

ANTON BRUCKNER

Locus iste, a Deo factus est, inestimabile sacramentum,  
irreprehensibilis est.

Ave Maria, gratia plena;  
Dominus tecum, benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.  
Sancta Maria, mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus,  
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.  
Sancta Maria ora pro nobis, Amen

SERGEI RACHMANINOV

Bogoroditse Dievo, raduisia. Blagodatnaja, Mariye.  
Tyivzhenakh, i blagoslovyen Plod chryeva Tvoyego,  
raduisia yako spasa rodila.  
yesi dush nashikh.

JAMES MACMILLAN

Where Cart rins rowin to the sea,  
By mony a flow'r and spreading tree,  
There lives a lad, the lad for me,  
He is the gallant Weaver.

Oh I had woovers aught or nine,  
They gied me rings and ribbons fine,  
And I was feared my heart would tine,  
And I gied it to the Weaver.

My daddie sign'd the tocher-band  
To gie the lad that has the land,  
But to my heart I'll add my hand,  
And give it to the Weaver.

While birds rejoice in leafy bowers;  
While bees delight in op-ning flowers;  
While corn grows green in simmer showers,  
I love my gallant Weaver.

*Robert Burns*

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

Lobet den Herrn alle Heiden, und preiset ihn, alle Völker.  
Denn seine Gnade und Wahrheit  
waltet über uns in Ewigkeit. Alleluia

*Psalm 117*

WILLIAM HARRIS

Faire is the heaven, where happy soules have place  
In full enjoyment of felicitie,  
Whence they doe still behold the glorious face  
Of the Divine Eternall Majestie;  
Yet farre more faire be those bright Cherubins,  
Which all with golden wings are overdight,  
And those eternall burning Seraphins,  
Which from their faces dart out fiery light;  
Yet fairer than they both, and much more bright,  
Be th' Angels and Archangels, which attend  
On God's owne Person, without rest or end.  
These then in faire each other farre excelling,  
As to the Highest they approach more neare,  
Yet is the Highest farre beyond all telling,  
Fairer than all the rest which there appear,  
Though all their beauties joynd together were;  
How then can mortall tongue hope to expresse  
The image of such endlesse perfectnesse?

*Edmund Spenser*

*This place was made by God, a priceless sacrament;  
it is without reproach.*

*Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee, blessed are thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now  
and at the hour of our death.  
Holy Mary pray for us, Amen*

*Rejoice, virgin mother of God, Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,  
for you have borne the Saviour of our souls.*

*O Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise him all ye people.  
For his merciful kindness is great toward us,  
and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Alleluia*

JOHN TAVENER

Mother of God, here I stand now praying  
Before this Ikon of your radiant brightness  
Not praying to be saved from a battlefield;  
Not giving thanks,  
nor seeking forgiveness for the sins of my soul  
nor for all the souls  
Numb, joyless and desolate on earth  
But for her alone whom I wholly give you.

*Mikhail Lermotov*

MYKOLA LEONTOVYCH

Otche nash, shto esi na nebesakh,  
nekhay svyatitsya imya Tvoe,  
nekhay pride Tsarstvo Tvoe,  
nekhay bude volya Tvoya, yak na nebi tak i na zemli,  
khliba nashogo shodennogo day nam  
svo god ni'i prosti nam provini nashi,  
yak i mi proshaemo vinu vatsyan nashim,  
i ne vedinas u spokusu, alle visvolinas vid lukavogo. Amin.

*Our Father, which art in Heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done, as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen.*

Mi taemo z sebe kheruvimiv viyavlya emo.  
I Zhivotvorchiy Troytsi trisvyatuyu pisno spivaemo,  
Vidkladimo zh nini vsyaki zHITEVI pikluvannya, Amin.  
Pidiy memo zh imi Tsarya vsikh, shto yogo yak  
peremozhitsa yangolski chini nevidimo nesut. Alliluya.

*We, who mystically represent the Cherubim  
And chant the thrice-holy hymn to the Life-giving Trinity,  
Let us set aside the cares of life, Amen.  
That we may receive the King of all, Who comes invisibly  
escorted by the Angelic Hosts. Alleluia.*

CHARLES STANFORD

Justorum animae in manu Dei sunt  
et non tanget illos tormentum malitiae,  
Visi sunt oculis insipientium mori,  
illi autem sunt in pace.

*The souls of the just are in the hand of God,  
and the torment of malice shall not touch them:  
in the sight of the unwise they seemed to die,  
but they are in peace*

*Wisdom, 3*

Coelos ascendit hodie, Alleluia  
Jesus Christus Rex gloriae, Alleluia  
Sedet ad Patris dexteram, Alleluia  
Gubernat coelum et terram. Alleluia  
Jam finem habent omnia, Patris Davidis, carmina,  
Sedet in Dei solio In hoc triumpho maximo  
Benedicamus Domino laudatur Sancta Trinitas,  
Deo dicamus gratias, Alleluia, Amen

*Today Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, has ascended into  
the heavens, Alleluia.  
He sits at the Father's right hand, ruling heaven and earth,  
Alleluia  
Now are David's songs fulfilled, now is the Lord with his Lord  
He sits upon the royal throne of God, in this greatest triumph  
Let us bless the Lord: let the Holy Trinity be praised,  
let us give thanks unto the Lord, Alleluia! Amen.*

Beati quorum via integra est.  
Qui ambulant in lege Domini.

*Blessed are the undefiled in the way,  
who walk in the law of the Lord.*

*Psalm 119, v.1*

## THE ENGLISH CHAMBER CHOIR

The English Chamber Choir is based in the City of London, where it rehearsed regularly for many years at the Church of St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe, near Blackfriars and has now re-located to Holy Sepulchre, Holborn Viaduct, the Musicians' Church. Locally it participates in events at the Mansion House and various City Livery Company Halls, has sung in the première of a work by John Tavener in St Paul's Cathedral, and given concerts in the Barbican. Elsewhere in London it has appeared regularly with the Belmont Ensemble at St Martin-in-the-Fields, at Cadogan Hall, the South Bank, St John's Smith Square and several other churches and prominent music venues. It also sang for HM The Queen at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. The Choir has a long history of involvement with commercial music: it sang in the first performance and the recording of Rick Wakeman's *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* at the Royal Festival Hall in January 1974; in 2014 completed the 40th anniversary UK tour and in July 2019 appeared in the final UK performances also at the Royal Festival Hall. The Choir's most recent appearance with Rick was at the London Palladium in February this year. It has also worked with Vangelis, Eric Lévi (the *Era* project) and many other international artists and has numerous radio and TV credits. It has sung several times at the Royal Albert Hall in 'live music to film' screenings of iconic films including *Gladiator*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, and the *Harry Potter* movies, collaborating with the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra and the BBC Concert Orchestra. Recently it returned to the Albert Hall for *The Muppet Christmas Carol*, and will be there in November for three performances of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1*.

Further afield the Choir has toured in Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Greece and Switzerland and in August 2022 sang three concerts in Tuscany.

The Choir has a long association with music of the Eastern Orthodox Church, having sung numerous works by composers including Michael Adamis, Christos Hatzis, Ivan Moody, Rachmaninov, John Tavener, Tchaikovsky, Theodorakis and many others. In 2018 the Choir sang at the Sacred Music Festival on the island of Patmos, Greece, outside the cave where St John the Divine wrote his *Revelation*. The Choir has also recorded a CD of music inspired by the 9th century Byzantine Abbess Kassiani for Naxos and the compilation album *The Byzantine Legacy* and Ivan Moody's *Sub tuum praesidium* on its own label. It has also given two performances of *Passion Week* by Maximilian Steinberg — a recently re-discovered gem from post-revolutionary Russia which has been taken up by choirs on both coasts of the US, but so far the ECC is the only European choir to programme it.

Before lockdown the Choir performed Tallis' 40-part motet *Spem in alium* twice, and also promoted a concert to celebrate the 75th birthday of the trumpeter Crispian Steele-Perkins, who has appeared with the Choir many times over the years, featuring Bach's *Magnificat*.

The Choir was founded in March 1972 and has just completed a 50th anniversary programme of concerts and events. This included two concerts at Cadogan Hall, one last October featuring two favourite Baroque masterpieces, Handel's *Dixit Dominus* and Bach's *Magnificat*. The Choir was accompanied by its own orchestra, the English Players, performing on period instruments. The second featured Rachmaninov's *Vespers*, together with a new commission *Evangelismos* by Ivan Moody and music by the Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych.

## GUY PROTHEROE

Guy Protheroe was born in Worcester where (before he arrived) his parents were briefly next-door neighbours of Elgar! He began his musical education as a chorister at Canterbury Cathedral and was a music scholar at Magdalen College, Oxford. After post-graduate studies at the Guildhall School of Music, he formed his own contemporary music group, Spectrum, with whom he toured Europe and the USA and made a number of award-winning recordings, became chorus-master and shortly afterwards conductor of the English Chamber Choir, and worked extensively in the commercial music business as musical director to a whole host of artists including The Who, Black Sabbath, Tangerine Dream, Vangelis, Eric Levi and Rick Wakeman. He was chorus-master for the first performance of Wakeman's *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* in 1974, and conducted the 40th anniversary UK tour of the same album, with more performances in Argentina and Brazil. He directed the final UK performances of this iconic album at the Royal Festival Hall in July 2019.

When not conducting he also sings baritone, and was for many years a member of the Chapel Choir of the Royal Hospital Chelsea. He has also featured on a number of film soundtracks as 'the monk singing plainsong (but without the tonsure)'. He has appeared as guest conductor with many ensembles, orchestras and choirs including, most recently, Cappella Romana, the elite chamber choir specialising in Orthodox music and based on the West coast of the US in Portland. He has also conducted in Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia and Ukraine.

Guy Protheroe first became associated with music from the Orthodox tradition when working as a student for the English Bach Festival Trust, which was headed by the redoubtable Greek impresario Lina Lalandi, where he first came into contact with the Greek Byzantine Choir from Athens. He went on to direct a series of festivals in London over the years, featuring Greek and, later more specifically, Byzantine music and culture. In 2018 he conducted the ECC at the Sacred Music Festival in Patmos, Greece.

He is one of the UK's leading forensic experts on issues relating to music copyright.

## MAX BILBE

Max Bilbe is a pianist with huge enthusiasm for opera and collaboration with singers.

Currently a répétiteur at the National Opera Studio, he graduated from the Royal Academy of Music in July 2022 with a distinction as a Master of Arts in Piano Accompaniment and a DipRAM for an outstanding final recital. He was supported by the Graham Roberts Scholarship whilst there and has been studying with Michael Dussek and Joseph Middleton.

Prior to this, Max attended Chetham's School of Music, studying piano with Simon Bottomley, and then studied for an academic degree in music at the University of Manchester, graduating with a first-class Honours degree and with several prizes in performance and academia.

Since attending the Academy as a postgraduate student in September 2020, Max's highlights include becoming a Leeds Lieder Young Artist for their programme in July 2021, winning the accompanist's prize in the Emmy Destinn competition in December 2021, and appearing in a masterclass hosted by Dame Sarah Connolly at the Academy in January 2022. Whilst at the Academy, Max enjoyed being involved with the Royal Academy Opera alongside his postgraduate studies, having been involved as a répétiteur in their productions of *L'heure espagnole* by Ravel and *WITCH* by Freya Waley-Cohen. He was a staff répétiteur at British Youth Opera's production of *Sir John in Love* by Vaughan Williams in Summer 2022 and from September 2023 will become a member of the prestigious Hannover Staatsoper in Germany.