

JOHN TAVERNER

Dum transisset Sabbatum Maria Magdalene et Maria Jacobi
et Salome emerunt aromata, ut venientes ungerunt Iesum,
Alleluia.

Et valde mane una Sabbatorum veniunt ad momentum,
orto iam sole, ut venientes ungerunt Iesum. Alleluia

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritu Sancto. Alleluia.

THOMAS TALLIS

O nata lux de lumine,
Jesu redemptor saeculi,
Dignare clemens supplicum
Laudes precesque sumere.
Qui carne quondam contegi,
Dignatus es pro perditis,
Nos membra confer effici,
Tui beati corporis.

JAMES MACMILLAN

O Radiant Dawn,
Spendour of eternal Light,
Sun of Justice:
Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death.
Isaiah had prophesied,
'The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom
a light has shone.' Amen.

Antiphon for 21 December

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

Jesu that dost in Mary dwell,
Be in thy servants' hearts as well,
In the spirit of thy holiness,
In the fullness of thy force and stress,
In the very way that thy life goes,
And virtues that thy pattern shows in thy mysteries.
And every power in us that is,
Against thy power put under feet
In the Holy Ghost the Paraclete
To the glory of the Father, Amen

Gerard Manley Hopkins

CHARLES STANFORD

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

Psalm 119, v.1

EDWARD ELGAR

Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty,
give unto the Lord, glory and strength.
Give unto the the Lord, the glory due unto his name:
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:
the God of glory thundereth, it is the Lord that ruleth the
sea; the voice of the Lord is mighty in operation; the voice
of the Lord is full of majesty; the voice of the Lord
breaketh the cedars of Lebanon.
Yea, the voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire,
shaketh the wilderness, strippeth the forests bare.
In his temple doth everyone speak of his glory.
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
The Lord sitteth above the water-flood;
and the Lord remaineth a King for ever; the Lord shall
give strength unto his people
The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Psalm 29

*When the Sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, and Mary mother
of James and Salome brought spices with which to go and anoint
Jesu. Alleluia.*

*And very early in the morning on the first day of the week they
went to the tomb, just as the sun was rising, to go and anoint
Jesus. Alleluia.*

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
Alleluia.*

*O Light born of Light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
with loving-kindness deign to receive
suppliant praise and prayer.
Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
for the sake of the lost,
grant us to be members
of thy blessed body.*

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

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.

IVAN MOODY

Pod' tvoé blagoutrobie, pribegaem
Bogoroditse, moleniya nasha ne prezri vo obstoyaniy,
no ot bed' isbaviny edina Chistaya,
i Blagoslovennaya.

*Beneath thy compassion, we take refuge, O Theotokos
disdain not our supplications in our necessity,
but deliver us from perils
O only pure and blessed one.*

SERGEI RACHMANINOV

Bogoroditse dievo, raduisia. Blagodat na jay, Mariye.
Gospod, stoboyu. Blagoslovyenya tystsye Dievo raduisia
yako spasa rodila. yesi dush nashikh.

*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.*

PIOTR TCHAIKOVSKY

Izhe kheruvimi tayno obrazu yushche,
izhivotvoryashchey Troytsye,
trisvyatuyu pyesn' pripyevayushche.
Vsyakoye ninye, zhityeskoye otloschim' popyecheniye.
Amin'. Yako da Tsarya vsyekh podimym'.
Angelskimi nyevidimo dorinosimachinmi. Alliluia.

*Let us represent the Cherubim in mystic harmony,
praise the Father, Son and Spirit,
raise our threefold song, praise the Trinity.
Let us now cast aside all this earthly life.
Amen. That we may received God the King of all,
He who in glory enters in with mighty hosts of angels. Alleluia.*

Khvalitye, Gospoda snyebyes'
Yego vyishnikh. Alliluia.

*O praise the Lord, praise him in Heav'n above.
O praise him in the highest. Alleluia*

GIOACHINO ROSSINI

O salutaris Hostia, Quae caeli pandis ostium,
Bella premunt hostilia. Da robur fer auxilium.

*Lord, who for us was sacrificed, Thou opened heaven's portals wide
Guard us from our foes, Give us thy strength and thy help.*

GIUSEPPE VERDI

O Padre nostro che nei cieli stai,
Santificato sia sempre il tuo nome.
E laude e grazia di ciò che ci fai.
Avenga il regno tuo, siccome pone.
Questa orazion: tua volontà si faccia,
Siccome in cielo, in terra in unione.
Padre, dà oggi a noi pane, e ti piaccia
Che ne perdoni li peccati nostri;
Né cosa noi facciam che ti dispiaccia.
E che noi perdoniam, tu ti dimostri
Esempio a noi per la tua gran virtute;
Acciò dal rio nemico ognun si schiostri.
Divino Padre, pien d'ogni salute,
Ancor ci guarda dalla tentazione
Dell'infernal nemico e sue ferrute.
si che a te facciamo orazione,
Che meritiam tua grazia, e il regno vostro
A posseder vegniam con divozione.
Pregiam ti re di gloria e signor nostro,
Che tu ci guardi da dolore: e fitto
La mente abbiamo in te, col volto prostro.
Amen.

*Our father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name always.
And praise and thanks be for everything that thou doest.
Thy kingdom come, as this prayer entreats:
Thy will be done,
On earth, as it is in heaven.
Father, give us this day our daily bread,
and may it please thee to forgive us our sins
and let us not do anything that displeases thee.
And in order that we may forgive, thou makest thyself
an example to us through thy great goodness;
so that we can all escape from the cruel enemy.
Heavenly Father, fount of all salvation,
keep us always from temptation,
from the satanic enemy and his onslaughts.
As we pray to thee
that we may serve thy grace
and that we may devoutly enter into thy kingdom,
we beg thee, King of Glory and our Lord,
to preserve us from sorrow: and we have
our minds fixed on thee, with head lowered.
Amen.*

Va, pensiero, sull'ali dorate;
Va, ti posa sui clivi, sui colli,
ove olezzano tepide e molli
l'aure dolci del suolo natal!
Del Giordano le rive saluta
di Sionne le torri atterrate...
Oh mia Patria si bella e perduta!
O membranza si cara e fatal!
Arpa d'or dei fatadici vati,
perché muta dal salice pendi?
Le memorie nel petto raccendi,
ci favella del tempo che fu!
O simile di Solima ai fati,
traggi un suono di crudo lamento;
o t'ispiri il Signore un concerto
che ne infonda al patire virtù!

PIETRO MASCAGNI

Regina coeli, laetare (Alleluia),
quia, quem meruisti portare resurrexit sicut dixit.

Innegiamo, il Signor non e morto,
ei ful gente ha dischiuso l'avel,
innegiamo al Signore risorto
oggi asceso alla gloria del ciel!
Innegiano al Signor, Alleluia

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 is now locating 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 appears regularly with the Belmont Ensemble at St Martin-in-the-Fields, at the South Bank, St John's Smith Square and several other churches and prominent music venues. It has also sung 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. 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 first two *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 October for five performances of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.

Further afield the Choir has toured in Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Greece and Switzerland and in August it will be singing three concerts in Tuscany.

Go, thoughts, on golden wings;
Go, settle upon the slopes and hills,
where warm and soft and fragrant are
the breezes of our sweet native land!
Greet the banks of the Jordan,
the towers of Zion ...
Oh my country so beautiful and lost!
Or so dear yet unhappy!
Or harp of the prophetic seers,
why do you hang silent from the willows?
Rekindle the memories within our hearts,
tell us about the time that have gone by
Or similar to the fate of Solomon,
give a sound of lament;
or let the Lord inspire a concert
That may give to endure our suffering.

Hail, Queen of Heaven, all glorious! (Alleluia)

Thy son is risen victorious. Whom the Lord chose thee as worthy to bear.

O sing praise to the Lord who is risen

Death's dominion and pow'r to deny:

he has broken the bonds of his prison

He is risen to glory on high.

O sing praise to the Lord, Alleluia.

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 recently embarked on a 50th anniversary programme of concerts and events which has been planned post-lockdown. Our next concert will be at Cadogan Hall on Monday 24 October and will feature two favourite Baroque masterpieces, Handel's *Dixit Dominus* and Bach's *Magnificat*. The Choir will be accompanied by its own orchestra, the English Players, performing on period instruments. Further events are still awaiting confirmation so please see our website for further information.

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.

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

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.

REBECCA TAYLOR

Rebecca read music as Organ Scholar at Lincoln College, Oxford, studying with David Sanger. As both an organist and choral conductor she has broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 & 4, made CD recordings and performed in the UK and abroad in venues such as Westminster Abbey, St. George's Chapel Windsor, York Minster, Christ Church Dublin and St Mark's Venice. Since graduating from the Royal Academy of Music on the MA Piano Accompaniment course under Michael Dussek and Carole Presland, Rebecca Taylor has been increasingly in demand both as an accompanist and repetiteur. Whilst at the Academy, Rebecca was a prizewinner in the Rex Stephens Lieder Prize, a finalist in the Richard Lewis Song Competition and was highly commended in both the Major van Someron-Godfrey English Song Prize and the Scott Huxley Piano Accompaniment Competition. Rebecca was awarded a distinction in her LRAM diploma and was a member of the prestigious Academy Song Circle.

After graduating, Rebecca continued her training as a Junior Fellow Trainee Repetiteur and was also successful in gaining a place on the Solti Peretti Repetiteurs' Masterclass Course in 2014. As an accompanist, Rebecca's reputation is growing following her success in winning the Maureen Lehane Accompanist Prize at Wigmore Hall. In June 2015 Rebecca accompanied the Welsh candidate in the Song Prize Competition of BBC Cardiff Singer of the World which was broadcast live on BBC Radio 3, and she also performed a song recital at the Three Choirs Festival. She was a concerto soloist with the Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra and also performed at venues including the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and St Mark's Basilica in Venice.

Rebecca is Director of Music at St. Philip's Earls Court Road, Kensington, where she is founder and artistic director for the SPECR Recital Series. She is accompanist of the Leeds Festival Chorus, and assistant conductor and pianist with Twickenham Choral Society. She is also Associate Conductor of the English Chamber Choir.

