

Under the Shadow of His Wing



Picture credit: Bessi/Pixabay

St John's Church
Newbury
Saturday 7 March 2020
7.30pm

The
Cecilia
Consort

Acknowledgements

Janet Coxwell would like to thank Amanda Salter and Greg Choules for the promotional graphics, assembling and production of this programme and all the committee members and helpers for their uplifting support in organising tonight's concert. Our thanks to the members of the Newbury Camera Club for providing their services.

Newbury Camera Club

Our Club currently has a membership of around 45 enthusiastic photographers who 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.

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**SUPPORTING &
CHAMPIONING
VOLUNTARY MUSIC**

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

The Cecilia Consort

Musical Director: Janet Coxwell

Under the Shadow of His Wing

A warm welcome to our Spring concert. Tonight, we are singing the most beautiful work, written by an old friend of mine, Jonathan Rathbone. We have really enjoyed the challenge of preparing this difficult but uplifting work. With texts from Compline and Evensong, Jonathan's wafting lines and close harmonies aptly suit the beautiful acoustics of St John's Church.

2019/20 has been a year of many losses from within the Choir. I lost a dear friend, Peter Smith, who sang in the choir of St Brides, Fleet Street with myself and Jonathan. His loss is deeply felt & I would like to add his name to those of family and friends of choir members as we dedicate this concert to them all.

Sit back, close your eyes and escape for 90 minutes from the dreadful events that are happening all around us at the moment.

I would like to thank all the choir for their hard work and Steve Bowey for his wonderful support: It's all been worth it!

Lastly, make sure you save the date for our 30th Anniversary concert in your diaries.

Jan

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 *In Blue 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 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. Last year the UK course was based at Cheltenham College and included singing Evensong at Tewkesbury Abbey. The course will return there in July 2020.

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](#).

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.

Programme Notes

Jonathan Rathbone

Jonathan Rathbone was a chorister at Coventry Cathedral and then a Choral Scholar at Christ's College, Cambridge, where he read mathematics. He then gained a second degree, this time in music at the Royal Academy of Music specialising in singing and composition, winning prizes for orchestration and choral conducting, and later being awarded an ARAM.

Having sung with St Bride's Choir, Fleet Street, and the BBC Singers, he joined the Swingle Singers. He became their musical director and wrote the majority of the music they sang for over a decade. His arrangement of "Fool on the Hill" was nominated for a Grammy.

Under the Shadow of His Wing

Rathbone has brought together 16 texts from a variety of sources – from Church liturgy to 17th century poetry – taking the listener on a lush musical journey from twilight into night. Those who love Evensong, Vespers and Compline have much to look forward to. Favourite hymns also make an appearance, including a luminous setting of Purcell's beautiful 'Now that the sun hath veil'd his light'.

At times serene, triumphant, tranquil and playful, this challenging work makes much use of double and triple choir to achieve multi-layered effects eminently suited to the space and clarity of acoustic at St John's. Listen carefully and, from time to time, you may even hear an angelic semi-chorus floating ethereally above the textured harmony.

Te lucis ante terminum

Now that the sun hath veiled its light

Jesu, salvator saeculi

Magnificat

Nunc Dimittis

O nata lux

"Better to light a candle than curse the darkness"

Close thine eyes (Upon a Quiet Conscience)

Dedicated by Rosanna to the memory of Harriet Rose Jones and George Antony Jones.

Christe qui lux es et dies

In pace, in idipsum

Blessed is the man

Glory to Thee

Dedicated by Lauramary to the memory of my best friend, Susan Jane Craik.

Care Charming Sleep

Dedicated by Fenisia to the memory of David Roy Stopher.

Into Thy hands

Dedicated by Lauramary to the memory of my teacher, friend and guide, Mother Ann Verena (of the Community of the Companions of Jesus the Good Shepherd).

Hail, gladdening Light

Recessional (Te lucis & Amens)

Abide with me

Dedicated by Jan, in loving memory of Peter Jonathan Smith, who loved this music. Friend to many and Godfather to Charlotte.

Newbury Chamber Choir

A Choral Meditation for Holy Week

Alessandro Scarlatti: Mass for 4 Voices

Antonio Lotti: Requiem

Domenico Scarlatti: Magnificat

Conductor: Edward Lambert

St John's Church, Newbury RG14 7PY

Sunday, 5 April 2020 at 6.00pm

Admission Free – Retiring collection

www.newburychamberchoir.org

NEWBURY
Choral
SOCIETY

Spring Season 2020

Haydn: *Heiligmesse*
Haydn: *Te Deum*
Mozart: *Symphony No.36 (Linz)*
Conductor: Cathal Garvey
London Ulysses Orchestra

Saturday 21st March 2020, 7:30pm, St Nicolas Church, Newbury

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



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.



A celebration of
30 years of the
Cecilia Consort
Saturday 14 Nov 2020
7.30pm
Douai Abbey

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