



HAYDN

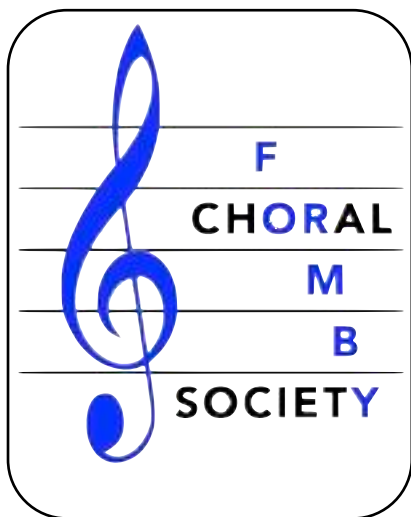
Nelson Mass

ZELENKA

Missa Purificationis

Saturday 18th
November
2023

Formby High School



Formby Choral Society

President - **Stephen Threlfall**

Vice-Presidents

Roger Holder, O A Hardman, Paul McVey
Michael Oakes

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Marj Boothby, Dyls Osborne

Chairman - **Carol Cairns**

Jocelyn Somerville *soprano*

Louise Ashdown *mezzo soprano*

Tim Kennedy *tenor*

Julian Empett *bass*

Liverpool Concert Orchestra

Janet Hitchen - leader

Jon Barton - *organ continuo*

Conducted by

David Holroyd

www.formbychoralsociety.org

Missa purificationis beatae virginis Mariae

Jan Dismas Zelenka (1679-1745)

Kyrie eleison ~ Christe eleison ~ Kyrie eleison

Gloria in excelsis Deo ~ Gratias agimus tibi ~ Qui tollis peccata
mundi ~ Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris ~ Quoniam tu solus
sanctus ~ Cum Sancto Spiritu

Credo

Sanctus

Benedictus ~ Osanna

Agnus Dei ~ Dona nobis pacem

Nelson Mass

Franz Josef Haydn (1732 - 1809)

Kyrie eleison

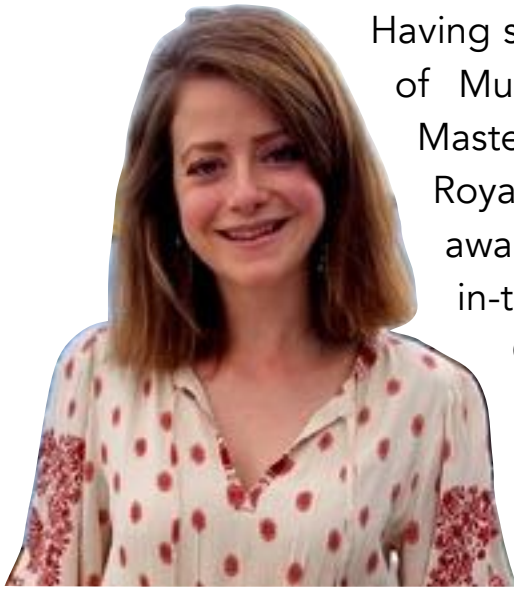
Gloria in excelsis ~ Qui tollis peccata ~ Quoniam tu solus

Credo ~ Et incarnatus est ~ Et resurrexit

Sanctus

Benedictus

Agnus Dei ~ Dona nobis pacem



Having studied with Elizabeth Ritchie at the Royal Academy of Music, **Jocelyn Somerville** (soprano) completed a Masters in Advanced Musical Studies (Performance) at Royal Holloway. She has won the Sir Geraint Evans award, completed a choral scholarship with St Martin-in-the-Fields, and has sung with the London Symphony Chorus at The Barbican, as well as the English Baroque Choir under Jeremy Jackman, and the Bach Choir under David Hill. As a member of the Vasari Singers under Jeremy Backhouse, Jocelyn has performed solos on a variety of their discs, notable Allegri's *Miserere* on *De Profundis* (2014),

Rathbone's *Under the Shadow of His Wing* (2015), Esenvalds' *O Salutaris hostia* on *Heaven Full of Stars* (2020), and the forthcoming 2023 Christmas disc featuring the tenor Roderick Williams. Jocelyn has performed internationally, in Charleston, York, and Savannah, as well as enjoying relationships with a number of choirs and choral societies closer to home in Hampshire and Liverpool. She has two young children, both of whom enjoy trying to sing over her when she practices, and frequently shout 'Stop Mummy', surely for no other reason than that they understandably wish to occupy the limelight fully themselves!

Louise Ashdown (mezzo-soprano) is quickly gaining recognition for her warm presence, rich timbre, and expressiveness. Hailing from Edmonton, Canada and now based in Berkshire, Louise enjoys a varied freelance career alongside her learning & participation work with the Corn Exchange in Newbury. As a soloist, Louise has most recently been heard in Bach's *St Mark Passion* with New College School and The Instruments of Time & Truth and Vaughan Williams' *A Serenade to Music* with the Healthfield Choral Society. She is also featured on Salford Cathedral's new release 'Rise Up and Wonder' (Priory Records). Excelling as a choral and ensemble singer, Louise recently completed a choral scholarship with the Oxford Bach Soloists and regularly sings with



the Oratory Choir in Oxford. She has also sung with Kantos Chamber Choir, Salford Cathedral Choir, the University of Alberta Madrigal Singers, and as a Choral Fellow at the Yale School of Music Norfolk Chamber Music Festival.

Louise has numerous operatic highlights to her credit ranging from Rossini and Verdi to Britten, Janáček and Weill. She completed her Master of Music in Performance (Distinction) at the Royal Northern College of Music and currently studies with Welsh contralto Hilary Summers. Her continued studies are supported by the Winspear Fund Scholarships for Advanced Classical Music.



Tim Kennedy (tenor) began his musical career singing for the Queen, as a treble at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, and was then a music scholar at Winchester College. He spent his gap year performing at Truro Cathedral, then studied music at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. But he has now been based in Manchester for more than fifteen years pursuing a varied freelance career. His singing work is mainly as a freelance lyric tenor soloist, specialising in oratorio and recitals, but he also works as a piano accompanist, organist and vocal coach. As part

of this work, he works as a staff accompanist for singers at the Royal Northern College of Music.

Tim has studied singing privately for many years with renowned teachers Colin Iveson, Nicholas Powell and others. He has attended the AIMS singing course run by tenor Neil Jenkins, and the Abingdon summer school for solo singers. He does regular solo recitals in a number of places in the North of England. Recent oratorio engagements have been with a wide variety of choirs and choral societies across England and Wales. This has included performances of Handel's Messiah and Semele, Haydn's Creation, Bach's Passions and Oratorios, Mozart's Requiem, Mendelssohn's Elijah, Haydn's Creation and Britten's St Nicolas. He has also sung in premières of works by Luigi Gatti and Anthony Burgess, and performances of rarely-performed works such as Andrew Lloyd Webber's Requiem, the Misa Criolla by Ariel Ramirez, and Janacek's Otčenáš.

Julian Empett (baritone) is a graduate of King's College London. He studied singing with the British baritone David Wilson-Johnson, and Peter Harrison. He was also a student of the Mayer Lismann Opera Workshop at Covent Garden, and Morley Opera. In 2002 he made his Proms solo début with The English Concert under Trevor Pinnock, as the High Priest in Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*. As an oratorio soloist he has



appeared at the major London concert halls. Highlights have included Vaughan Williams's *A Sea Symphony* for Windsor & Eton Choral Society, Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* at the St Davids Festival in Wales, Elgar's *The Kingdom* for Hertford Choral Society and Elgar's *The Apostles* for Merton College Choir in the Sheldonian Theatre. He took the role of Jesus in Bach's *St. John Passion* in Westminster Abbey in 2017, and the following year in the *St. Matthew Passion*.

As a Lay Vicar of Westminster Abbey from 2000-2022 – as well as singing the daily services – Julian took part in numerous TV and radio broadcasts, most notably as soloist at the funeral in 2002 of HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and also for the Wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton in 2011. With the Abbey choir he recorded a number of significant solos on the Hyperion label. Julian has also given several song recitals: significantly, Sir Arthur Somervell's *Tennyson's 'Maud'* and Schubert's *Winterreise*. Shortly before lockdown he gave a recital of British and American songs in aid of St. Christopher's Hospice with pianist Nicholas Ansdell-Evans. His wider singing career has included work with many of the professional choirs.

Zelenka and Haydn

It is a shame that **Zelenka** is relatively unknown as a composer, because his music deserves wider exposure. We came across his *Missa purificationis beatae virginis Mariae* somewhat by chance, and were instantly captivated by it. It is full of rhythmic life and energy, and lovely, singable, melodies.

Zelenka was born in 1679 near Prague, dying in Dresden in 1745. As such he was an almost exactly contemporary with the rather more famous Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) - and therefore seemingly fits into the category of a Baroque composer. Yet his music is recognised and admired for its harmonic inventiveness and counterpoint. If Bach did everything better than anyone else in his time, Zelenka certainly seemed to push against the boundaries to create new and exciting music which seems to have more in common with Haydn than Bach.

We first performed the *Missa Purificationis* back in 2017 when Mike Smithson sourced the actual music. After much research, he tracked down the only existing scores to **Ensemble Inégal** who have made the only recording. They allowed us to print from digital copies of their version, and we are most grateful. (Please do not ask to borrow the scores, because we are not allowed to share them! But we could put you in touch with Ensemble Inégal...)

If the Zelenka Mass is a new discovery for us, then by contrast Haydn's **Nelson Mass** is a cornerstone of the choral repertoire, and one which we have performed on several occasions. It is widely recognised as the pinnacle of Haydn's choral output.

One of **Haydn's** duties at the court of Prince Esterhazy was to produce a mass each year for the name-day of the Princess. The *Nelson Mass* was written for her in 1798. Quite when and how it gained its nickname is unclear. Haydn referred to it as *Missa in Angustiis* (literally "Mass in a Corner" meaning "mass in time of distress") – a reflection of the uncertain times in which it was written. Within a month of the Battle of

Trafalgar (21st October 1805), the same mass had become known as the *Nelson Mass*.

This is Haydn's largest mass, and has become probably his best known. The orchestration is interesting, being scored for three trumpets, timpani, organ and strings. Editors have subsequently replaced the organ with a full set of woodwind, but that detracts from the simple clarity that Haydn originally intended - and that is how you will hear it this evening. Haydn, like many of his contemporaries, was employed as a court musician. The resources available to him depended at different times on his employer's beneficence, his interest in supporting a musical staff in his court, and the musicians available to him. Haydn cut his musical cloth accordingly. For whatever reason, when the *Missa in Angustiis* was composed, we have to assume woodwind players were not available.

Liverpool Concert Orchestra. The Chamber Ensemble playing this evening is taken from players of the Liverpool Concert Orchestra. Formed in 2014, the orchestra consists of a group of local professional musicians who come together to provide music for both amateur and professional societies. They are available to hire for choral events including Messiahs, Requiems, etc, as well as smaller and larger scale concerts and recordings. Recent engagements include performances in both Liverpool Cathedrals. For enquiries, please contact Paul Thomas on 07729 815302

Violins	Janet Hitchen	Viola	Pat Naylor
	Morris Saleh	Cello	Ilona Hepburn
	Jayne Hughes		Lucy Hepburn
	Sarah Neale	Double Bass	Nigel Bromley
Oboes	Helen Thomas	Trumpets	Paul Thomas
	Emily Crichton		Andy Manning
Bassoon	Jonathan Jones	Timpani	Dean Rogers
Organ	Jon Barton		

The Choir

The Choral Society rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30, in Holy Trinity Church Hall, Rosemary Lane. New members are always welcome, and more details can be found by following the **Join Us** link on the Choir's website: **www.formbychoralsociety.org**

The best time to join is straight after a concert, when rehearsals begin for the next one. Following this concert we continue on Wednesday 22nd November for the Carol Concert which takes place on Saturday 16th December.

Soprano

Ruth Appleby
Imelda Bates
Rosalind Bramwell
Sara Burnett
Madeleine Caplan
Norma Cook
Anne Cotsworth
Debbie Coyne
Sylvia Draper
Stephanie Dunning
Yvonne Dyson
Claire Fraser
Angie Hannah
Debra Harris
Elizabeth Lowe
Rosalind McGonagle
Chris McKee
Jennifer Mathias
Geraldine O'Neill
Christina Payne
Veronica Scully
Avril Shimmin
Jean Smith
Cath Stewart
Gillian Street
Joanne Sumner
Louise Tammadge
Fiona Tucker
Pat Williams

Alto

Judith Ball
Ruth Bennett
Anita Bennett-Warne
Angela Bramhall
Valerie Broom
Carol Cairns
Jannice Crawford
Lindsey Davies
Maggie Flodman
Ursula Gribble
Colette Halliday
Mary Hardwick
Gill Holroyd
Irene Kershaw
Mavis Kilby
Catherine McNair
Bettina Macy
Irene Morgan
Elsbeth Morton
Alison Powell
Liz Poyser
Sylvia Robinson
Marilyn Siddons-Smith
Liz Smallwood
Valerie Walker
Judith Welch
Kathleen Zimak

Tenor

David Ambrose
Mike Hastie
David Hogben
Kevin Howard
Brian Lee
Trevor Powell
Kenneth Ward
Malcolm Whitehead
Ceri Williams

Bass

Mike Abbott
Mark Andrews
Stephen Bass
Michael Broom
Cliff Cotsworth
David Cowan
Ian Dunning
Dave Goodwill
Les Hannah
John Hill
Robert Jones
Andrew Kellaway
John McDermott
David Marston
Michael Smithson
Richard Walker

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 16th December

Carols with Brass

Holy Trinity Church, Formby

Come and Sing

Carmina Burana

Holy Trinity Church Hall

for more information, see our website

Saturday 23rd March 2024

Bach *Magnificat*

Mozart *Requiem*

Our Lady's Church, Formby

Saturday 8th June 2024

A Concert of Anniversaries

Holy Trinity Church, Formby

Carols with Brass

Formby Choral Society
with
Liverpool Brass Band

Saturday

16th December

7:30 pm

Holy Trinity Church

Rosemary Lane

Formby

L37 3HA

Tickets: £12

(Under 19s: Free)

from

Choir members

☎ 0151 929 3617

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Dr Heather Ryan
MRCGP
MA (Oxon), MBBS, MSc
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Dr John Cosgrove
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