

# Friendship Through Music



St John's Church

Newbury

**Saturday 9 March 2019**

**7:30pm**

The  
**Cecilia**  
Consort

# The Cecilia Consort

Musical Director: Janet Coxwell

## Friendship Through Music

Welcome to our Spring concert, a pot pourri of amazing music written by composers from all over Europe. I've had great fun putting this programme together. At a time of such uncertainty, isn't it wonderful to celebrate such a varied mixture of composers, styles and eras? I'm not expecting you to know many of these pieces, but hope you will leave today having been introduced to composers you may never have heard of before.

I am happy to welcome the young tenor, Christopher Willoughby, who is performing with us for the first time tonight. His is definitely a name you should watch out for in the future as I think he has a great career ahead of him. I'm so pleased that John, Jane and Charlotte are also able to join us and add their magic to Monteverdi's *Beatus Vir*. I particularly wanted to feature our accompanist, Steve Bowey, in this concert. I've wanted to perform the *Langlais Messe Solennelle* for a while and this is a perfect outlet for his fantastic artistry.

I hope you enjoy the concert.

Jan xx

## Janet Coxwell



Since graduating from London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Janet has worked professionally as a solo artist and consort singer. Whilst specialising in Early Music and performing with many of the UK's leading ensembles, her musical versatility boasts many other genres and musical styles and she has worked closely with Norfolk-based composer Patrick Hawes on many of his original works. Their

first album *Blue In Blue* drew critical acclaim with Janet's voice being described as 'melting honey on freshly buttered toast' (BBC Radio 3). Her 'bell-like tones' (Financial Times) are often heard on TV, film and radio as well as on numerous classical and pop CDs. Janet enjoyed 23 wonderful years with the Tallis Scholars and performed in more than 900 concerts world-wide with this world-renowned ensemble. She continues to perform and record, but her love of teaching means she spends more time in the UK these days. Janet is Head of Choral Studies at Cheam School and enjoys working with her ever increasing 'family' of students and choristers.

Janet and David Woodcock (Head of Music at Harrow School) are both Directors of the [Early Music Academy](#), which after a hugely successful inaugural Summer in 2015 have been running courses annually in the UK and US ever since. This year the UK course is based at Cheltenham College and will include singing Evensong at Tewkesbury Abbey.

As well as a busy performing schedule, Janet enjoys adjudicating choral competitions, leading singing master classes and running choral workshops, she especially loves working with and training amateur singers. She lives in Highclere (Downton Abbey land) and has enjoyed a long and fruitful association with several Newbury based choirs including [Newbury Choral Society](#), where she is Assistant Musical Director.

## Steve Bowey B.Eng FRCO



Steve studied organ and piano from an early age, playing the organ regularly at St Francis and St Andrew's churches in Coulsdon.

After gaining an engineering degree from Salford University he moved to Newbury to work for Vodafone. In 1991 Steve was appointed as accompanist of the Cromwell Singers and later became their Musical Director. From 1992, he was

Director of Music at St Mary's Church, Shaw-cum-Donnington, and regularly worked with local choirs, including the Douai Choral Society, the Downland Chorale, the RSCM Southern Cathedral Singers, Berkshire Maestros youth choirs and Worcester College Oxford.

In 2006 Steve joined the Royal College of Organists and in July the following year took the examination for Associate (ARCO) in which he was awarded the Limpus prize for performance, as well as the Sowerbutts and Samuel Baker prizes. After further study, he was awarded the Fellowship Diploma (FRCO) in January 2011. His current musical commitments include teaching organ, piano, and music theory. He is Director of Music at St Mary's Shaw-cum-Donnington, organist at Cheam School, and regularly gives organ recitals. Steve is currently the accompanist to [Newbury Choral Society](#) and the Cecilia Consort, and enjoys working with the many choirs in Newbury and the surrounding area.

## Christopher Willoughby



Christopher began his musical education at Westminster Abbey as a chorister under the direction of James O'Donnell. During his time as a chorister Christopher was fortunate enough to be able to take part in several prestigious events including the visit of Pope Benedict XVI in 2010 and for members of the royal family. After finishing his time as a chorister Christopher secured a music scholarship to Harrow School,

where he received singing lessons from Mary Nelson as well as continuing to learn piano, viola and organ. While at Harrow, Christopher was able to focus on solo repertoire for the first time and continued to be actively involved in multiple choirs both in and out of the school. Highlights of his time at Harrow include performing the role of the evangelist in Bach's St John Passion and performing Schumann's Dichterliebe. Following on from his time at Harrow Christopher successfully auditioned for a choral scholarship at Lincoln Cathedral. Although singing daily in the cathedral took up most of his time Christopher still fitted in external engagements, including; a part-time scholarship with VOCES8, the well-known consort group, guest soloist appearances with Banbury Choral Society and the RSCM. Christopher now looks forward to his first year at Royal Holloway, University of London, where he will be reading music with a choral scholarship, whilst also completing a year as a scholar with Genesis Sixteen.

# Programme Notes

## **Marc-Antoine Charpentier 1643–1704 (France)**

### **Te Deum – organ solo, Steve Bowey**

Born near Paris, Charpentier received a very good education and registered for law school in Paris at the age of eighteen, withdrawing after one term to spend several years in Rome studying music with Giacomo Carissimi, where he acquired a good knowledge of contemporary Italian musical practice, which he brought back to France. On his return he worked as house composer to the Duchess de Guise, a post he held for 17 years, composing a considerable quantity of vocal works, including psalm settings, hymns, motets, a Magnificat, a mass and a Dies Irae. He subsequently wrote music for Molière's plays, was maître de musique for the Jesuits and later at the Sainte Chappelle, a royal appointment. The prelude to his Te Deum, a rondo, is the signature tune of the European Broadcasting Union, heard in the opening credits of Eurovision events.

## **Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck 1562–1621 (The Netherlands)**

### **Laudate Domine**

Sweelinck was born in Deventer, the son of the organist at Amsterdam's Oude Kerk, to whose post he succeeded. His organ pupils came from around Europe, meaning that his approach influenced the organ-playing art of northern Europe, including eventually one J S Bach. Sweelinck embodied the highest development of the Dutch keyboard school, representing a pinnacle in keyboard contrapuntal complexity and refinement before Bach. He was also a skilled composer for voices, and composed more than 250 vocal works – chansons, madrigals, motets and psalms.

## **William Cornysh 1468–1523 (England)**

### **Woefully arrayed**

Serving in the court of Henry VIII, Cornysh was a noted composer, playwright, actor and pageant master. He accompanied the King at the Field of the Cloth of Gold, reportedly bringing with him ten young choristers with a daily allowance of twopence for their "diette". Surviving works include some sacred music, some music for viols and some jocular secular choral works. This piece relates the Passion of Christ.

## **Tomás Luis de Victoria 1549–1611 (Spain)**

### **Ave Maria, gratia plena**

Victoria was born in Avila, Old Castile, and spent 40 years engaged in important musical positions in Rome, where his name was Italianised to Vittoria. A contemporary of Palestrina, whose pupil he may have been, he composed much contrapuntal a capella church music. Compared with Palestrina's serene music, Victoria's output – none of which was secular – is charged with passionate mysticism.

## **Johann Sebastian Bach 1685–1750 (Germany)**

### **Valet ich dir geben BWV 735 (All Glory, Laud and Honour) - organ solo, Steve Bowey**

Bach was born in Eisenach into a great musical family. His father, Johann Ambrosius Bach, was director of the town musicians, and all his uncles were professional musicians. His father taught him to play the violin and harpsichord, and his brother Johann Christoph taught him the clavichord. He attended St. Michael's School in Lüneburg and, after graduating, held several musical posts across Germany, serving as Kapellmeister to Leopold, Prince of Anhalt-Köthen, and as Thomaskantor in Leipzig, a position of music director at the main Lutheran churches and educator at the Thomasschule. He received the title of Royal Court Composer from Augustus III in 1736.

## **César Auguste Franck 1822–1890 (Belgium)**

### **Panis angelicus – soloist Christopher Willoughby, with The Cecilia Consort Players**

Born in Liège, Franck studied solfège, piano, organ and harmony at the Royal Conservatory there and gave his first concerts aged 12. He subsequently studied in Paris from the age of 13, where he later married and embarked on a career as teacher and organist, gaining a reputation as a formidable improviser. In 1858 he became organist at Sainte-Clotilde, and in 1872 was named professor at the Paris Conservatoire, which required him to take French nationality. He remained in Paris for the rest of his life, writing several pieces that have entered the standard classical repertoire including symphonic, chamber, keyboard and some choral works.

## **Alonso Lobo 1555–1617 (Spain)**

### **Versa est in luctum**

Lobo was born in Osuna, Spain, served as a choirboy in Seville Cathedral and received a degree from the University of Osuna. He was subsequently appointed assistant maestro de capilla at Seville Cathedral and then maestro de capilla at Toledo Cathedral, where he remained until 1604, returning to Seville. His music combines the smooth contrapuntal technique of Palestrina with the sombre intensity of Victoria. His works include masses and motets, three Passion settings, Lamentations, psalms and hymns. Versa est in luctum, his best-known work, was written on the death of Philip II.

## **Claudio Monteverdi 1567–1643 (Italy)**

### **Beatus vir - with The Cecilia Consort Players**

Born in Cremona, where he first studied music and composition, Monteverdi developed his career first at the court of Mantua and then, until his death, in the Republic of Venice, where he was maestro di capella at the basilica of San Marco. A composer of both secular and sacred music, and a pioneer in the development of opera, he is considered a crucial transitional figure between the Renaissance and the Baroque periods. His surviving music includes nine

books of madrigals, large-scale sacred works, such as his Vespro della Beata Vergine (Vespers) of 1610, and three complete operas. His Beatus vir features two choirs that chase each other across the score.

-----o O Interval O o -----

### **Anton Bruckner 1824–1896 (Austria)**

#### **Christus factus est and Locus Iste**

Born in Upper Austria, Bruckner was, like Brahms, a classic-romantic and, like Beethoven, wrote nine symphonies. However, unlike Brahms, he had become infected by Wagner. At first a devoted church musician and successful organist, he later moved to Vienna and concentrated increasingly on composition, encouraged by the Emperor Francis Joseph. Christus factus est (Christ became obedient unto death) was written as a Gradual for Maundy Thursday. Locus Iste [a Deo factus est] (this place was made by God) was written as a Gradual for the dedication of the Votivkapelle at the New Cathedral in Linz, Austria.

### **Richard Strauss 1864–1949(Germany)**

#### **Morgen! – tenor solo, Christopher Willoughby**

Strauss was born in Munich and died aged 85 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, where he is buried. He had his first work performed publicly – a symphony – when he was just seventeen. He was later heavily influenced by Wagner and Liszt. He wrote some beautiful songs and enjoyed a considerable reputation as an opera conductor. Among his best-known works are his symphonic poem Till Eulenspiegel and the opera Der Rosenkavalier. The song performed this evening – Morgen, or Tomorrow – is one in a set of four songs composed in 1894 as a wedding present to his wife, Pauline. Its text, the German love poem Morgen!, was written by Strauss's contemporary, John Henry Mackay. Strauss initially set the accompaniment for piano alone, then for piano with violin and later still for orchestra with violin solo.

### **Arvo Pärt 1935- (Estonia)**

#### **Magnificat**

Arvo Pärt is an Estonian composer of classical and religious music. Since the late 1970s, he has worked in a minimalist style that employs his self-invented compositional technique, tintinnabuli – the sound of bells. Pärt's music is in part inspired by Gregorian chant. His most performed works include Fratres (1977), Spiegel im Spiegel (1978) and Für Alina (1976). Since 2011 Pärt has been the most performed living composer in the world. In 2014 The Daily Telegraph described him as possibly "the world's greatest living composer" and "by a long way, Estonia's most celebrated export".



## **Gustave Theodore Holst 1874–1934 (England)**

### **Psalm 86 – with tenor soloist Christopher Willoughby**

Born in Cheltenham, Holst composed and played instruments from an early age, serving as village organist and conducting village choral societies in his teens before spending five years at the Royal College of Music studying composition under Charles Villiers Stanford. Perhaps best known for The Planets suite, some of his later works are said to anticipate the works of Stravinsky. This psalm is a plaintive request from the psalmist for God's understanding and mercy.

## **Jean Langlais 1907–1991 (France)**

### **Messe Solennelle**

Langlais was born in a small village near Mont Saint-Michel in Brittany. Becoming blind from glaucoma at the age of two, he was sent to the National Institute for Blind Children in Paris, where he began to study the organ, later progressing to the Paris Conservatoire, winning prizes in organ and studying composition and improvisation. After graduating, he taught at the National Institute for Blind Children and the Schola Cantorum in Paris. It was as an organist that he made his name, following in the footsteps of César Franck as organiste titulaire at the Basilica of Sainte-Clotilde in Paris in 1945, a post he held for 43 years. His prolific output is written in a free tonal style, with rich and complex harmonies and overlapping modes.

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# Acknowledgements

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## Newbury Camera Club

Our Club currently has a membership of around 45 enthusiastic photographers and we meet every Thursday evening at Shaw Social Club. Our meetings include talks by both external speakers and club members on photographic topics, print and digital image competitions, workshops, discussions, social events and visits. We pride ourselves in catering for all standards of photography, and we aim to provide members with the opportunity to improve their photographic skills and appreciation of photography as a hobby and an art. Please visit our website for further information:

[www.newburycameraclub.org.uk](http://www.newburycameraclub.org.uk).

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## The Cecilia Consort Players are...

*John Kane – Violin, Jane Kane – Violin, Charlotte Oates - Cello*



**making  
music**

**SUPPORTING &  
CHAMPIONING  
VOLUNTARY MUSIC**

The Cecilia Consort is a member of Making Music – the National Federation of Music Societies.

NEWBURY  
Choral  
SOCIETY

Spring Season 2019

# Haydn: *The Seasons*

Conductor: Cathal Garvey

Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra

Saturday 23rd March 2019, 7:30pm

St Nicolas Church, Newbury

Tickets £15, under 16s £5, available online at [www.newburychoral.org.uk](http://www.newburychoral.org.uk)  
Newbury Corn Exchange: 0845 5218218 and from choir members



## Newbury Chamber Choir

### Concert Spirituel

**Jean Gilles: Messe des Morts (1731)**

**Delalande: De Profundis**

Conductor: Edward Lambert

**St George's Church, Newbury RG14 6NU**

**Saturday, 6 April 2019 at 7.30pm**

Tickets £15 (School pupils free)

from [www.newburychamberchoir.org](http://www.newburychamberchoir.org) or

Corn Exchange, Newbury 0845 5218 218

# The Cecilia Consort

The Cecilia Consort was formed by Janet Coxwell from the members of an ad hoc choir put together to sing Mozart's Requiem in the Newbury and District Arts Festival in 1989. Meeting for limited rehearsals before each of our two or three concerts each year we sing secular and sacred music from across a broad historical spectrum. As a chamber choir we perform not only chamber works – often a cappella or with organ accompaniment – but also larger works with orchestra, as at 2008's sell-out performance of Monteverdi's Vespers with Canzona at Douai Abbey. We continually learn new works and almost every concert includes music that we have not performed before, be it a collection of anthems or an entire mass.



**Cecilia Consort**  
**Autumn concert**  
**Saturday 16 November**  
**7.30pm**

Howells & Muhly – The Cecilia Consort at St John's Church

*"The programme opened with A Hymn to St. Cecilia... as the lush vocal sound washed over the choir's loyal audience. Well enunciated, fabulously rich textures and a soaring soprano counter-melody, this was a lovely opening to the evening."*

Fiona Bennett, Newbury Weekly News – December 2017

Remembrance – The Cecilia Consort at Douai Abbey

*"Another engaging evening from this fine local choir."*

Charles Medlam, Newbury Weekly News – November 2016

Eternal Light – The Cecilia Consort at Douai Abbey

*"...special thanks and praise be to Janet Coxwell (who also gave us a couple of fine solos) and her wonderful singers for an evening of unalloyed pleasure and edification."*

Newbury Weekly News – October 2014

*"Any choir can sing loudly. Singing that softly is a real skill"*

Father Oliver Holt after a concert at Douai Abbey.

For more details, please see our website: [www.ceciliaconsort.org.uk](http://www.ceciliaconsort.org.uk)