

The  
**ELYSIANS@30**

**Patron: Sir James MacMillan**

**Director: Sam Laughton**

**Organ: Ben Driver**



**Music for Holy Week**

**St Paul's, Covent Garden**

**7.30pm, Monday 21 March 2016**

For the second in our year-long PsalmFest series celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Elysian Singers, we juxtapose penitential psalm settings from all around Europe (Belgium, Denmark, England, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Lichtenstein) and spanning some 450 years. The concert is book-ended by two contrasting works inspired by one of the most famous psalm texts: 'By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept'. **Arvo Pärt** allows wordless music to express the deep anguish of Psalm 137, whereas **Heinrich Schütz** draws on his genius for expressing every inflection of the text.

The extraordinarily popular tradition of metrical psalm singing after the Reformation is represented by **Thomas Morley and John Dowland**. **Henry Purcell's** 'Hear my Prayer' and **Herbert Howells'** 'Like as the hart' are two miniature classics of the English choral tradition: but more rarely heard is **Benjamin Britten's** extract from his early 'The Company of Heaven' or **Kenneth Leighton's** characteristic setting of Psalm 84. There is a particular focus on Renaissance composers such as **Claudin de Sermisy, Orlande de Lassus, Martin Peerson, Richard Farrant, Orlando Gibbons** and **Giovanni Gabrieli**: but what is most striking is how individual their voices are. By contrast there is a clear stylistic thread linking the romantic works of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by **Felix Mendelssohn, Samuel Sebastian Wesley** and **Josef Rheinberger**.

Perhaps the most unusual piece in the programme is perhaps from the Vespers music published in 1650 by **Chiara Margarita Cozzolani**, of whom a contemporary reported: "the nuns of Santa Radegonda of Milan are gifted with such rare and exquisite talents in music that they are acknowledged to be the best singers of Italy. They wear the Cassinese habits of St. Benedict, but they seem to any listener to be white and melodious swans, who fill hearts with wonder, and spirit away tongues in their praise. Among these sisters, Donna Chiara Margarita Cozzolani merits the highest praise, Chiara in name but even more so in merit, and Margarita for her unusual and excellent nobility of invention..."

## **An den Wassern zu Babel saßen wir und weinten**

(By the Waters of Babylon we sat down and wept)

*Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)*

*Solos: Jessica Buchanan-Barrow, Ben Finn, David Benedict*

## **Psalm 14**

*Thomas Morley (1557-1602)*

Words from *The Whole Book of Psalms Collected into English Metre* (1562) by Thomas Sternhold and John Hopkins

There is no God, do foolish men  
affirm in their mad mood;  
Their drifts are all corrupt and vain,  
not one of them doth good.  
The Lord beheld from heav'n most high  
the whole race of mankind,  
And saw not one that sought indeed  
the living God to find.

They went all wide, and were corrupt,  
and truly there was none  
That in the world did any good,  
no, not so much as one.  
Is all their judgment so far lost,  
that all work mischief still,  
Eating my people e'en as bread,  
not one to seek God's will.

When they thus rage, then suddenly  
great fear on them shall fall;  
For God doth love the righteous men,  
and will preserve them all.  
Ye mock the doings of the poor,  
to their reproach and shame;  
Because they put their trust in God,  
and call upon his Name.

But who shall give thy people health  
and when wilt thou fulfil  
Thy promise made to Israel  
from out of Zion hill.  
For when thou shalt restore again  
such as were captive led,  
Then Jacob shall therein rejoice,  
and Israel be glad.

## **Hear my Prayer, O Lord**

*Henry Purcell (1659-95)*

Psalm 102: 1

Hear my prayer, O Lord,  
And let my crying come unto thee.

## **Perfice gressus meos**

*Orlande de Lassus (1532-94)*

from Psalm 17:5-7

Perfice gressus meos in semitis tuis, ut non  
moveantur vestigia mea.  
Inclina aurem tuam mihi et exaudi verba mea.  
Mirifica misericordias tuas, qui salvos facis  
sperantes in te, Domine.

*Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip  
not. Incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech.  
Show thy marvellous loving-kindness, O thou that savest  
by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee, O  
Lord.*

## **Laboravi in gemitu meo**

*Martin Peerson (1572-1651)*

Psalm 6:6

Laboravi in gemitu meo; lavabo per singulas  
noctes lectum meum; lacrimis meis. Stratum  
meum rigabo.

*I am weary with my groaning; all the night  
make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with  
my tears.*

## **Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks**

*Herbert Howells (1892-1983)*

Psalm 42:1-3

*Solo: Harriet Gritton*

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God.  
My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God. When shall I come to appear before the presence of  
God?  
My tears have been my meat day and night, while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?

## **Whose Dwelleth under the Defence of the Most High**

from *The Company of Heaven* (1937)

*Benjamin Britten (1913-76)*

from Psalm 91 (Myles Coverdale)

Whoso dwelleth under the defence of the most High: shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.  
For thou, Lord, art my hope: thou hast set thine house of defence very high.  
There shall no evil happen unto thee: neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.  
For he shall give his angels charge over thee: to keep thee in all thy ways.  
They shall bear thee in their hands: that thou hurt not thy foot against a stone.  
Thou shalt go upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou tread under thy feet.

## **Hide not Thou Thy face**

*Richard Farrant (c.1525-80)*

A paraphrase of Psalm 27:9

Hide not Thou Thy face from us, O Lord, and cast not off Thy servant in Thy displeasure, for we confess  
our sins unto Thee, and hide not our unrighteousness: for Thy mercy's sake, deliver us from all our sins.

## **Hear my Prayer**

*Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47)*

Text adapted by William Bartholomew from Psalm 55

*Solo: Anne Taylor*

Hear my prayer, O God, incline Thine ear!  
Thyself from my petition do not hide!  
Take heed to me! Hear how in prayer I mourn to Thee!  
Without Thee all is dark, I have no guide.

The enemy shouteth, the godless come fast!  
Iniquity, hatred, upon me they cast!  
The wicked oppress me, Ah where shall I fly?  
Perplex'd and bewilder'd, O God, hear my cry!

My heart is sorely pain'd within my breast,  
My soul with deathly terror is oppress'd,  
Trembling and fearfulness upon me fall,  
With horror overwhelm'd, Lord, hear me call!

O for the wings, for the wings of a dove!  
Far away, far away would I rove!  
In the wilderness build me a nest,  
and remain there for ever at rest.

**\*\*\* INTERVAL OF 20 MINUTES\*\*\***

**Domine ad adjuvandum me festina**

*Chiara Margarita Cozzolani (1602-78)*

Psalm 70:1

*Solo: Penny Chalmers*

Deus in adiutorium meum intende.  
Domine ad adjuvandum me festina.

*Make haste, O God, to deliver me;  
make haste to help me, O Lord.*

Gloria patri et filio et spiritui sancto.  
Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in  
saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*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.*

**Sing unto the Lord**

*Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)*

Psalm 30:4-10

*Solos: Laura Taylor, Heather Devine, David Parker, Dingeman Wolfert*

Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.  
For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh  
in the morning.  
And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved.  
Lord, by thy favour thou hast made my mountain to stand strong: thou didst hide thy face, and I was  
troubled.  
I cried to thee, O Lord; and unto the Lord I made supplication.  
What profit is there in my blood, when I go down to the pit? Shall the dust praise thee? shall it declare thy  
truth?  
Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me: Lord, be thou my helper.

**Dont vient cela**

*Claudin de Sermisy (1490-1562)*

Psalm 10:1-2

Dont vient cela, Seigneur, je vous supplie,  
Que loin de nous te tiens, les yeux couverts?  
Te caches tu, pour nous mectre en oublie  
Mesmes au temps, qui est dur, et divers?  
Par leur orgueil sont ardants les pervers  
A tourmenter l'humble, qui peu se prise:  
Fais que sur eux tombe leur entreprise.

*Why standest thou afar off, O Lord?  
Why hidest thou thyself in times of  
trouble?  
The wicked in his pride doth persecute  
the poor:  
let them be taken in the devices  
that they have imagined.*

## **Iudica me Domine**

*Giovanni Gabrieli (1555-1612)*

Psalm 26

Iudica me Domine quoniam ego in innocentia  
mea ingressus sum et in Domino sperans non  
infirmabor.

Proba me Domine et tenta me ure renes meos  
et cor meum.

Quoniam misericordia tua ante oculos meos est  
et complacui in veritate tua.

Non sedi cum concilio vanitatis et cum iniqua  
gerentibus non introibo.

Odivi ecclesiam malignantium et cum impiis  
non sedebo.

*Judge me, O Lord; for I have walked in mine integrity: I  
have trusted also in the Lord; therefore I shall not  
slide.*

*Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my  
heart.*

*For thy loving-kindness is before mine eyes: and I have  
walked in thy truth.*

*I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with  
dissemblers.*

*I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not  
sit with the wicked.*

## **Quam Dilecta**

*Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)*

Psalm 84:1-9, 12, 13

*Solo: Sally de Frates*

O how amiable are thy dwellings: thou Lord of hosts!

My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young: even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be alway praising thee.

Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee: in whose heart are thy ways.

Who going through the vale of misery use it for a well: and the pools are filled with water.

They will go from strength to strength: and unto the God of gods appeareth every one of them in Sion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer: hearken, O God of Jacob.

Behold, O God our defender: and look upon the face of thine Anointed.

For the Lord God is a light and defence: the Lord will give grace and worship, and no good thing shall he withhold from them that live a godly life.

O Lord God of hosts: blessed is the man that putteth his trust in thee.

## **Eripe me**

*Josef Gabriel Rheinberger (1839-1901)*

Psalm 143:9-10

Eripe me de inimicis meis, Domine: ad te  
confugi, doce me facere voluntatem tuam: quia  
Deus meus es tu.

*Deliver me, O Lord, from mine enemies: I flee  
unto thee to hide me. Teach me to do thy will; for thou  
art my God.*

## **Psalm 38**

*John Dowland (1563-1626)*

from *The Whole Book of Psalms Collected into English Metre*

Put me not to rebuke O Lord  
in thy provoked ire:  
Nay in thy heavenly wrath O Lord  
correct me I desire.

And all this is, by reason of  
Thy wrath that I am in:  
Nor any rest is in my bones  
by reason of my sin.

Thine arrows do stick fast in me,  
Thy hand doth press me sore:  
And in my flesh no health at all  
appeareth any more.

And I in careful wise am brought  
to trouble and distress  
That I go wailing all the day  
my doleful heaviness.

## **Wash me throughly from my wickedness**

*Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)*

Psalm 51:2-3

*Solo: Katie Parker*

Wash me throughly from my wickedness, and forgive me all my sin.  
For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me.

## **Benedictus Dominus**

*(from Three Psalms)*

*Carl Nielsen (1865-1931)*

Psalm 31:22

Benedictus Dominus. Quoniam mirificavit  
misericordiam suam mihi.

*Blessed be the Lord:  
for he hath shewed me his marvellous kindness.*

## **An den Wassern zu Babel**

*Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672)*

Psalm 137

An den Wassern zu Babel saßen wir und  
weineten, wann wir an Zion gedachten.  
Unsre Harfen hingen wir an die Weiden, die  
drinnen sind.  
Denn daselbst hießen uns singen, die uns  
gefangen hielten und in unserm Heulen  
fröhlich sein: Lieber singet uns ein Lied von  
Zion.  
Wie sollten wir des Herren Lied singen  
in fremden Landen?  
Vergeß ich dein, Jerusalem, so werde meiner  
Rechten vergessen.  
Meine Zunge soll an meinem Gaumen kleben,  
wo ich dein nicht gedenke, wo ich nicht laß  
Jerusalem mein höchste Freude sein.  
Herr, gedenke der Kinder Edom am Tage  
Jerusalem, die da sagten: Rein ab, rein ab bis  
auf ihren Boden.  
Du verstörete Tochter Babel,  
wohl dem, der dir vergelte, wie du uns  
getan hast.  
Wohl dem, der deine jungen Kinder nimmet  
und zerschmettert sie an dem Stein.

Ehre sei dem Vater und dem Sohn und auch  
dem heiligen Geiste, wie es war im Anfang, jetzt  
und immerdar und von Ewigkeit zu Ewigkeit.  
Amen.

*By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept,  
when we remembered Zion.  
We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst  
thereof.  
For there they that carried us away captive required of  
us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth,  
saying, Sing us one of the songs of  
Zion.  
How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange  
land?  
If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her  
cunning.  
If I do not remember thee, let my tongue  
cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer  
not Jerusalem above my chief  
joy.  
Remember, O Lord, the children of Edom in the day of  
Jerusalem; who said, Rase it, rase it, even to the  
foundation thereof.  
O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy  
shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us.  
Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones  
against the stones.*

*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.*

# THE ELYSIAN SINGERS

Jessica Buchanan-Barrow  
Anne Taylor  
Sally de Frates  
Harriet Gritton  
Judith Watts  
Miranda Hickman  
Penny Chalmers  
Jessica Lichtenstein  
Alice Ruffle  
Katie Parker  
Jessica Marais

Francesca Trundle  
Laura Taylor  
Lucy Swanson  
Will Hadwen  
Anne Webster  
Heather Devine  
Nick Richmond-Smith  
Richard Warren  
Stephen Cviic  
Greg Davies  
Ben Finn

John Hayward  
Tony Zacaroli  
Naveen Rajendran  
David Parker  
Joe Dodson  
Dingeman Wolfert  
Andrew Daws  
William Gough  
Christopher Whitehouse  
Mark Brafield  
David Benedict

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, the Trinity Camerata and the Speen Festival. 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 premièred. 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, The National Federation of Music Societies.





**Glories of Early English Music**

Sunday 22 May 2016

6.30pm

St Lawrence, West Wycombe

William Byrd (born c.1540) and Henry Purcell (born 1659) are arguably the two greatest English composers before 1900: and we celebrate their contributions to the choral repertoire in a selection of their psalm settings, including Purcell's 'Jehova, quam multi sunt hostes' and Byrd's 'Domine, quis habitat'. Added to the mix is music by other 16th-century English composers, including examples of Tallis' famous tunes for Archbishop Parker's Psalter.

**From Lassus to MacMillan**

Saturday 18 June 2016

7.30pm

Kelvinside Hillhead Church,  
Saltoun Street, Glasgow G12  
9AR

The music in this concert of psalm settings falls broadly into two parts. On the one hand, we present music by non-English composers of the British Isles, headed by the choir's new patron Sir James MacMillan, and including C.V. Stanford and John Joubert. 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.

**Masters of the Baroque**

Saturday 16 July

7.30pm

St James' Church, 197  
Piccadilly, London W1J 9LL

Sacred music in the Baroque period was performed on a grand scale, and we present superb examples of the art from England, Germany, France and Italy. We begin in Versailles, where Dumont and his more famous successor Lully composed 'Grands Motets' for the French court in the 17th century. We move on to Handel's anthems for Royal and princely occasions in England, and Vivaldi's Venetian Vespers, before returning to Paris where Telemann made his only visit from Germany in 1737 and composed his own 'Grand Motet'.



If you would like to join the Elysian Singers' mailing list, please write to Richard Warren, 20 Downs Road, Beckenham BR3 5JY or email [mailinglist@elysiansingers.com](mailto:mailinglist@elysiansingers.com).

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