

Sheenagh Dernie studied singing, piano and violin at RCM London, and discovered her love of conducting while completing her PGCE in Yorkshire. For 15 years she directed the 'Roundelay' ladies choir, and is a group conductor for 'Cor Meibion de Cymru', the largest male voice choir in South Wales. In addition to running her own singing teaching practice, Sheenagh also currently directs 'Fantasia', a Wantage-based youth choir.

Steve Bowey studied organ and piano from an early age. After studying Engineering at Salford University, he moved to Newbury in 1991 and became Musical Director of the Cromwell Singers in 1993. As Director of Music at St Mary's Shaw (1992-1995) he gave a number of organ recitals and accompanied many local choirs. He has also worked with choirs in France and Belgium, and has given recitals in Newbury, Thaxted, Caterham and Manchester. From 2001-2008 he was Musical Director of the Newbury-based chamber choir, the Sandham Singers. In July 2007 he was awarded the Limpus Prize for the highest mark in the examination for Associate of the Royal College of Organists.

Cantemus:

Sopranos: Deborah Cox, Leanne Cox, Claire Hamilton, Sarah Holland, Joyce Refausse

Altos: Dinny Barker, Valerie Cooper, Alison Jestico, Bridget Procter, Lynne Salt

Tenors: Simon Hunter, John Meager, David Wilcox, Robin Young

Basses: Mike Ananin, Andrew Blake, Stephen Blinman, Ian Haslam

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**Parish Church of St Mary
Shaw-cum-Donnington**

presents

An Evening of Russian and Christmas Music

performed by

CANTEMUS
NEWBURY

Director: Sheenagh Dernie

with

Steve Bowey – Organ

Saturday 6th December 2008 at 7.30pm

In aid of the 'Chernobyl Children Lifeline' appeal

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Greetings to you all this Advent! Cantemus brings you a flavour of Russia in the first half of this programme, inspired by the Chernobyl charity and supported by poetry and slides. The language is mostly Church Slavonic, but we have chosen to sing a few items in English to bring the music closer. In the second half, we look forward to Christmas and Epiphany.

Programme

Hymn to the Cherubim D. S. Bortniansky (1751-1825)

The Cherubim mystically represents the life-creating Trinity. Sing the thrice-holy hymn and lay aside all life's cares. Amen. May we receive the King of all escorted by the angelic hosts. Alleluia.

Zion hears her Watchmen's Voices J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
from 'Sleepers, Wake!' ~ Cantata 140

Bogoroditse Devo V. Kalinnikov (1870-1927)

Rejoice O virgin lady, blessed Mary, the Lord is with you. You are blessed among women as is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne the saviour of our souls.

Blagoslovi, dushe moya, Gospoda P. Chesnokov (1877-1944)

Bless the Lord, oh my soul. Blessed is the Lord, my God who has created all things in his wisdom.

Presentation ~ Mark Fulker
on behalf of **Chernobyl Children Lifeline**

Contakion of the Faithful Departed arr. W. Parratt

*Orthodox Eastern dirge, sung underneath 'To Pripyat' (Lyubov Sirota),
read by Ian Haslam*

Sviati Bozhe P. I. Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

*Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and
unto the ages of ages. Amen.*

Sovet Prevechnii P. Chesnokov (1877-1944)

*Gabriel stood before thee, O Maiden, revealing the pre-eternal counsel,
saluting thee and exclaiming: "Rejoice, O earth unsown! Rejoice, O bush unburnt!
Rejoice, O depth hard to fathom! Rejoice, O bridge leading to the heavens and
lofty ladder which Jacob beheld! Rejoice, O divine jar of Manna! Rejoice,
annulment of the curse! Rejoice, restoration of Adam: the Lord is with thee."*

Hymn to the Cherubim M. Glinka (1804-1857)

Translation as above.

Organ Solo ~ Steve Bowey

Ou s'en vont (*from a Book of Noels*)
Toccata

J. F. Dandrieu (1682-1738)
G. Mushel (1909-1989)

Blagoslovi, dushe moya, Gospoda

D. Hristov (1875-1941)

Translation as above.

Tebe Poem

P. I. Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

*To thee we sing, we bless thee, we thank thee O Lord
And we pray to thee, O our God.*

Bogoroditsye Devo

S. Rachmaninov (1873-1943)

English version by Bill Tamblyn

Cherubim Song

S. Rachmaninov (1873-1943)

Interval

Angelus ad Virginem

14th cent. Irish *arr.* D. Willcocks

The audience is invited to join in with Verse 4:

Eia mater Domini, quae pacem reddidisti
Angelis et homini, cum Christum genuisti;
Tuum exora filium ut se nobis propitium exhibeat, et deleat peccata:
Praestans auxilium vita frui beata post hoc exilium.

Reading ~ **Epiphany 2000** (*Christine MacIntosh*); read by Alison Jestic

Lo! Star-led Chiefs

W. Crotch (1775-1847)

The Blessed Son of God

R. Vaughan-Williams (1872-1958)

Reading ~ **Christmas Bells** (*Henry Longfellow*); read by Bridget Procter

Ring Christmas Bells

M. Leontovich (1877-1921)

Reading ~ **Homily of St John Chrisostom**; read by Stephen Blinman

Three 14th Century Carol arrangements R.R.Terry (1865-1938)

Tryste Noel ~ Myn Lyking ~ So Blyssid be the Tyme

Solo ~ **Snowflakes** (*Russian Folksong*); sung by Mike Ananin

Sir Christèmas

16th cent. *arr.* W. Mathias (1934-1992)