alongside adult choirs from around the UK. In December 2018 they performed Britten's 'Ceremony of Carols', as part of the Music in the Round Autumn Series.

A memorable event last summer was the choir round walk, when songs from the commissioned *Sheffield Song Book* were sung along the way, including 'Seven Rivers' heard tonight.

The SYS Summer Concert with all three choirs takes place on Thursday 11 July at Upper Chapel, Norfolk Street, 7pm. A date for your diaries!

## **Isabel Lovell**

Isabel is 18 years old and attends Sixth Form at Lady Manners School in Bakewell. She has been studying various musical practices since the age of 5, and has achieved Grade 8 distinction in Classical Singing, and merits in both Grade 8 Guitar and Grade 6 Piano. She is currently working towards her Musical Theatre Diploma, which she will take in the summer term – the pieces she is performing tonight are part of the program assembled for this.

Isabel enjoys a wide variety of music; everything from opera to more modern music, 80's music and folk. She has just completed her A Levels (English Literature, Religious Studies, and Theatre Studies) and hopes to attend Edge Hill University in September, to undertake a degree in Creative Writing.

### **Rosie Attwood-Harris**

Rosie learned piano as a child, played quite seriously as a teenager, gained a music degree in 2006 and then worked in non-musical jobs, finding her way back to playing after starting to teach about 10 years ago. She moved to Sheffield in 2015, and teaches piano and harp full-time from home.

### **Peter Heginbotham**

Peter was a music scholar at Solihull School following which he was appointed to the Organ Scholarship of Truro Cathedral. He 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.

As a recitalist he has played in most cathedrals in the UK, including St Paul's and Westminster Abbey and 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. He is currently one of the assisting organists at St Matthew's Carver Street, Sheffield.

## Abbeydale Singers

**Acting Musical Director:** Helen Cowen

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

**Contraltos:** Louise Bloxham, Rachel Cockroft, Sue Haighton, Lucy Kitchener, Pamela Mathieson, Alice Newitt, Pat Turner, Kate Wareham, Linda Wareham

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

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

**Email** [enquiries@abbeydalesingers.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@abbeydalesingers.org.uk)

**Website** [www.abbeydalesingers.org.uk](http://www.abbeydalesingers.org.uk)



**Date for the diary:**

**Saturday 14 December 2019**  
**Christmas Concert, St Mark's Church, Broomhill**

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

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