

# MARY'S LAMENT

Northampton Chamber Choir  
Sophie Stringfellow, *soprano*  
Jem Lowther, *organ*  
Justin Miller, *conductor*

GIOVANNI PERGOLESI

1710-1736

**Stabat mater dolorosa**

*The grieving Mother stood weeping beside the cross  
where her Son was hanging.*

**Cujus animam gementem**

*Through her weeping soul,  
compassionate and grieving, a sword passed.*

**O quam tristis et afflicta**

*O how sad and afflicted was that  
blessed Mother of the only-begotten!*

Reading

*from No Ordinary Man by Nick Fawcett*

PYOTR I TCHAIKOVSKY

1840-1893

**The crown of roses**

SAMUEL S WESLEY

1810-1876

**Wash me throughly**

JEAN B F LALOUETTE

1651-1728

**O mysterium ineffabile**

*O ineffable mystery! O admirable sacrament of love!  
O prodigy of goodness! O miracle of faithfulness!  
O love, O faithfulness, O joyousness of the feast,  
O felicity of the feasters!*

JOHN IRELAND

1879-1962

**Ex ore innocentium**

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

1685-1750

**O Mensch, bewein BWV 622**

**O Lamm Gottes unschuldig BWV 656**

JOHN TAVENER  
1944-2013

**Mother of God here I stand**

ROBERT PARSONS  
1535-1571

**Ave Maria**  
*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. Amen.*

Readings      *from Seven Words from the Cross by Sylvia Sands*

OLA GIJELO  
b. 1978

**Ubi caritas**  
*Where charity and love are, God is there.  
Christ's love has gathered us into one.  
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.  
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.  
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.*

FELIX MENDELSSOHN  
1809-1847

**Hear my prayer**  
**Verleih uns Frieden**  
*In these our days so perilous, Lord,  
peace in mercy send us;  
God but thee can fight for us,  
No God but thee defend us;  
Thou our only God and Saviour.*

PERGOLESI

**Fact ut ardeat cor meum**  
*Grant that my heart may burn  
in the love of Christ my God,  
that I may greatly please him.*  
**Quando corpus morietur. Amen.**  
*When my body dies, grant that to my soul  
is given the glory of paradise. Amen.*

# NORTHAMPTON CHAMBER CHOIR

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Northampton Chamber Choir has been performing in and around Northamptonshire, from where it draws its members, for over 40 years. Its reputation was firmly established by founder conductor Stephen Meakins, under whose direction the choir was called the Laurence Lloyd Singers.

Recent performances have included Duruflé *Requiem*, Stainer *Crucifixion*, Chilcott *A Little Jazz Mass* and Mozart *Coronation Mass*, Rutter *Requiem*, a concert of Tudor music, Handel *Messiah*, and a concert of German Romantic music alongside summer concerts in a lighter vein.

The choir has always consisted of a mixture of students and older members and the object has remained ever constant: enjoyment in making music together to a high standard in an enjoyable atmosphere.

## SOPRANO

Moyra Tebbutt  
Hilary Halstead  
Caroline Ward  
Jill Brown  
Jeni Cheang  
Sue Panton  
Georgina Pearson  
Barbara Law

## ALTO

Tessa Cave  
Jane Clarke  
Deborah Hodgkinson  
Rosie Humphreys  
Liz Baird  
Judy Craig-Peck  
Ruth Grainger

## TENOR

Harry Bowden  
Bill Howard  
Richard Pestell

## BASS

Eric Cave  
Brian Hibbert  
Paul Jacobs  
Terry Rowe

## JUSTIN MILLER *conductor*

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Justin Miller is Director of Music at St Matthew's Church, Northampton where he oversees the day to day running of the music department and directs the choir in all choral services at this famous parish church. He is also Specialist Music Coach for the David Ross Education Trust and works in schools throughout the town.

He completed degrees at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, USA, and the Cleveland Institute of Music in Ohio, where his teachers included Ken Cowan and Todd Wilson. Justin was Sub-Assistant Organist at Worcester Cathedral, and in addition to his duties with the Cathedral Choir, he was Choirmaster of the Cathedral's Voluntary Choir, both the oldest cathedral voluntary choir in the country and the last one to use only boy trebles. He previously held various positions at Blackburn Cathedral, St Albans Cathedral, Ripon Cathedral, and Winchester Cathedral.

As a soloist Justin has performed in numerous cathedrals, most recently Winchester, Hereford, Truro, and Worcester. In addition to his work as an accompanist, he has given performances of Rheinberger's *Second Organ Concerto* with members of the Toledo Symphony, and the Heights Chamber Orchestra.

## SOPHIE STRINGFELLOW *soprano*

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Sophie has been singing since she was 9 years old, firstly with Northampton High Junior school chamber choir who introduced her to St. Matthew's Choir when they came and sang Evensong together.

One of the first things Sophie remembers singing with St. Matthew's was Handel's Messiah – she was hooked! Over the years Sophie has been on choir tours to Exeter, Chester and Ely Cathedrals and also Germany, which she thoroughly enjoyed.

Sophie has sung numerous solos for St. Matthew's as well as the Chantry Choir, Leicester for whom she performed the *Pie Jesu* from Faure's *Requiem* and also the *Pie Jesu* and *Lux Aeterna* from Rutter's *Requiem* as part of their Remembrance Day concerts. Last year Sophie was a finalist in the BBC's Young Chorister of the Year, an experience which she embraced whole heartedly.

Recently Sophie has been studying singing with first Nicolas Moodie and now with Pippa Hyde. She loves having lessons as she is amazed by the way she has learnt to control and develop the sound that she can make. She is currently studying for her grade 8 music exam. As well as singing Sophie is also a flautist and is working towards her grade 7 exam.

Sophie is in her final year at Northampton High school which will culminate in her performing as Grizabella in their production of *Cats*. She has recently won a Music Scholarship to Wellingborough School.

Ultimately she would like to gain a Choral Scholarship at University and would like to continue singing in a semi professional capacity possibly involving film scores.

When Sophie isn't singing she is harnessing her inner d'Artagnan as a fencer.

# JEM LOWTHER *organ*

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Jem Lowther took up the position of Director of Music at All Saints' Church in Northampton in September 2015. In this role he takes charge of the training and direction of the choirs, as well as all the other musical activities of the church. Educated as a Music Scholar at Eton College,

Jem spent his gap-year working as an organist in Washington D.C. and New York City, before taking up an Organ Scholarship at Corpus Christi College Oxford. In this role he acted as musical director for the college's chapel choir, leading them in performance both at home and abroad. He left Oxford with a first-class degree in Music, and the highest mark of any organist in his finals recital.

Alongside his work as a choral conductor, Jem continues to be active as an organ recitalist, recently presenting Widor's *Sixth Organ Symphony* and a large section of Bach's *Clavier-Übung III* in performance. He is an Associate of the Royal College of Organists, and studies with both Thomas Trotter and Ronny Krippner. He is also the Education and Training Officer for Northampton & Peterborough's RSCM committee, which, in 2017, has seen him lead workshops on choral direction, plainchant, and working with children.

# SINS OF OLD AGE: AN EVENING OF SALON MUSIC

13 July 2019 at 7:00PM

St Matthew's Church, Northampton

Northampton Chamber Choir & Salon Musical

Harriet Burns, *soprano* • Hanna-Liisa Kirchin, *mezzo soprano*

Daniel Turner, *tenor* • Jem Lowther, *harmonium*

Marc Verter, *piano* • Justin Miller, *conductor*

Step back in time to experience a bustling 19<sup>th</sup> century Parisian salon during our entertaining summer concert, held on the eve of Bastille Day. The title of the concert comes from a collection of salon pieces written by Rossini after his retirement from opera, which he gave the self-deprecating and ironic title, *Péchés de vieillesse* or *Sins of Old Age*. These charming pieces made frequent appearances in Rossini's salon during his fashionable Saturday-evening musicales, which he hosted with his wife. Our concert will be based around the last of his *péchés de vieillesse*, the ***Petite Messe Solennelle***, which clearly demonstrates that the elderly Rossini had not lost his compositional skill nor his sense of humour.

We are thrilled to be working with the London-based group **SALON MUSICAL** for this concert. Created by pianist Marc Verter and tenor Daniel Turner, Salon Musical uses theatre and music to bring the spirit, elegance and glamour of 19th century Parisian Salons to modern audiences. Rossini's *Petite Messe* will be interspersed with salon music typical of the period performed by our outstanding soloists.

In order to create the most authentic atmosphere for the audience, we'll be clearing out the nave of St Matthew's Church and setting up tables and chairs for the audience. Each table of 6-7 people will have a tasty cheese and biscuit platter, and wine glasses will be provided. Feel free to bring along a bottle and a group of your friends for what will surely be a unique and entertaining evening.