



## 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 V – Songs of Peace

This evening we explore choral music on the theme of peace. Our programme begins with two pieces of reformed church music. *Ruht wohl, ihr heiligen Gebeine* is the final chorus from Bach's *St John Passion*, first performed in Leipzig in 1724. Chapel Choir were fortunate to be involved in the Dunedin Consort's 2012 recording of this passion, which set the music in its liturgical context (Linn Records, CKD 419). A contrast is found in Robert Johnson's declamatory setting of the *Nunc Dimittis*, which is preserved along with other examples of liturgical music in English in a manuscript now held at Pembroke College, Cambridge. Robert Johnson (c. 1500–1560) is believed to have been a Scottish priest from the Borders who fled to England after being accused of heresy. A new complete edition of Robert Johnson's extant work has been edited by Dr Elaine Moohan, and is soon to be published by Musica Scotica. Chapel Choir will be performing Johnson's evening canticles at choral evensong on Tuesday 4 December. For more information see [www.musicascotica.org.uk](http://www.musicascotica.org.uk).

*Like a lost God* is a new setting of a text by Rosie Miles, and was made for our recent service for survivors of gender-based violence and their supporters. 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. Tune in to BBC Radio 4 FM on Sunday morning at 8.10am when the Memorial Chapel is hosting *Sunday Worship*, which this week reflects 'Side by Side', a global faith movement working towards gender justice. Stuart Overington is a choral conductor and composer based in Manchester, where he works with the Hallé Youth Choirs, and the chamber choirs at the RNCM and Chetham's School of Music (among others). *Peace in my soul* is a gospel-inspired setting from a forthcoming publication by Sing for Pleasure.

Two American pieces follow. *Peace I leave with you* is a little-known setting by American composer Amy Beach (1867–1944). Beach was the first successful female composer of large-scale art work in America. Her Gaelic Symphony (Symphony in E Minor) was the first symphony composed and published by an American woman. *Peace* by Kevin Siegfried is the first in a set of short pieces based on Shaker songs. The 'Shakers', or the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, originated in Manchester (England) in the mid-eighteenth century. They were quite distinct from the Quaker community they branched off from, developing a spirited style of worship incorporating dance, song and spontaneous speaking and singing in tongues.

We close our programme this evening with two Christmas pieces. The first is by Sheena Phillips, and is a lullaby-like setting of a text by G.K. Chesterton. Sheena Phillips was born in London, but lived and worked in Edinburgh for several years, before spending 15 years in the US. She has recently returned to London and is active as a choral conductor and composer. Peter Philips (1561–1628) was an accomplished English composer, noted keyboard virtuoso, and recusant Catholic. In 1582, Philips left England apparently because of his faith and never returned. This anthem was published in Antwerp in 1612 and as seems to have been commonly practices in Christmas motets of this period, swaps the closing *Alleluia* for the acclamation *Noë*.

May we take this opportunity to thank you for supporting Choral Contemplations this semester. We look forward to seeing you at our Christmas events, and at Choral Contemplations next Semester. Details of all forthcoming dates may be found at the end of this programme.

### **Ruht wohl, ihr heiligen Gebeine**

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

*Ruht wohl, ihr heiligen Gebeine,  
Die ich nun weiter nicht beweine,  
Ruht wohl und bringt auch mich zur Ruh!  
Das Grab, so euch bestimmt ist  
Und ferner keine Not umschließt,  
Macht mir den Himmel auf und schließt die Hölle zu.*

Rest well, you blessed limbs,  
now I will no longer mourn you,  
rest well and bring me also to peace!  
The grave that is allotted to you  
and encloses no further suffering,  
opens heaven for me and closes off Hell.

### **Nunc Dimittis**

Robert Johnson (c. 1500–1560)

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be. World without end, Amen.

### **Two Epitaphs for Edith Sitwell**

Malcolm Williamson (1931–2003)

*Played by Kevin Bowyer*

### **Like a Lost God**

Katy Lavinia Cooper

1. Take from my instep  
The skein of damage  
That has threaded its way through my life  
Like a tightening cord.

2. Take from my body  
The wounds of unloving  
That puncture and bruise  
Like a scarring sword.

3. Take from my mind  
The dark engulfing  
That has judged my life  
Like a damning word.

4. Take from my soul  
The unbelieving  
That has made you seem  
Like a lost God.

(Rosie Miles)

### **Peace in my Soul**

Stuart Overington

*Peace, peace, peace where I go.  
Give me peace, peace, peace in my soul.*

1. When I find myself on a darkened road,  
give me peace where I go.  
When I look around and find that I'm on my own,  
give me peace in my soul

2. When the world seems filled with an angry roar,  
give me peace where I go,  
When people are divided and wanting war,  
give me peace in my soul.

## **Peace I leave with you**

Amy Beach (1867–1944)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)

## **Peace**

Text and tune from the Shaker Song 'Peace to Zion', Enfield, New Hampshire, c. 1851

Arranged by Kevin Siegfried (b. 1969)

Peace unto Zion.

Peace, peace to the faithful,

And a crown of rejoicing

And a crown of rejoicing

From your Heavenly Father.

When Zion shall be cleansed

She shall flourish as a rose

I will walk in her midst

And will bless all those with a tenfold blessing

And their sorrows shall cease

For I'll cry upon her walls

Peace, sweet peace.

## **Prayer in B flat**

Charles-Valentin Alkan (1813–1888)

*Played by Kevin Bowyer*

## **A Christmas Carol**

Sheena Phillips (b. 1958)

1. The Christ-child lay on Mary's lap,  
His hair was like a light.  
(O weary, weary were the world,  
But here is all aright.)

2. The Christ-child lay on Mary's breast,  
His hair was like a star.  
(O stern and cunning are the kings,  
But here the true hearts are.)

3. The Christ-child lay on Mary's heart,  
His hair was like a fire.  
(O weary, weary is the world,  
But here the world's desire.)

4. The Christ-child stood at Mary's knee,  
His hair was like a crown.  
And all the flowers looked up at Him,  
And all the stars looked down.

## **O Beatum et Sacrosanctum Diem**

Peter Phillips (1561–1628)

*O beatum et sacrosanctum diem, in qua  
Dominus noster de Virgine Maria pro nobis  
nasci dignatus est.*

*Gaudeat itaque universus orbis, et cantemus  
illi, in sono tubæ, cithara, psalterio et organo.*

O blessed and most holy day, on which our Lord was born of  
the Virgin Mary for our sake.

Let the whole world therefore rejoice, and let us sing to him  
to the sound of the trumpet, strings, the harp and the organ.

*Congratulemur cum multitudine angelorum  
exercitus, semper suas laudes cantantibus.  
Noë.*

Let us rejoice with the numerous hosts of angels,  
ceaselessly singing his praise. Noel/Alleluia

## **Forthcoming services and events**

Sunday 25 November, R4 FM, 8.10am

### **Sunday Worship**

Tuesday 4 December, University Memorial Chapel, 6pm

### **Choral Evensong**

Thursday 6 December, St Columba's Pont Street, London

### **Christmas Concert for Alumni**

Saturday 8 December, Crichton Memorial Church, Dumfries Campus, 7.30pm

### **Annual Christmas Concert**

Sunday 9 December, University Memorial Chapel, 6pm

### **Nine Lessons and Carols**

Tuesday 11 December, University Memorial Chapel, 6pm

### **Family Carols**

## **Choral Contemplations Dates, 2019**

Tuesday 15 January

### **Choral Contemplations VI**

Tuesday 5 February

### **Choral Contemplations VII**

Tuesday 19 February

### **Choral Contemplations VIII**

Tuesday 26 February

### **Choral Contemplations IX**

Tuesday 12 March

### **Choral Contemplations X**

Tuesday 19 March

### **Choral Contemplations XI**