



President – Patricia Parkes

Conductor – Michael Cayton

The Making of the Drum

Five Spirituals

Missa Luba

Soprano Soloist - Helena Rayburn

Saturday 24 June 2023

Sarratt Village Hall

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Welcome from the Chair

Thank you for joining us this evening in Sarratt Village Hall. We are taking some of this music to our weekend away in Shrewsbury, planned for July. If you happen to be in the vicinity of St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury on Saturday 22nd July then do please come and join us.

We had an excellent Members Evening at the end of last term when choir members entertained one another with musical party turns - Chorleywood Golf Club proved to be a great venue for a social gathering.

We have planned our repertoire for our 2023/24 season. I hope there will be something in it for everyone and that we will see you at our concerts. We plan to reprise Dixit Dominus by Handel, a performance that was cancelled at the last minute before the start of lockdown in 2020. There will also be a world premiere of Michael Cayton's new commission - Into The Woods. More details to follow in our season leaflet and on our website - chilternchoir.org.uk

This season we have been so pleased to have regular rehearsals and concerts, without any last-minute cancellations. We have welcomed several new members to the choir which, after two years of hiatus, has been a great pleasure. Our concerts have continued to be somewhat shorter, but next season we return to our usual format of an evening concert with a short intermission. Have a great summer and see you next season.

Have a great summer and see you next season.

Lyndsay Ward

Programme

Prayer of Desmond Tutu

James Whitbourn

Missa Luba

Guido Haazen

Soloist - Helena Raeburn

1. Kyrie
2. Gloria
3. Credo
4. Sanctus
5. Agnus Dei

Five Spirituals

Michael Tippett

Soloist - Helena Raeburn

1. Steal Away
2. Nobody Knows
3. Go Down, Moses
4. By and By
5. Deep River

The Making of the Drum

Bob Chilcott

1. The Skin
2. The Barrel of the Drum
3. The Two Curved Sticks of the Drummer
4. Gourds and Rattles
5. The Gong-Gong



A small group of singers from the Chiltern Choir, *The Chiltern Singers*, is available to sing at events:

Weddings, funerals, Club functions etc.

Contact John Haslam by email (preferred)

chilternsingers@chilternchoir.org.uk

or phone 01494 724125.

All proceeds go to Chiltern Choir funds.

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Programme Notes

Prayer of Desmond Tutu

is a choral work by the British composer **James Whitbourn**, based on a text by the South African archbishop and Nobel Peace Prize laureate **Desmond Tutu**. The text is a prayer for peace, justice, and reconciliation, inspired by Tutu's role as the chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in post-apartheid South Africa. Whitbourn composed the work in 2003 for SATB choir and percussion, and a reader who recites the prayer. The music is rhythmic and energetic, with African influences and a prominent role for the maracas and the African drum. The work was commissioned by the BBC for the choristers of Westminster Abbey, and was first performed on Commonwealth Day in 2004.

Missa Luba

is a musical setting of the Latin Mass that incorporates traditional Congolese songs and styles. It was composed by **Father Guido Haazen**, a Belgian Franciscan friar who worked as a music teacher and choir director in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He arranged the Mass based on the improvisations and folk songs of his choir, **Les Troubadours du Roi Baudouin**, which consisted of adults and children from the town of Kamina. The Mass was first performed and recorded in 1958, and became widely popular for its unique blend of African and European musical

elements. The Missa Luba features a soprano soloist, choir, and percussion instruments such as drums and rattles. Each section of the Mass is based on a different Congolese song form or style, such as the kasala (a mourning song), the kilio (an elegy), or the hosannah (a dance). The Missa Luba is considered a masterpiece of African sacred music and a symbol of intercultural dialogue.

Five Spirituals

are a collection of African-American songs that were arranged by the British composer **Michael Tippett** for his oratorio **A Child of Our Time**. The oratorio, written between 1939 and 1941, was inspired by the events of the Kristallnacht and the assassination of a German diplomat by a Jewish refugee. Tippett used the spirituals as a parallel to the chorales in Bach's Passions, and as a way of expressing the universal themes of oppression, suffering, and hope. They are sung by the chorus with soprano soloist. The spirituals have become popular as stand-alone pieces, and have been arranged for various vocal ensembles

Making of the Drum

is a choral cantata by the British composer **Bob Chilcott**, based on five poems by the Caribbean poet **Edward Kamau Brathwaite**. The poems describe the process of creating a drum from natural materials, and the spiritual significance of each element. Chilcott composed the cantata in 1998 for SATB choir and percussion instruments, such as sand blocks,

rainsticks, claves, shaker and tom-tom. The percussion is played by members of the choir, creating a rhythmic and colourful accompaniment to the vocal parts. The music reflects the influence of African and Caribbean musical traditions as well as Chilcott's own experience as a singer and conductor.

Performing Today

Michael Cayton **Conductor**

Michael Cayton has been Musical Director of the Chiltern Choir since 2003. Since then he has led the choir in a wide variety of works from Purcell to Eric Whitacre. Lockdown brought new challenges and although the choir was unable to meet in person it continued with weekly Zoom rehearsals and the creation and broadcast of virtual concerts. During this period Michael was kept extra busy recording sessions for BBC Radio 4 and St. Martin in the Fields. Michael is also Director Music at Watford Philharmonic Society where he is into his 8th season. During that time, he has conducted performances of Britten's War Requiem, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and Bliss' Morning Heroes to commemorate the centenary of the end of the first world war.

Since 2003, Michael has been the Director of Music at St John's Wood Church in London, where he conducts both the critically acclaimed professional choir and the successful community Chamber Choir. Having attended the Royal College of Music,

where he studied piano, organ, and conducting, Michael won the Hilda Deane Anderson prize for conducting and improvisation, and became the first Millennium Organ Scholar at the Royal Hospital in Chelsea. As well as conducting, Michael is in demand as a pianist and organist, with regular appearances in Central London venues, especially at St. Martin in the Fields. He lives in Watford and is married with two boys.

Helena Raeburn Soprano soloist

Helena is a vocalist who loves performing in different styles including Musical Theatre, Classical, Folk, Pop/Rock/Soul and Jazz. She is an experienced Choral Singer and is a member of the St. John's Wood church choir. She has also performed with Gareth Malone's 'Voices' and choral group 'Celeste'. She trained on the Musical Theatre Course at the Royal Academy of Music having studied Classical Singing at the Birmingham Conservatoire and Music at the University of Birmingham.

Helena has worked as a Musician with the Royal Shakespeare Company and sang for their 'King and Country' cycle which toured to London, China and New York. She recently sang as one of the Quartet in 'The Comedy of Errors' at the Barbican in London Other performing experience includes session work, concerts, musicals, operas, plays and cabaret. She toured the UK with the Fingask Follies, performed in the Thursford Christmas Spectacular and played Fairy Sponge in the Oxford Playhouse panto. She is also one of the vocal tutors for Birmingham-based Choir ExCathedra, and delivers their award-winning education programmes in schools and hospitals.

Christian Goursand

Drums

Simon Howat

Piano

Chiltern Choir - members singing this evening

Sopranos

Caroline Bartlett

Hilary Broadbent

Anni Facer

Mary Bungard

Gabrielle F

Christine Guy

Jill Haslam

Sue Kesteven

Beverley Small

Sarah Moreton

Gill Watson

Gillian Proctor

Lyndsay Ward

Altos

Cathy Amos

Marian Davies

Ana de'Ath

Jan Ellis

Rita Fryer

Clare Hearnshaw

Anne Keyworth

Charlotte Kohnhorst

Miriam Morgan

Maggie Shrive

Marian Wax

Beryl Whittaker

Tenors

Mike Currey

Gijs Crone

Andy Etchells

Anju Sharda

Isabel Walker

Basses

Paul Davies

John Haslam

Martin Robinson

Robert Thackery

Richard Watson

Tim Wynne-Jones

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