

St MARY'S CHURCH, SHAW, NEWBURY

SATURDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2001

8pm

CANTEMUS
NEWBURY

Conductor Robert Ascott

Organ Ian Westley

SCHUBERT *Mass in G*

GESUALDO *Madrigals*

S.S.WESLEY *Anthems*

Net proceeds in aid of

BEHÇET'S SYNDROME SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 326679

Admission by programme £6.00

(Concessions £3.50)

Programme

Anthems

Samuel S. Wesley 1810 - 1876

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace
Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
Cast me not away from thy presence

Madrigals

Carlo Gesualdo 1566-1613

Ecco morirò dunque!
Hai, già mi discoloro
Io tacerò, ma nel silenzio mio
In va dunque, o crudele

Organ Solo

Choral song and fugue

Samuel S. Wesley 1810 - 1876

Mass in G

Franz Schubert 1797 - 1828

Kyrie eleison
Gloria in excelsis
Credo in unum Deum
Sanctus
Benedictus
Agnus Dei

Soloists

Sopranos

Angela Ham & Sheenagh Dernie

Tenor

Keith Iles

Bass

Andrew Blake

Applause is most welcome in the Church but it would be appreciated if this were at the end of each complete section of the programme.

S.S.Wesley held prominent posts as organist and choirmaster at Hereford, Exeter, Leeds, Winchester and finally Gloucester (1865) where he revised many of his most important compositions. Son of a famous father, Samuel Wesley (1766 - 1837), and nephew of Charles (1757-1834), he went on to become a major influence in the development of English church music. Apart from his composing he campaigned for improved standards of performance and administration throughout his career and revitalised a tradition which had been declining since Handel. His own works are strong and vivid and his anthems, often quite long, are the centre-piece of his enduring legacy.

Carlo Gesualdo was of noble birth and inherited the principality of Venosa in 1586. He famously murdered his cousin and first wife Maria D'Avalos and her lover, then married again, to Eleonora d'Este. This union, though blest with a son, became increasingly unhappy as Gesualdo suffered from asthma and manic depressive illness which led to episodes of cruelty, infidelity and flagellation. Originally an amateur musician, he composed a significant volume of madrigals and church music which featured extreme changes of tempo and chromatic harmony, usually to dark and often erotic texts. All the madrigals in this programme are from his fourth book dated 1596.

Ecco, morirò dunque!	<i>So, then die I will!</i>
Nè sia che pur rimire,	<i>Do not, then look,</i>
Tù ch'anci di mirando, il mio morire	<i>You, whose eyes kill, how I die.</i>

Hai, già mi discoloro; oimè, viè meno!	<i>Ah, anon I lose colour, Ah alas!</i>
La luce à gl'occhi miei, la voce al seno.	<i>The light barely reaches my eyes, the voice my breast.</i>
O che morte gradita!	<i>Oh, death would be welcome</i>
S'almè potessi dir: moro mia vita.	<i>If only I could say. I die , my life!</i>

Io tacerò, ma nel silentio mio	<i>I shall hold my peace, but in my silence</i>
Le lagrim' e i sospiri diran I miei martiri.	<i>The tears and sighs shall tell my martyrdom.</i>
Ma s'auerra ch'io mora	<i>And if I should die</i>
Griderà poi per me la mort' ancora	<i>Death shall cry out for me once again</i>

In va dunque, o crudele,	<i>Thus in vain, oh cruel one,</i>
Voi, ch'el mio duol del tuo rigor si cele,	<i>Yearn you for my pain and your harshness to be hidden</i>
Poi che mia cruda sorte	<i>Since my cruel fate</i>
Da la voc' al silentio ed alla morte.	<i>Gives voice to silence and to death.</i>

Franz Schubert lived a short but prolific life achieving great success in compositions of widely varying scales. His mastery of both symphony and song are his enduring legacy but there are many other examples of his genius, not least in his sacred music. Only in opera perhaps did he fail to make a mark. This short mass was intended for liturgical use rather than concert performance and its brevity and intimacy show off his special way with the voice and good tunes.

Robert Ascott studied choral conducting under James Gaddarn. As a businessman he lived overseas for long periods of his life, and he has held organist/choirmaster posts in many cities of the world, including London, New York and Cologne. He is Treasurer of the Herbert Howells Society and lists Bach and Britten among his other favourite composers. In addition to his work on the chamber choir repertoire he has conducted opera and stage musicals.

Ian Westley studied music at Reading University where he specialised in piano and organ. He pursues a career as an instrumental and singing teacher as well as acting as an accompanist and repetiteur. He is director of music at St Peter's Caversham and for the Erleigh Cantors, and regularly conducts Cantemus.

Cantemus

Sopranos	Sheenagh Dernie Angela Ham Edwina Northam Alex Thompson	Altos	Dinny Barker Patricia Robson Georgina Seaman Heather Sims
Tenors	Keith Iles Barrie Seaman	Basses	Mike Ananin Andrew Blake Stephen Blinman Ian Haslam

'Cantemus Newbury' was formed in 1999 and has given performances in Newbury, Thatcham, Reading and Marlborough. As well as providing West Berkshire with a new chamber choir the group aims to raise money for locally-based charities.

The choir rehearses in St Gabriel's School, Newbury and there are limited vacancies in some voices for which applications are welcome from singers of appropriate standard. If you are interested please telephone Ian Haslam on 01635 820379 or e-mail cantemus.newbury@ntlworld.com

The choir's next appearances will be performances of Christmas Music on **8th December** in Mildenhall Parish Church, Marlborough and **15th December** in St Joseph's Community Centre, Newbury.

The choir is affiliated to the National Federation of Music Societies which represents and supports amateur vocal and instrumental groups throughout the UK.