



with

Ensemble Dodecaphonia



**Entente
Chorale**

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Welcome from the Chair

This is the second time this year we have the pleasure of singing in Amersham. In March we performed Bach's *St John Passion* in King's Church, and his music is again a major part of our repertoire tonight, albeit with a difference. Two years ago, the Chiltern Choir visited Chorleywood's twin town, Dardilly in France, where we sang with their local choir, Ensemble Dodecaphonia. I'm pleased to say, our French counterparts are joining us for this evening's performance.

We begin the concert with the Chiltern Choir's programme, a selection of music by Eric Whitacre. After a short interval, Ensemble Dodecaphonia will take to the stage for their performance, Bach's *Missa in G Minor* and his cantata *Christ Lag in Todes Banden*. For the finale, both choirs will sing Avro Pärt's *Magnificat* and *Hallelujah* by Leonard Cohen.

As mentioned above, two years ago we sang in France and in our tour prior to that, we performed in Copenhagen. This year we're touring again, but on home ground. In the last weekend in July, we will be singing in the cathedrals of Bury-St-Edmunds and Ely, two of East Anglia's most ancient and revered sites, and in the lesser known Wymondham Abbey, founded in 1107 under the auspices of St Albans. If you're in the vicinity of any of these venues, why not join us. Details of these events, and our 2016-17 programme can be found on our website www.chilternchoir.org.uk .

Do please get in touch if you would like to join the choir. We have a stall at Chorleywood Village day on Sat 9th July, where we would be delighted to meet you, or contact us on sing@chilternchoir.org.uk .

Fiona Lean

Chair, Chiltern Choir 0780 325 4760

This Evening's Programme

Part 1 Works by Eric Whitacre (1970 -)

The Chiltern Choir

Animal Crackers 1:

The Panther

The Cow

The Firefly

Seal Lullaby

A Boy and a Girl

Sleep

Lux Aurumque (Light and Gold)

Five Hebrew Love Songs:

I. Temuná (A picture)

II. Kalá kallá (Light bride)

III. Lárov (Mostly)

IV. Éyze shéleg (What snow!)

V. Rakút (Tenderness)

Animal Crackers 2:

The Canary

The Eel

The Kangaroo

Interval

during which refreshments will be served in the hall

Part 2 Works by Bach – and others

Ensemble Dodecaphonia

Christ Lag in Todes Banden BWV 4

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

‘Christ lay by death enshrouded’

Cantata for Easter Sunday

Excerpts from Missa in G minor BWV 235

J. S. Bach

‘Lutheran Mass’

Joint Choirs

Magnificat

Arvo Pärt (1935 -)

Hallelujah

Leonard Cohen (1934 -)



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Programme Notes

Eric Whitacre

Eric Whitacre was born and raised in Reno, Nevada USA and studied composition at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas. Whitacre states that the first work that he sang, Mozart's *Requiem*, changed his life. He studied composition with Ukrainian composer Virko Baley and choral conducting with David Weiller, completing his BM in Music in 1995. Whitacre credits Weiller with the inspiration that put the young composer on the musical path. At 21 he wrote his setting of *Go, Lovely Rose* for his college choir and presented the composition as a gift to David Weiller. Whitacre went on to earn his Master's degree in composition at the Juilliard School, where he studied with John Corigliano and David Diamond.

Whitacre's first album as both composer and conductor on Decca/Universal, *Light and Gold* won a Grammy award in 2012, and became the No. 1 Classical Album in the US and UK charts within a week of a release. Eric's second album, *Water Night*, was released on Decca in April 2012 and featured performances from his professional choir the Eric Whitacre Singers, the London Symphony Orchestra, Julian Lloyd Webber and Hila Plitmann.

The Virtual Choir is a global phenomenon, creating a user-generated choir that brings together singers from around the world and their love of music in a new way through the use of technology. Singers record and upload their videos from locations all over the world. Each one of the videos is then synchronised and combined into one single performance to create the Virtual Choir. It began in 2009 as a simple experiment in social media when one young woman – a fan of Eric's music – recorded a video of herself singing *Sleep* and shared it on YouTube. Moved by the video, Eric responded by sending a call out to his online fans to purchase Polyphony's recording, record themselves singing along to it, and upload the result. Eric was so impressed by the result that he decided to push the concept to the next level by recording himself conducting *Lux Aurumque*, asking Virtual Choir members to sing along to that and the first Virtual Choir was created.

The Virtual Choir has been like a drop of water on the surface of a still lake, rippling the musical and online landscape to reach millions. Now with more than fifteen million views, the VC phenomenon has reached all corners of the world, inspiring more and more singers to join each year. The VC has grown from 185 singers in VC1 to an amazing 8,409 videos for VC4 from 101 countries.

Whitacre has addressed the U.N. Leaders program and has given a TED talk on his virtual choirs project. He has addressed audiences at Oxford University, Harvard, The Economist, The World Economic Forum and the Seoul Digital Forum. He is now Composer in Residence at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University.

Many of Eric Whitacre's works have entered the standard choral and symphonic repertoires and have become the subject of scholarly works and doctoral dissertations.



A small group of Chiltern Choir members – The Chiltern Singers – is now available to sing at functions: weddings, parties, funerals etc.

Proceeds to choir funds.

Contact John Haslam by email (preferred): chilternsingers@chilternchoir.org.uk or by telephone: 01494 724125 to discuss your requirements

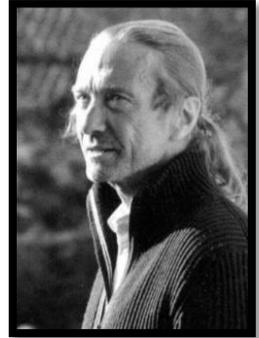
This Evening's Performers

Ensemble Dodecaphonia de Dardilly

L'Ensemble Dodecaphonia is performing abroad for the first time and is mostly made up of amateur musicians. It consists of around 50 choir members and professional instrumentalists (violin, cello, flute, oboe, harpsichord, organ, depending on what work is being played). Their repertoire is mainly Baroque (Bach, Handel, Purcell), with some forays into contemporary music, in particular compositions by their conductor.

Henri Marchand, **Conductor *Ensemble Dodecaphonia***

Self-taught musician Henri Marchand trained with established professors and concert performers (with Francois Chapelet for Baroque music and Loïc Mallié for composition and improvisation for 15 years). He is a harpsichordist, organist and composer as well as founder and, for the past 23 years, artistic director of the festival 'Les Vendredis Baroques' in Dardilly. As a composer and choral director, he has also been exploring the links between Baroque and contemporary music – sound individualisation, proximity of the public.



Violeta Coutaz, **Accompanist *Ensemble Dodecaphonia***

Violeta Coutaz is a pianist who graduated from the conservatoires of St Petersburg and Vilnius, where she subsequently taught for ten years. She has performed in Lithuania, Russia, Panama, Cuba, Japan, England and France. In 1992, she completed an internship at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Amongst her repertoire is: Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier*, all of Brahms' and Beethoven's chamber music as well as music by contemporary French composers. As a musicologist, she has published studies on Shostakovich, Brahms and Taneyev. Based in Lyon, France, she teaches piano at the music school in Dardilly and also gives concerts.



***Ensemble Dodecaphonia* members**

singing this evening

Soprano

Danièle Chapgier, Delphine Dutruge*, Florence Guyot*, Françoise Joubert, Marie-Laure Palenc*.

Alto

Simone Bassinot, Claude Beauverd, Marie-Rose Blériot, Odile Carette, Laurence Diroux, Françoise Neuschwander, Simone Pégoud.

Tenor

Pierre Chauvin, Patrick Dutruge, Marie-Joëlle Jourlin, Bernard Mangin

Bass

Alexandre Nicole, Yves Chapgier

* soloists

The Chiltern Choir

The Chiltern Choir is based in Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, and has around 70 members from Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Watford, and the wider Chilterns area.

Our present conductor, Michael Cayton, joined us in 2003. To mark his 10th year with us, the Choir performed the world premiere of Malcolm Archer's setting of *Awake my Soul and with the Sun*, for our Christmas 2013 concert. This was the last concert in which a founding member of the original singing group performed, Patricia Parkes, who is now our President.

We perform 3–4 concerts a year in well-known local venues: typically, one is a large-scale work with orchestra, with the others on a smaller scale. From time to time major concerts are performed in larger venues, such as the St Albans Abbey, and we have participated directly in services in Norwich Cathedral and St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin.

We have enjoyed a number of overseas trips, notably to Dardilly, Honfleur, Amsterdam and Copenhagen.

Our music comes from a wide spectrum of the choral repertoire, from mainstream traditional music to less familiar contemporary works. As well as the traditional favourites by Bach, Mozart and Haydn, we have performed Karl Jenkins' *Requiem*, Will Todd's *Mass in Blue* and have

enthusiastically taken on the challenge of David Fanshawe's *African Sanctus*.

Michael Cayton, **Conductor *The Chiltern Choir***

After training at Kneller Hall, Michael served with the Grenadier Guards as a trumpeter before studying piano at the Royal College of Music, where he gained his BMus, ARCM and won the Hilda Anderson Deane prize for conducting and improvisation. While completing postgraduate répétiteur studies he was appointed the first Organ Scholar at the Royal Hospital in Chelsea. Since his debut as an organist at the Royal Festival Hall in 1988, Michael has been in demand as a recitalist and accompanist and has appeared all over the country and in Europe, with notable London appearances at St Martin-in-the-Fields and Westminster Abbey.



Since 2003 he has simultaneously held the posts of Director of Music at St John's Wood Church, organist at Belsize Square Synagogue and conductor of the Chiltern Choir. He has worked with many leading choruses including Vasari Singers and Goldsmiths Choral Union. In 2014 he was invited to be guest conductor for Watford Philharmonic Society's performance of Britten's War Requiem and has now taken up the appointment as the society's Principal Conductor.

Michael has given many radio broadcasts for the BBC; he was the organist for a live broadcast from St Martin in the Fields following the death of Nelson Mandela. He has also appeared on BBC's Songs of Praise. His church music is published by Redemptorist Publications, the responsorial psalms now a staple of parish churches up and down the country. With broad musical tastes, a hunger to learn new styles and a particular talent for improvisation, he may often be found performing jazz, German cabaret and Judeo-Spanish Ladino music as well as fusion and funk.

Anna Le Hair, Accompanist *The Chiltern Choir*

Anna Le Hair started playing the piano as soon as she could reach the keys. She gained an honours degree in music at Edinburgh University where she studied piano with Colin Kingsley, and harmony with Kenneth Leighton. Her postgraduate studies were at the Royal College of Music, London, where her professors included Peter Element and Hubert Dawkes. Since then, Anna has enjoyed a busy and varied career as a performer and piano teacher.



Engagements have included recitals, both solo and as chamber musician and accompanist, in many venues in London, including the Queen Elizabeth Hall, and around Britain and abroad, including recitals in New Zealand with the violinist Arwen Newband in 2014. Within the last few years she has given performances of five piano concertos and many chamber works of the 19th and 20th centuries. Anna has performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and at festivals in Porec (Croatia) and Buxton, where she was nominated for the title of 'Performer of the Fringe', as well as the Costa Barcelona music festival and the Music in the Mountains festival in Andalucia.

Anna is a Senior House Pianist at AIMS International Summer School in Eastbourne, where she has repertoire many opera scenes, and also works with choirs and opera groups including Polymnia and City Chamber Choir, as well as Aeolian Singers in Hemel Hempstead, where she is assistant conductor, and Chiltern Choir in Chorleywood. She is also a regular accompanist at Jackdaws Educational Trust in Somerset, where she has worked with the tenor Ian Partridge and the mezzo Sarah Walker. In addition, Anna has done such diverse things as playing background music in London hotels and restaurants and touring the UK and Channel Islands with the Lewis London Ballet. Anna has a thriving piano teaching practice in Tring and also teaches piano and accompanies at St Albans School. She is much in demand as an accompanist for singers and instrumentalists, and is an examiner for ABRSM. Details of future concerts can be found on her website, www.annalehair.co.uk.

Chiltern Choir members singing this evening

Soprano

Caroline Bartlett, Sarah Brameld, Hilary Broadbent, Mary Bungard, Lu Chadder*, Anni Facer, Gabrielle Fisher, Jenny Gorsuch, Beverley Grayley, Jill Haslam, Rachel Hatfield, Barbara Johnson, Sue Kesteven, Sue Lloyd, Gillian Proctor*, Beverley Small, Hilary Walmsley, Lyndsay Ward, Gillian Watson and Anne Wilson.

Alto

Cathy Amos, Roy Cottrell, Ana De'Ath, Liz Dobson, Cathrien Dyas, Jan Ellis, Rita Fryer, Philippa Goss, Helen Heenan, Meredith Jones, Anne Keyworth, Charlotte Kohnhorst, Sylvia Lawman, Jan Iazar, Fiona Lean, Miriam Morgan, Liz Pendered, Gillian Pugh, Maggie Shrive, Jill Swainson, Brenda Tomsett, Marian Wax, Jenny West and Beryl Whittaker.

Tenor

Gijs Crone, Mike Currey, Andy Etchells, Colin Parkes, Tim Swanwick, and Isabel Walker.

Bass

Henry Bell, Paul Davies, Steven Frank, John Haslam, Stuart Marshall, Keith Pulford and Richard Watson.

* soloists

Thomas Nicholas, Violin

Thomas Nicholas is currently undertaking his A levels at St. Clement Danes School Sixth Form, studying Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Chemistry and Music. He has been an active member of the music department, as music prefect and partaking in First Orchestra, barbershop choir, Gospel choir and jazz band.

Outside of school. Thomas is a member of Chiltern Youth Orchestra and Hertfordshire Schools Symphony Orchestra and is an enthusiastic composer and performer.

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The following people have been made honorary members in recognition of their extended service to the choir:

Mrs K. Darby

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Mr D. Lloyd

Dame G. Pugh

Mrs A. Sedgwick

Mr D. Treanor

Mr N. Wax



Forthcoming concerts

Next Season, 2016-17

Saturday 10 December 2016

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A Family Christmas Celebration

Saturday 25 March 2017

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Saturday 1 July 2017

Christ Church, Chorleywood

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