



concert

Puccini

A MASS FROM THE MASTER
OF OPERA

NEWBURY
Choral
SOCIETY

Saturday 29 November 2008

7.00pm, St Nicolas Church, Newbury

Messa di Gloria

With a selection of songs from
'By Special Arrangement'

PROGRAMME

“the
choir
that
inspires”

NEWBURY Choral SOCIETY

124th Season

Hon. Secretary:

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52 Newtown Road
Newbury
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Principal Conductor: Leo Hussain

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Rehearsal Accompanist: Rosemary Evans

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Christopher Watson: Tenor

Quentin Hayes: Baritone

Robert Houssart: Organist

Conductor: Janet Coxwell

Programme

Puccini

Messa di Gloria

1. *Kyrie*
2. *Gloria*
3. *Credo*
4. *Sanctus*
5. *Agnus Dei*

Interval - 30 minutes

Barber

Agnus Dei

(Choir)

Balfe

Excelsior

(Duet, Christopher Watson, Quentin Hayes)

Bach

Air on the G string

(Choir)

Bach

Prelude, Largo and Fugue in C BWV545

(Organ Solo, Robert Houssart)

Pinsuti

Love thou

(Duet, Janet Coxwell, Quentin Hayes)

Tchaikovsky

Danse de la Fée Dragée

(Choir)

Giacomo Puccini's **Messa or Messa a quattro voci** (currently more widely known under the apocryphal name of *Messa di Gloria*) is a Mass composed for orchestra and four-part choir with tenor and baritone soloists. Strictly speaking, the piece is a full Mass, not a true *Messa di Gloria* which contains only the Kyrie and Gloria and omits the Credo, Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei.



Though Puccini is famous for his contribution to the world of opera through such works as *La Boheme*, *Tosca*, *Madame Butterfly* and *Turandot*, he actually began his musical career playing and composing church music.

The son of a locally well known composer and organist, he followed the family tradition, becoming organist of San Martino in Lucca, Italy, at the age of 14.

As his musical studies progressed, it was clear that young Giacomo had leanings towards operatic writing and possessed the talent to become one of the world's greatest operatic composers - one need look no further than the *Messa di Gloria* itself for evidence of such promise!. Puccini himself wrote: "the Almighty touched me with his little finger and said, ' Write for the theatre - mind, only for the theatre!'"

Puccini composed the Mass as his graduation exercise from the Istituto Musicale Pacini. It had its first performance in Lucca on July 12, 1880. It was also his personal tribute to the tradition of his family who had specialized in sacred music for 4 generations.

Messa di Gloria is a "work full of melodic freshness and movement, richness of sound and lyrical softness". Unlike the church music of the late 1800's the Puccini mass shows many characteristics of opera, full of solemnity and depth of expression.

The mass begins with the succession of the four entries *Christe Eleison*, the first indication of the dramatic element of opera. In the *Gloria* the longest part of the mass, the opera influence is present again with the contrast of individual segments. The mass continues with the powerful *Credo* followed by the intense but jubilant *Sanctus*. The mass ends with the *Agnus Dei* with a musical line reminiscent of an 18th century minuet.

Although praised by critics in 1880, *Messa di Gloria* fell into oblivion until 1952 when it was re-performed for the first time in Chicago. It has now taken its rightful place in musical history as a lasting tribute to the Glory of God.

Messa di Gloria

1880
 71
 1951

KYRIE

Kyrie eleison (ter)
 Christe eleison (ter)
 Kyrie eleison (ter)

Lord have mercy (three times)
 Christ have mercy (three times)
 Lord have mercy (three times)

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis deo
 Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis
 Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
 adoramus te, glorificamus te.
 Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.
 Domine deus, rex coelestis, deus pater omnipotens,
 domine fili unigenite Jesu Christe, domine deus
 agnus dei, filius patris. Qui tollis peccata mundi,
 miserere nobis. Qui tollis peccata mundi suscipe
 deprecationem nostram.
 Quoniam tu solus sanctus, tu solus dominus , tu
 solus altissimus, Jesu Christe. Cum Sancto Spiritu in
 gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest
 And on earth peace to men of good will.
 We praise you, we bless you,
 we adore you, we glorify you.
 We give you thanks for your great glory.
 Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,
 Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son, Lord God
 Lamb of God, Son of the Father. You, who take away
 the sin of the world, have mercy on us. You, who take
 away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
 For you alone are the holy one, you alone are the
 Lord, you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ, with
 the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

CREDO

Credo in unum deum, patrem omnipotentem, factorem coeli et terrae, visibilium et invisibilium et in unum dominum Jesum Christum, filii unigenitum et ex patre natum ante omnia saecula. Deum verum de Deo vero, genitum non factum consubstantialem Patri, per quem omnia facta sunt.

Qui propter nos homines et propter nostram salutem descendit de coelis et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Virgine, et homo factus est. Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato, passus et sepultus est.

Et resurrexit tertia die secundum scripturas, et ascendit in coelum, sedet ad dexteram Patris. Et iterum venturus est cum gloria judicare vivos et mortuos, cuius regni non erit finis. Et in Spiritum Sanctum dominum et vivificantem qui ex patre filioque procedit. Qui cum Patre et Filio simul adoratur et conglorificatur qui locutus est per prophetas.

Et unam sanctam catholicam et apostolicam ecclesiam. Confiteor unum baptisma in remissionem peccatorum. Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen.

SANCTUS

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. Benedictus qui venit in nomine domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

AGNUS

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is visible and invisible and in one Lord Jesus Christ only begotten Son of God, born of the Father before time began. God from God, light from light, true God From true God, one in substance with the Father and through Him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again from the dead, he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge both the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who, together with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in the Holy Catholic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look forward to the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Interval - 30 minutes

Refreshments available in the Parish Rooms

The songs to be sung by the choir in the second part of this concert are taken from *By Special Arrangement*, "Beautiful Choral Arrangements of Favourite Classics" selected and edited by Ralph Allwood and published by Novello.

**Agnus Dei Samuel Barber
(1910 - 1981)**

Adagio for strings, arranged by the composer.

Samuel Barber's *Agnus Dei* is the popular choral arrangement of his *Adagio for Strings*. Arranged by Barber himself, *Agnus Dei* captures the same grief, depression, and sorrow that seems to bleed from *Adagio for Strings*, a work which originated as the second movement in his String Quartet No. 1, Op. 11, composed in 1936. In the original it follows a violently contrasting first movement, and is succeeded by a brief reprise of this music.

Excelsior M.W.Balfe
(1808 - 1870)
Duet by Christopher Watson (tenor) and Quentin Hayes (baritone)

Requiem Aeternam J.S.Bach
(1872 - 1958)
Air on the G String from Suite No. 3 in D, arranged by Jonathan Rathbone

Prelude, Largo and Fugue in C BWV545. J.S.Bach
(1872 - 1958)
Organ Solo by Robert Houssart

Love thou Ciro Pinsuti
(1829 - 1888)
Duet by Janet Coxwell (soprano) and Quentin Hayes (baritone)

Danse de la Fée Dragée Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
(1840 - 1893)
From the Nutcracker (arranged by Leo Hussain & Ralph Allwood)

The
Cecilia
Consort

Musical Director
Janet Coxwell

Brahms – *Liebeslieder*

Saturday 7 March 2009

St Nicolas' Church, Newbury

Janet Coxwell. Since graduating from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Janet has worked professionally as both solo artist and consort singer. While specializing in early music, she enjoys all genres from Tallis and Purcell to backing on pop CD's and Disney soundtracks, as well as enjoying an end of course Karaoke session !

Janet has long worked closely with Norfolk based composer Patrick Hawes. Their first album, 'Blue in Blue' featured Janet's ' voice like melting honey on freshly buttered toast' (Radio3) with the English Chamber Orchestra and Patrick's choir, Conventus. The album was released in 2004 to much critical acclaim. It became the highest ever entry in the Classic FM 'Hall of Fame' and continues to be regularly featured in their programming. Her work with Patrick launched her into the world of media music and her 'bell-like tones' (Financial Times) can be heard regularly on TV, radio and films as well as on numerous classical and pop CD's.

Janet regularly tours Japan, Australia, the United States and Europe with The Tallis Scholars. Her 2008-9 diary promises another busy season with these 'a cappella super stars' (Boston Globe), with whom she has sung since 1991. She is currently a director of the ensemble's hugely popular Summer Schools (TSSS), held annually in Oakham(UK), Sydney (Australia) and Seattle (US).

Before the year is out they will be performing twice in London, (Cadogan Hall and St Johns Smith Square), The Sage in Gateshead, Guildford, Leicester, and Litchfield in the UK, Porto in Portugal and Madrid, Baeza and Burgos in Spain - with their first trip to Mexico early in the new year.

As well as fulfilling her solo engagements, Janet is also in great demand as a choral director. She regularly judges competitions and leads singing master classes and choral workshops. She has a passion for working with amateur singers and has her own 40 voice choir, The Cecilia Consort, which performs twice a year. She is presently the assistant musical director of Newbury Choral Society with whom she is delighted to be performing with tonight, having had a very enjoyable set of rehearsals preparing for this concert.

Yet, despite her busy schedule, Janet still finds time to teach singing at Cheam School, be a mother to Charlotte and Oliver, wife to Andy – and a very good friend to many.

Christopher Watson studied music at Exeter University, and went on to hold lay clerkships at Durham, Oxford and latterly Westminster Cathedrals. He now lives in Oxford and divides his time between solo and consort work.

Recent solo performances have included Stravinsky's *Canticum Sacrum* with the CBSO in Symphony Hall in Birmingham, Pilate in Arvo Part's *Passio* in Gloucester Cathedral, and Purcell's *Ode for St Cecilia* in Beaune with the Gabrieli Consort. He has collaborated with Trevor Pinnock in concerts of Purcell *Welcome Odes* in the Handel Festival in Halle, and has achieved great critical acclaim for his performances of the Evangelist in Bach's *St John* and *St Matthew Passions* – most recently in Christ Church Cathedral Oxford, in the Cathedral Church of the Madeleine in Salt Lake City and Manchester Cathedral. Last year he made his debuts at the Edinburgh Festival and at Carnegie Hall in New York with Theatre of Voices and Paul Hillier, and he recently made his solo debut in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam with the Gabrieli Consort.

Other engagements include the first performance of *The Stones of the Arch* by Gavin Bryars with the Kronos Quartet, Monteverdi's *Vespers* in Tuscany with Philippe Herreweghe and in Wrocław and Venice with Paul McCreech, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* in Wells Cathedral and a European tour of Lassus's *Lagrime di San Pietro* with Philippe Herreweghe. He has made more than 40 recordings, ranging from several discs of Dufay and Josquin to the Schütz *Resurrection History* with Ars Nova Copenhagen and David Lang's Pulitzer Prize winning *The Little Match Girl Passion* with Theatre of Voices. In December he is touring a program of Schütz sacred music with Collegium Vocale Gent, and plans for next year include recordings of the Bach Motets and the complete *Cantiones Sacrae* of Thomas Tallis and William Byrd and a series of concerts celebrating the 500th anniversary of the coronation of King Henry the 8th. He has made several appearances at the Proms in London and has performed in cathedrals and concert halls all over the world, including Sydney Opera House and the Lincoln Center in New York.

Christopher has a great deal of experience as a consort singer – he is a member of Tenebrae, Alamire and the Gramophone Award winning ensembles The Clerks' Group and The Binchois Consort. He has worked with the viol consorts Fretwork and Phantasm, sings regularly with Polyphony, The Gabrieli Consort, Theatre of Voices, the Soloists of Collegium Vocale Gent and the Netherlands Bach Society, and has made more than 150 appearances with The Tallis Scholars.



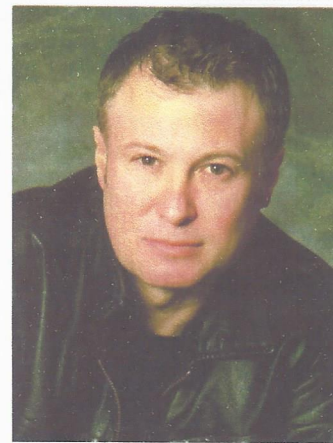
Since winning the VARA Dutch Radio Prize at the Belvedere Singing Competition, Vienna, **Quentin Hayes** has sung roles with all the leading UK Opera Companies including Glyndebourne, Glyndebourne Touring Opera, Scottish Opera, Welsh National Opera, Opera North, English National Opera and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden where he was on contract as a principal for five years.

His concert engagements have been diverse, ranging from Purcell's *Ode for St. Cecilia's Day* in St. Petersburg, to Purcell's *Come ye Sons of Art* with Philippe Herreweghe in Lyon, to Finzi's *In Terra Pax* in Rio de Janeiro, to Dvřák's *Requiem* in Valencia, to Brahms' *Requiem* with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in the Usher Hall Edinburgh, to *Messiah* in Trondheim Cathedral, Norway, Britten's *War Requiem* in the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam and finally to *Elijah* in Utrecht and Snape Maltings.

His association with contemporary music stretches back to 1988 when he sang the lead role of Eddy Puss in Mark Anthony Turnages' Award Winning first opera, *GREEK*, at the Munich Biennale. Last year he sang Turnages' song cycle *The Torn Fields* in Madrid with the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group. He has sung much music of Hans Werner Henze including Mittenhoffer in *Elegy for Young Lovers*, *The Bassarids* and *Boulevard Solitude*. Next year he is due to sing in Thomas Ades' *The Tempest* at the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam.

He has sung with many prestigious orchestras including the Berlin Philharmonic, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the London Symphony Orchestra and Manchester's Hallé Orchestra. This season he has sung Enrico (*Lucia*) at the Anna Livia Opera Festival (Dublin, Ireland), Achilles in *Scènes de Chasse* (Montpellier, France) and most recently Sonora in *La Fanciulla del West* for Grange Park Opera.

As well as television appearances he has recorded for Hyperion, Deutsche Gramophon, Decca Argo and Naxos. Future plans include *Messiah* (Oxford Sheldonian) and *Verdi Requiem* in Worcester Cathedral with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Quentin is delighted to continue his association with music in Newbury which now stretches back over 23 years.



Robert Houssart is among the most versatile musicians of his generation, enjoying a career as a keyboard player, conductor, chorus master and accompanist. Born in Haarlem, Holland, he was educated in the UK and held organ and academic scholarships at St John's College, Cambridge, graduating with a double first-class degree. He held positions at Westminster and Gloucester Cathedrals and was Acting Director of Music at Bath Abbey, before embarking on a freelance career earlier this year, which he combines with further study as an opera repetiteur at the Royal Northern College of Music.

Robert is increasingly busy as a conductor. As conductor of the Yorke Trust he has directed concerts of Bach, Handel and John Adams with students of the RNCM and DIT (Dublin), and he conducted his first opera, Handel's *Theodora* in July; he returns twice next year. He has conducted several times at the Three Choirs Festival, most recently performing Haydn, Elgar and Strauss' *Metamorphosen* with his own orchestra. He directed Gloucester Cathedral Youth Choir for six years, leading tours to Ireland, Sweden and Italy, and was Musical Director of the St Cecilia Singers, with whom he gave a series of acclaimed concerts with chamber orchestra.

A former organ student of Nicolas Kynaston, he has since appeared in recitals all over the UK and in France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and the USA. In October he gave his first recital in China, at the Grand Theatre in Hangzhou. He has made recordings for the Naxos, Hyperion, Regent and Avie labels and has improvised live on BBC radio and television, latterly also as a jazz organist on the Hammond organ. He is also busy as an accompanist, working with choruses at the CBSO and Halle.

In July 2003 Robert won the St Alban's International Improvisation Competition, and also won competition prizes in Paris, Saarbruecken and Birmingham. He has appeared as a soloist with the Philharmonia, with the BBC Philharmonic and the Orchestra of the Paris Conservatoire. His first solo recording received high critical praise ("...a formidable talent...these are brilliant, stunning performances" *The American Organist*; "...his virtuosity seems to know no bounds...deeply satisfying and often very moving" *Birmingham Post*); a second, of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, was released earlier this year.



Newbury Choral Society

Sopranos

Alex Butler
Jean Chapman
Marion Croxford
Ann Doyle
Linda Elvin
Ann Forbes
Lynn Francis
Margaret Freeman
Janet Freer
Ellie Gibson
Juliet Haughton
Debbie Hearn
Jill Hitchcock
Olwen Holmes
Claire Hopkins
Lucy Huckle
Monica Huddle

Margaret Kimble
Joan Leefe
Jenny Liddell
Penny Lovelock
Lynne Moore
Pauline Phillips
Kathryn Pollard
Sue Pring
Jennifer Schedler
Veronica Smith
Patricia Stewart
Fenisia Stopher
Susan Terry
Martha Vickers
Jean Waterson
Heather Yule

Altos

Katharine Andrews
Margaret Baker
Hilary Banks
Rebecca Berger
Alexandra Brooke
Margaret Brown
Wendy Burdett
Valerie Burfield
Helen Cook
Leonie Cooke
Liz Coughlan
Penny Daly
Eirlys Davies
Joan Dunn
Jean Fayle
Jane Flynn
Nicola Foster
Deborah Fry
Elizabeth Hanning
Jane Hawker
Jenny Hayward
Ros Heveron

Jennifer Hibberd
Mary Lawler
Emma Moffatt
Laura Nicell
Katharine Prior
Kath Osborn
Katherine Prior
Bridget Purr
Barbara Riggs
Phyllis Russell
Georgina Seaman
Linda Sharpe
Ann Shepherd
Sally Sinclair
Maureen Slade
Nat Smith
Ruth Staniforth
Chris Starkey
Ann Turner
Vicci Vaughan
Ann Vodden
Liz Wallace

Tenors

Godfrey Abbott
Michael Adams
Peter Angwin
Mark Bishop
Jim Burfield
Matthew Evans
Derek Harwood
Richard Papworth
Andrew Salisbury
Barrie Seaman
Bill Stewart
Tony Vickers
Nigel Warren
Simon Wood
Jeremy Wright

Basses

David Bomgardner
Michael Braide
Ian Cavill
Malcolm Dean
Graham Foulkes
Chris Gwynn
Paul High
Ivan Johnson
Richard Matthews
Brian Norrie
John Raban
Lawrence Stevens
Andrew Swainston
Brian Taylor
Graham Terry

NEWBURY CHORAL SOCIETY

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

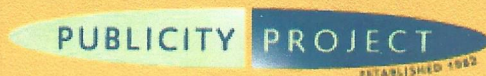
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|---------------------------|--|
| 28th March 2009 | St Nicolas Church, Newbury
Opera Choruses |
| 27th June 2009 | Douai Abbey, Woolhampton
Beethoven - <i>Symphony No. 9 (Choral)</i>
Szymanowski - <i>Stabat Mater</i> |
| 12th December 2009 | St Nicolas Church, Newbury
Handel - <i>Messiah</i> |

DO YOU ENJOY SINGING? THEN WHY NOT JOIN US?

Membership of Newbury Choral Society is open to all who enjoy choral singing, can read music, and can promise a regular commitment. The Society meets regularly on Monday at 7.30 pm at the Newbury Methodist Church Hall. If you are interested in joining the Choral Society and would like more information:

**telephone the Secretary, Penny Daly, on 01635 35262,
or visit our website: <http://www.newburychoral.org.uk>**

Newbury Choral Society has provided the finest choral music for Newbury citizens for over 120 years. If you or your company would like to support this thriving Society and contribute to its splendid musical programme please contact **Penny Daly**.

The logo for Publicity Project, featuring the words 'PUBLICITY PROJECT' in white capital letters on a dark blue oval background. Below the oval, the text 'ESTABLISHED 1982' is written in a smaller font.

The Newbury Choral Society is grateful to **Publicity Project (Newbury) Ltd** for the design of the publicity material for this concert.

Audience members are invited to offer their feedback on tonight's concert via the feedback forum at www.newburychoral.org.uk.

NEWBURY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Saturday 21 March 2009 7.45 pm

St Nicolas Church, Newbury

Richard Strauss Four Last Songs

(Janet Coxwell, Soprano)

Stravinsky Firebird Suite

Conductor Christopher Dawe

www.newburysymphonyorchestra.org

Programme Editor - Godfrey Abbott