

The
ELYSIANS@30

Patron: Sir James MacMillan

Director: Sam Laughton

Piano: Iain McLarty



From Lassus to MacMillan

**Kelvinside Hillhead Church
Saltoun Street, Glasgow, G12 9AR**

7.30pm, Saturday 18 June 2016

The Elysian Singers have been singing for 30 years, and are celebrating with a whole year of song! Through ten concerts we are showcasing the enormous variety of styles, periods and genres that we love to perform: and to link the whole programme together, have undertaken to include at least one setting from each of the 150 Psalms. After all, the Psalms are the single most comprehensive source of sung poetry in existence, and one which has been drawn on by almost every composer of the last 500 years. From Russia to America, and from Estonia to Italy; in languages from Hebrew to Hungarian and from Finnish to French; by composers from Byrd to Bernstein, and from Monteverdi to MacMillan; and from unaccompanied miniatures to symphonic masterworks: here is music to uplift, challenge, inspire and celebrate!

The music in tonight's concert falls broadly into two kinds. On the one hand, we present music by composers from throughout the British Isles, headed by the choir's new patron Sir James MacMillan. On the other, we celebrate 400 years of European sacred music from the early mastery of Lassus, Gesualdo and Gabrieli to the utterly individual Francis Poulenc.

O Radiant Dawn

James MacMillan (b. 1959)

Antiphon for 21 December

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour 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.

Domine Deus meus

Andrea Gabrieli (c. 1532-1585)

Psalm 7 vv. 1-5

Domine Deus meus, in te speravi; salvum me
fac ex omnibus persequentibus me,
et libera me.
Nequando rapiat ut leo animam meam, dum
non est qui redimat, neque qui salvum faciat.
Domine Deus meus, si feci istud, si est iniquitas
in manibus meis.
Si reddidi retribuentibus mihi mala,
decidam merito ab inimicis meis inanis.

*O Lord my God, in thee have I put my trust: save me
from all them that persecute me, and deliver me;
Lest he devour my soul, like a lion, and tear it in pieces:
while there is none to help.
O Lord my God, if I have done any such thing: or if there
be any wickedness in my hands;
If I have rewarded evil unto him that dealt friendly with
me: yea, I have delivered him that without any cause is
mine enemy.*

Confitemini Domino

Orlande de Lassus (c. 1530-94)

Psalm 105 vv. 1-3

Confitemini Domino et invocate nomen eius,
annuntiate inter gentes opera eius, cantate ei
et psallite ei.
Narrate omnia mirabilia eius, laudamini in
nomine sancto eius, laetetur cor quaerentium
Dominum.

*O give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name, make
known his deeds among the people, sing unto him, sing
psalms unto him.
Talk ye of all his wondrous works, glory ye in his holy
name, let the heart of them rejoice that seek the
Lord.*

Beati quorum via
CV Stanford (1852-1924)
Psalm 119 v. 1

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.*

Llanhawadan

Tune anonymous, harmonised by Vincent Novello (1781-1861)
Metrical translation of Psalm 142 vv. 1-2 by Edmund (Edmwnd) Prys (c. 1544 – 1624)

Rhois weddi er yr Arglwydd nef;
Yn llymfy lief ym biliais
A'm holl fyfyrdod ger ei fron,
O'm calon y tywyllais.

*I cried unto the Lord
with my voice;
with my voice unto the Lord
did I make my supplication.*

Ond pan fynegais it fy nghur,
A'm dolur o'm meddyliau;
Da gwyddit ti bob ffordd a'r man,
Y rhoisan'i mi faglau.

*I poured out my complaint
before him;
I shewed before him
my trouble.*

A Dieu ma voix j'ay haussée
Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)
Psalm 77, vv. 1-2

A Dieu ma voix j'ay haussée,
Et ma clameur adressée.
A Dieu ma voix a monté,
Et mon Dieu m'a escouté.

*I will cry unto God with my voice:
even unto God
will I cry with my voice,
and he shall hearken unto me.*

Au jour de ma grand' destresse,
Dieu a esté mon adresse,
Et du soir au lendemain
Je luy ay tendu la main.

*In the time of my trouble
I sought the Lord:
my sore ran and ceased not
in the night-season.*

Discedite a me
Gesualdo di Venosa (c.1566-1613)
Psalm 6 v. 8

Discedite a me omnes qui operamini
iniquitatem, quoniam exaudivit Dominus
vocem fletus mei.

*Depart from me, all ye workers of
iniquity, for the Lord hath heard
the voice of my weeping.*

Exaudi Deus

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Psalm 61 vv. 1-4

Exaudi Deus deprecationem meam intende
orationi meae.
A finibus terrae ad te clamavi dum anxiaretur
cor meum: in petram excelsam deduc me.
Quia factus es spes mea, turris fortitudinis
contra inimicos.
Inhabitabo in tabernaculo tuo in secula:
sperabo in velamento alarum tuarum. Sela.

Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer.
From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my
heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is
higher than I.
For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower
from the enemy.
I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the
covert of thy wings. Sela.

Exultate Deo

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

Psalm 81 vv. 1-3

Exultate Deo, adjutori nostro,
Jubilate Deo Jacob.
Sumite psalmum, et date tympanum
Psalterium jucundum cum cythara
Buccinate in neomenia tuba
Insigni die solemnitatis vestrae.

Sing aloud unto God our strength:
Make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob.
Take a psalm, and bring hither the timbrel,
The pleasant harp with the psaltery.
Blow up the trumpet in the new moon,
In the time appointed, on your solemn feast day.

***** INTERVAL *****

Haec dies

William Byrd (c.1539-1623)

Psalm 118 v.24

Haec dies quam fecit Dominus:
exultemus et laetemur in ea.
Alleluia.

*This is the day the Lord has made:
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Alleluia.*

Beatus qui intelligit

Orlande de Lassus (c. 1530-94)

Psalm 41 vv. 1-4

Beatus qui intellegit super egenum et
pauperem: in die mala liberabit eum Dominus.
Dominus conservet eum et vivificet eum et
beatum faciat eum in terra: et non tradat eum
in animam inimicorum eius.
Dominus opem ferat illi super lectum doloris
eius: universum stratum eius versasti in
infirmirate eius.
Ego dixi, Domine miserere mei: sana animam
meam quia peccavi tibi.

*Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will
deliver him in time of trouble.
The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he
shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver
him unto the will of his enemies.
The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of
languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in
his sickness.
I said, Lord, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have
sinned against thee.*

Attendite popule

Ascanio Trombetti (1544-1590)

Psalm 78 vv. 1-4

Attendite popule meus legem meam: inclinate
aurem vestram in verba oris mei.

Aperiam in parabolis os meu: loquar
propositiones ab initio. Quanta audivimus et
cognovimus ea et patres nostri narraverunt
nobis.

Non sunt occultata a filiis eorum in
generatione altera narrantes laudes Domini et
virtutes eius et mirabilia eius quae fecit.

*Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the
words of my mouth.*

*I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter
dark sayings of old, which we have heard and
known, and our fathers have told
us.*

*We will not hide them from their children, showing to the
generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his
strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.*

Faire is the heaven

William H. Harris (1883-1973)

Words from 'An Hymne of Heavenly Beautie' by Edmund Spenser

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 fierie light ;
Yet fairer then they both, and much more bright,
Be th' Angels and Archangels, which attend
On Gods owne person, without rest or end.

These then in faire each other farre excelling,
As to the Highest they approach more neare,
Yet is that Highest farre beyond all telling,
Fairer then all the rest which there appeare,
Though all their beauties joynd together were:
How then can mortall tongue hope to expresse
The image of such endlesse perfectnesse?

Du malin le meschant

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)

Psalm 36

Du malin le meschant vouloir
Parle en mon cœur, et me fait voir,
Qu'il n'a de Dieu la crainte:
Car tant se plaist en son erreur,
Que l'avoir en haine et horreur
C'est bien force et contrainte.
Son parler est nuisant et fin:
Doctrin va fuyant, à fin
De jamais bien ne faire:
Songe en son lict meschanceté,

*My heart sheweth me the
wickedness of the ungodly:
that there is no fear of God before his eyes.
For he flattereth himself in his own sight:
until his abominable sin
be found out.
The words of his mouth are unrighteous,
and full of deceit: he hath left off
to behave himself wisely, and to do good.
He imagineth mischief upon his bed,*

Au chemin tors est arrêté,
A nul mal n'est contraire.

O Seigneur, ta benignité
Touche aux cieus, et ta verité
Dresse aux nues la teste:
Tes jugements semblent hauts monts,
Un abysme tes actes bons
Tu gardes homme et beste.
O que tes graces nobles sont
Aux hommes qui confiance ont
En l'ombre de tes aisles.
De tes biens soules leurs desirs,
Et au fleuve de tes plaisirs
Pour boire les appellees.

Car source de vie en toy gist,
Et ta clarté nous eslargist
Ce qu'avons de lumiere.
Continue, ô Dieu toutpuissant,
A tout cœur droit te congnoissant,
Ta bonté coustumiere.
Que le pied de l'homme inhumain
De moy n'approche et que sa main
Ne m'esbranle ne greve:
C'est fait les iniques cherront,
Et repoussés trebuscheront,
Sans qu'un d'eux se releve.

*and hath set himself in no good way:
neither doth he abhor any thing that is evil.*

*Thy mercy, O Lord,
reacheth unto the heavens: and thy faithfulness
unto the clouds.
Thy righteousness standeth like the strong mountains:
thy judgements are like the great deep.
Thou, Lord, shalt save both man and beast;
How excellent is thy mercy, O God:
and the children of men shall put their trust under the
shadow of thy wings.
They shall be satisfied with the plenteousness of thy
house: and thou shalt give them drink of thy pleasures, as
out of the river.*

*For with thee is the well of life:
and in thy light
shall we see light.
O continue forth thy loving-kindness unto them that
know thee: and thy righteousness unto them
that are true of heart.
O let not the foot of pride
come against me: and let not the hand
of the ungodly cast me down.
There are they fallen, all that work wickedness:
they are cast down,
and shall not be able to stand.*

Deus noster refugium

James MacMillan (b.1959)

Psalm 46

In finem, filiis Core, pro arcanis. Psalmus.

Deus noster refugium et virtus; adiutor in
tribulationibus quae invenerunt nos nimis.
Propterea non timebimus dum turbabitur
terra, et transferentur montes in cor
maris.
Sonaverunt et turbatae sunt aquae eorum;
conturbati sunt montes in fortitudine ejus.
Fluminis impetus laetificat civitatem Dei;
sanctificavit tabernaculum suum
Altissimus.
Deus in medio ejus, non commovebitur;
adjuvabit eam Deus mane diluculo.
Conturbatae sunt gentes, inclinata sunt regna:
dedit vocem suam, mota est terra.
Dominus virtutum nobiscum; susceptor noster
Deus Jacob.
Venite et videte opera Domini, quae posuit
prodigia super terram.
Auferens bella usque ad finem terrae.
Arcum conteret, et confringet arma, et scuta
conburet in igne.

*Unto the end, for the sons of Korah, for confidants. A
Psalm.*

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in
trouble.
Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed,
and though the mountains be carried into the midst of
the sea;
Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though
the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.
There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the
city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most
High.
God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God
shall help her, and that right early.
The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he
uttered his voice, the earth melted.
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our
refuge.
Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations he
hath made in the earth.
He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth;
he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he
burneth the chariot in the fire.*

Vacate, et videte quoniam ego sum Deus;
exaltabor in gentibus, exaltabor in terra.
Dominus virtutum nobiscum; susceptor noster
Deus Jacob.

*Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among
the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our
refuge.*

My soul, there is a country

C. Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918)

Words: 'Peace' by Henry Vaughan

My soul, there is a country
 Far beyond the stars,
Where stands a winged sentry
 All skillful in the wars,
There above noise, and danger
 Sweet peace sits crown'd with smiles,
And one born in a manger
 Commands the beauteous files,
He is thy gracious friend,
 And (O my soul awake!)
Did in pure love descend
 To die here for thy sake,
If thou canst get but thither,
 There grows the flower of peace,
The rose that cannot wither
 Thy fortress, and thy ease;
Leave then thy foolish ranges;
 For none can thee secure,
But one who never changes,
 Thy God, thy life, thy cure.

THE ELYSIAN SINGERS

Anne Taylor
Harriet Gritton
Jessica Buchanan-Barrow
Sally de Frates
Alice Ruffle
Lois Gallagher
Katie Parker
Judith Watts
Ruth Ilton
Jo Dew-Jones

Jessica Marais
Lucy Swanson
Rosie Edge
Heather Devine
Anne Webster
Nick Richmond-Smith
Richard Warren
Tony Zacaroli
Martin Hurst
John Hayward

Stephen Jones
Naveen Rajendran
Andy Chan
David Parker
Andrew Daws
Dan Rollison
Christopher Whitehouse
David Benedict
Jonathan Glasspool

A former organ scholar at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, where he read music, **Sam Laughton** now juggles dual careers as a barrister and musician. He is musical director of The Elysian Singers, with whom he has made frequent appearances on radio and television, and made a number of acclaimed commercial recordings. He is also the Director of the Craswall Players, the Chiltern Camerata, and the Trinity Camerata. He is in demand as a guest conductor, working with such orchestras as the Oxford Sinfonia, Kensington Chamber Orchestra, Kew Sinfonia, Orchestra of the City, Crendon Chamber Orchestra and Trinity Camerata. As a keyboard player he has also worked with the groups as varied as Oxford Philomusica, the Joyful Company of Singers, English National Opera and Garsington Opera.

The Elysian Singers of London is one of the UK's leading chamber choirs. Known for its adventurous programming, the choir performs in and around London and has recorded many widely acclaimed CDs. The Elysians pride themselves on combining high performance standards with a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Founded in 1986 by Matthew Greenall, the group quickly developed an interest in contemporary music, giving world premières by a number of composers including John Tavener who, from 2002 until his recent death, was the choir's Patron. Matthew was succeeded as music director by Sam Laughton in 2000. Recent world premières include a performance of Sir John Tavener's *Monument to Beethoven* at the Royal Festival Hall (2014), John Habron's *Salve Regina* (2008), and *Exile Lamentations* (2009) a commission by Paul Stanhope. The choir regularly performs Baroque, Romantic and 20th Century masterpieces at venues such as St. Martin-in-the-Fields and St. John's Smith Square, and participates in festivals across the country. In January 2012 the choir sang in the Royal Festival Hall foyer as part of the Southbank's *Festival of Death*. In 2004 the Elysians released a CD of music by James MacMillan, 'Cantos Sagrados', which received a 5-star rating from BBC Music Magazine. Reviewing 'Songs of the Isles', the choir's 2009 Bantock release, the same publication spoke of the Elysians' 'young, fresh-toned voices, brightly attentive to text'. TV and radio highlights include the first broadcast performances of Henryk Górecki's *Miserere* and *Three Lullabies* on Radio 3, appearances with Lesley Garrett, and the finals of the Sainsbury's Choir of the Year competition. The choir performed live on Radio 3's 'In Tune' in 2011, introducing the première of its latest commission, *Timepieces* by Ian Stephens, and their CD, 'The Spirit of Christmas Present', released on Meridian. The Elysian Singers' latest CD 'Timepieces' was released on Meridian in 2014 and presents works that the choir has commissioned or premiered. In 2015 the upper voices of the choir made their debut performance at the BBC Proms, providing the offstage chorus for Holst's *The Planets* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra. We are delighted that Sir James MacMillan has recently agreed to become the choir's patron.

Thanks to the choir's friends and benefactors, including Mr & Mrs P Mynors and Mrs C Cviic. The Elysian Singers are members of Making Music.



If you would like to join the Elysian Singers' mailing list, please write to
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www.elysiansingers.com