

# **Holy Trinity Church, Grazeley**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2001**

**7.45pm**

# **Cantemus**

**Conductor      Robert Ascott**

**Soprano         Sheilagh Armitt**

**Organ            Ian Westley**

**Net proceeds in aid of the Church Organ Fund**

**Admission by programme £5.00  
(Concessions £3.50)**



## Programme

Christus factus est Justorum animae Salve Regina	Anton Bruckner (1824-1896) Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924) Herbert Howells (1892-1983) <i>(Soloist: Angela Ham)</i>
Laudibus in Sanctis Ave Maria	William Byrd (1542-1623) Robert Parsons (1530?-1570)
Die Ehre Gottes aus der Natur	Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) <i>(Soloist: Sheilagh Armitt)</i>
Busslied	Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) <i>(Soloist: Sheilagh Armitt)</i>
I will lift up mine eyes	Michael Head (1900-1976) <i>(Soloist: Sheilagh Armitt)</i>
Make a joyful noise unto the Lord	Michael Head (1900-1976) <i>(Soloist: Sheilagh Armitt)</i>
Warum ist das Licht	Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Yugoslav Folksongs <i>The unfaithful lover</i> <i>Handsome Mirko</i> <i>Eighteen Shining Buttons</i> <i>Heaven Above</i>	Mátyás Seiber (1905-1960) <i>(soloist: Sheilagh Armitt)</i>
<i>Hussars</i> <i>Fairy Tale</i>	<i>(soloists; Jonathan Robson, Sheenagh Dernie)</i>  <i>(soloist; Ian Haslam)</i>

Applause is welcomed in the Church and the audience is invited to show their appreciation in the usual way at the end of each section.

'*Christus factus est*' is the third and last of a set of a cappella graduals composed by **Bruckner** and doubtless inspired by his long experience as a church organist and choirmaster. **Stanford's** '*Justorum animae*' is also from a set of three, this time motets first published in 1905. He had spent much time on the continent and Bruckner's influence is apparent in this work. '*Salve Regina*', the last of "Four Anthems of the Blessed Virgin Mary", was written by **Herbert Howells** for the choir of Westminster Cathedral in 1915 and remained unpublished during his lifetime. Howells had studied extensively with Stanford at the Royal College of Music; while the influence is unmistakable, the young Howells is strikingly innovative.

**Byrd's** setting of Psalm 150, '*Laudibus in Sanctis*', was first published in 1591 as part of book known as "Cantiones Sacrae" which was collaboration with Thomas Tallis. Each composer contributed 17 works, one for each year of Queen Elizabeth's reign. Written in five parts to accommodate two soprano lines, it is a short work but large in scale with complex rhythms and wide-ranging contrasts. Little is known about **Robert Parsons** except that he was short lived (born 1530?) and died from drowning in the River Trent. '*Ave Maria*' was probably written after joining the Chapel Royal in 1563.

**Michael Head** studied composition at the Royal Academy of Music and later returned to teach piano. For much of his professional life he was an examiner and adjudicator. He wrote more than 100 songs and often performed them to his own accompaniment.

'*Warum ist das Licht*' was dedicated to Philipp Spitta the great Bach scholar of his time. Composed by **Brahms** in 1877, it is in four sections and uses a variety of biblical texts, Job and Lamentations, as well as words by Martin Luther.

**Mátyás Seiber** was born in Hungary and was a pupil of Kodály at the Budapest Music Academy. He settled in Germany after the First World War but moved to England in 1935 where he earned his living as a composer and teacher of composition. The '*Yugoslav Folk-Songs*' are a much-loved favourite of choirs the world over.

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**Cantemus** was formed in 1999 and has given performances in the Newbury, Thatcham and Marlborough area. As well as providing West Berkshire with a new Chamber Choir the group aims to raise money for locally based charities. The singers come from as far a field as Reading, Marlborough, Wroughton and Wantage and rehearse in St Gabriel's School, Newbury.

**Robert Ascott** studied choral conducting under James Gaddarn. As a businessman he lived overseas for long periods and he has held organist and 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 favourite composers. In addition to his work on the chamber choir repertoire he has conducted opera and stage musicals.

**Sheilagh Armitt** studied at The Welsh College of Music and Drama where she won the singing prize on graduating. She continued as a postgraduate student at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama achieving the Certificate of Advanced Studies in Early Music. Sheilagh is a regular soloist with the Woodley Concert band and other local instrumental groups. She is also a member of Trillium, an ensemble of Soprano, Flute and Piano. She also sings with several Reading choral groups including the Erleigh Cantors.

**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 conducts the Erleigh Cantors and is director of music at St Peter's Caversham.

### **Cantemus**

Sopranos	Sheilagh Armitt Sheenagh Dernie Angela Ham Edwina Northam	Altos	Dinny Barker Patricia Robson Georgina Seaman Heather Sims
Tenors	Jonathan Robson Ian Westley	Basses	Mike Ananin Andrew Blake Stephen Blinman Ian Haslam

The Choir has limited vacancies in some voices and welcomes applications from singers of an appropriate standard. If you are interested please telephone Ian Haslam on 01635 820379 or e-mail [cantemus.newbury@ntlworld.com](mailto:cantemus.newbury@ntlworld.com)

Cantemus would like to thank the Vicar and Parish Council for granting permission to use the Church and for their help in staging the concert. The choir would also like to thank the Reading University Music Library for the loan some music used in this concert.

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