



## Choral Contemplations

A series of short concerts which forms part of the Chapel Choir's regular Tuesday schedule throughout semesters one and two. For more information on forthcoming services and concerts, please see [www.chapelchoir.org](http://www.chapelchoir.org).

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### Choral Contemplations IV – Female Composers

**Tuesday 12 November 2019, 6pm**

This evening we present a programme of music by female composers – including two Hungarian contemporary composers, anticipating our performance with Choral Society a week on Saturday, 23 November – tickets available now!

We begin with a setting of *Pie Jesu* by Judit Varga. Pianist, composer and lecturer, Judit Varga was born in Győr in northwest Hungary, and graduated from the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in Budapest. She has written music for over 30 theatre performances and films, and in 2014 won the prize for Best Soundtrack for *Deine Schönheit ist nichts Wert*, awarded by the Austrian Academy of Films.

Amy Beach (née Cheney) is 'one of the few women composers to have found a place in mainstream histories of music ... But unlike most of her contemporaries she did not study in Europe and was almost entirely self-taught as a composer' (Sophie Fuller, *The Pandora Guide to Women Composers*, 1994). Beach was well-respected as a pianist but in 1885, following her marriage to the successful physician Dr Henry Harris Aubrey Beach, she stopped performing in public except for occasional appearances at charity concerts. She did continue to compose, always under her married name (Mrs H H A Beach), encouraged by her husband who was a keen amateur musician. Beach's *Three Choral Responses* (op. 8) were published in 1891. They include an unaccompanied *Nunc Dimittis* but no *Magnificat*. The *Magnificat* we sing this evening is based on material from the first of the *Three Responses*, a short introit called *Peace I leave with you*. It was first performed at the Endellion Festival in Cornwall in April 2019. *O Praise the Lord all ye nations* is a setting of Psalm 117, and was written for the consecration service of Phillips Brooks, Bishop of Massachusetts in 1891. Phillips Brooks is particularly remembered as the author of the popular carol *O little town of Bethlehem*.

*Like a lost god* sets a text by the poet Rosie Miles, and was made for our first service for survivors of gender-based violence, and their supporters (in November 2018). It was subsequently included in a live Radio 4 broadcast from the Chapel in the same month. Rosie Miles started writing poetry after spending a week on Iona, and her earliest poems were published by Wild Goose, the publishing arm of the Iona Community.

Kevin plays three short movements from *Heures dominicales* (op. 3, no. 2), by Édith Beaulieu (b. 1961). Beulieu was born in Quebec City and studied at the Quebec Conservatory of Music. She has a master's degree in organ performance from McGill University.

We sing two evening songs by Fanny Hensel (née Mendelssohn), a prolific composer in her own right. The first, *Nacht liegt auf den fremden Wegen*, is a setting of a text by Heinrich Heine. According to correspondence with her brother, Hensel made a setting of this text for inclusion in an album Felix Mendelssohn was creating in 1936. *Schweigend sinkt die Nacht* was written in 1846 and sets a text by Fanny's husband.

We end our short performance this evening with two works by Ilona Dobszay-Meskó, our second Hungarian composer. Dobszay-Mesko is also a graduate of the Liszt Ferenc Academy and has won a number of prestigious prizes for composing. She has conducted many renowned orchestras, and has been commissioned numerous times to write both instrumental and choral pieces. She currently teaches composition and leads the symphony orchestra at the Béla Bartók Secondary School for Music in Budapest.

## Pie Jesu

Judit Varga (b.1979)

Pie Jesu Domine,  
Dona eis requiem.

Pie Jesu Domine,  
Dona eis requiem sempiternam.

Pious Lord Jesus,  
Give them rest.

Pious Lord Jesus,  
Give them everlasting rest.

## Magnificat

Amy Beach (1867–1944), arr. Katy Lavinia Cooper and Ned Tipton  
Adapted from *Peace, I leave with you* and *Nunc Dimittis* from *Three Choral Responses (op.8)*

## O praise the Lord, all ye nations (op. 8)

Amy Beach

## Like a Lost God

Katy Lavinia Cooper (b.1979)  
Text by Rosie Miles

## Three movements from *Heures Dominicales* (op. 3, no. 2)

Édith Beaulieu (b. 1961)

(Played by Kevin Bowyer)

- i) Élégie
- ii) Scherzetto sur *O Filii et filiae*
- iii) Toccata-Improvisation sur Le psaulme *Le Seigneur est tendresse et pitié*

## Nacht liegt auf den fremden Wegen

Fanny Hensel (1805–1847)

*Nacht liegt auf den fremden Wegen,  
Krankes Herz und müde Glieder, -  
Ach, da fließt, wie stiller Segen,  
Süßer Mond, dein Licht hernieder;*

Night lies over unknown pathways,  
Sick heart and tired limbs, -  
Then, sweet moon, like a silent blessing,  
Your radiance streams down;

*Süßer Mond, mit deinen Strahlen  
Scheuchest du das nächtge Grauen;  
Es zerrinnen meine Qualen,  
Und die Augen übertauen.*

Heinrich Heine (1797 - 1856)

With your beams, sweet moon,  
You dispel nocturnal terrors;  
All my torments melt away  
And my eyes brim over.

Richard Stokes, *The Book of Lieder* (2005)

## Schweigend sinkt die Nacht

*Schweigend singt die Nacht hernieder,  
Still verglimmt des Abends Pracht,  
Leis verklingen unsre Lieder,  
Leiser klingt die Welle wieder,  
Unsre Fahrt, sie ist vollbracht,  
Leise, leise, gute Nacht.*

Wilhelm Hensel (1794-1861)

Silently, the night descends on  
earth,  
Evening's splendour quietly dies  
down, Softly our songs are fading,  
Softer resounds the wave,  
Our journey is over,  
Softly, softly, good night

Ulrich Schoenherr, Fanny Hensel,  
*A Cappella Choral Works, Vol. 2* (2014)

## Motto No. 1

Ilona Dobszay-Meskó (b. 1981)

*Ad humeros meos crux annitur et  
spes mea est lumen gloriae*

On my shoulder is the weight of  
the cross and the light of its glory  
is my hope

## Alleluja

Ilona Dobszay-Meskó

*You are warmly invited to join us for tea and coffee following the concert.*

## CHORAL SOCIETY AND CHAPEL CHOIR

# KODALY MISSA BREVIS

**Saturday 23 November, 7.30pm**

Including music by György Ligeti, Ilona Dobszay-Meskó, Judit Varga, Ethel Smyth and Fanny Hensel.

**Tickets: <https://guchoralsociety-23nov19.eventbrite.co.uk>**