

The
ELYSIANS@30

Patron: Sir James MacMillan

Director: Sam Laughton



Glories of Early English Music

**St Lawrence West Wycombe
6.30pm, Sunday 22 May 2016**

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 and 17th-century English composers, including examples of Tallis' famous tunes for Archbishop Parker's Psalter.

Haec dies
Psalm 118 v. 24

William Byrd
(c.1539-1623)

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

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

Jehova, quam multi sunt hostes mei
Psalm 3

Henry Purcell
(1659-95)

Solos: Nick Richmond-Smith, Dan Rollison

Jehova, quam multi sunt hostes mei,
quam multi insurgunt contra me.
Quam multi dicunt de anima mea,
'Non est ulla salus isti in Deo plane'.

*Lord, how are they increased that trouble me:
many are they that rise against me.
Many one there be that say of my soul:
There is no help for him in his God.*

At tu, Jehova, clypeus es circa me:
Gloria mea, et extollens caput meum.
Voce mea ad Jehovam clamanti,
respondit mihi e monte sanctitatis suae
maxime.
Ego cubui et dormivi, ego expergefeci me,
quia Jehova sustentat me.
Non timebo a myriadibus populi
quas circum disposuerint metatores
contra me.
Surge, surge, Jehova, fac salvum me, Deus
mi.
Qui percussisti omnes inimicos meos
maxilliam, dentes improborum confregisti.
Jehova est salus: super populum tuum
sit benedictio tua maxime.

*But thou, O Lord, art my defender:
thou art my worship, and lifter up of my head.
I did call upon the Lord with my voice:
and he heard me out of his holy
hill.
I laid me down and slept, and rose up again:
for the Lord sustained me.
I will not be afraid for ten thousands of the people:
that have set themselves against me round
about.
Up, Lord, and help me, O my God:
for thou smitest all mine enemies upon the
cheekbone; thou hast broken the teeth of the
ungodly.
Salvation belongeth unto the Lord:
and thy blessing is upon thy people.*

Blessed be the Lord
Psalm 144 vv. 1-2

Francis Seager
(fl 1549-63)

Blessed be the Lord me refuge,
my whole powre, strength and myght,
yt does instruct my hands to warre
and my fingers to fyght.

Deliver me from mine enemies

Psalm 59 vv. 1-2, Psalm 60 v. 11

Robert Parsons

(c.1535-71)

Deliver me from mine enemies, O God; defend me from them that rise up against me.
O deliver me from the wicked doers; and save me from the bloodthirsty men.
O be thou our help in trouble; for vain is the help of man.

Domine, quis habitabit?

Psalm 15

William Byrd

Domine, quis habitabit in tabernaculo tuo?
aut quis requiescet in monte sancto tuo?
Qui ingreditur sine macula: et operatur
iustitiam; qui loquitur veritatem in corde
suo.
Non detrahit in lingua sua, nec facit
proximo suo malum, nec improbat
proximum suum.
Contemptus est in oculis eius malus:
timentes autem Dominum glorificat: qui
iurat se affligere non mutabit.
Pecuniam suam non dedit ad usuram,
et munera super innocentem non accepit.
Qui facit haec non movebitur in aeternum.

*Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall
dwell in thy holy hill?
He that walketh uprightly, and worketh
righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his
heart.
He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth
evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach
against his neighbour.
In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he
honoureth them that fear the Lord. He that
swaureth to his own hurt, and changeth not.
He that putteth not out his money to usury,
nor taketh reward against the innocent.
He that doeth these things shall never be moved.*

O God, thou hast cast us out

Psalm 60, vv. 1-2, 11-12

Henry Purcell

Solos: Lois Gallagher, Alice Ruffle, Heather Devine, Laura Taylor, Greg Davies, William Gough

O God, thou hast cast us out, and scattered us abroad: thou hast also been displeased; O turn
thee unto us again.
Thou hast moved the land, and divided it: heal the sores thereof, for it shaketh.
O be thou our help in trouble: for vain is the help of man.
Through God will we do great acts: for it is he that shall tread down our enemies. Amen.

Exaudiat te Dominus

Psalm 20

Robert White

(c.1538-74)

Exaudiat te Dominus in die tribulacionis:
protegat te nomen Dei Jacob.
Mittat tibi auxilium de sancto: et de Sion
tueatur te.
Memor sit omnis sacrificii tui: et
holocaustum tuum pingue fiat.
Tribuat tibi secundum cor tuum: et omne
consilium tuum confirmet.

*May the Lord hear you on the day of judgement:
may the name of the God of Jacob protect you.
May he send to you help from his holy place: and
may he watch over you from Sion.
May he be mindful of all your sacrifices: and may
your burnt offerings be made fruitful.
May he grant to you after your own heart: and may
he confirm all your opinions.*

Letabimur in salutari tuo: et in nomine Dei
nostri magnificabimur.
Impleat Dominus omnes petitiones tuas:
nunc cognovi quoniam salvum fecit
Dominus christum suum.

*We shall rejoice in your salvation: and we shall
rejoice in the name of our God.
May the Lord fulfil all your petitions: now I have
recognized that the Lord has saved
his anointed.*

Exaudiet illum de celo sancto suo: in
potentatibus salus dexteræ eius.
Hi in curribus, et hi in equis: nos autem in
nomine Domini Dei nostri invocabimus.
Ipsi obligati sunt, et ceciderunt:
nos autem surreximus, et erecti sumus.
Domine, salvum fac regem: et exaudi nos
in die qua invocaverimus te. Amen.

*May he hear you from his holy heaven: salvation by
the power of his right hand.
Some on chariots, and others on horses: but we on
the name of our Lord God shall
call.
They are found guilty, and fall: but we have arisen,
and stand upright.
Lord, save the king: and hear us on the day when
we call on you. Amen.*

***** INTERVAL *****

**O God, wherefore art thou absent
from us?**

William Child
(1606-97)

Psalm 74, vv. 1-2

O God, wherefore art thou absent from us so long: why is thy wrath so hot against the sheep of
thy pasture?
O think upon thy congregation: which thou hast purchased and redeemed of old.

O God, my strength and fortitude
Psalm 18, vv. 1-10

William Lawes
(1602-45)

Solos: Nick Richmond-Smith, Andrew Daws

O God, my strength and fortitude,
of force I must love thee:
Thou art my castle and defence,
in my necessity:

The pains of death did compass me,
and bound me ev'ry where:
The flowing waves of wickedness
did put me in great fear.

My God, my rock, in whom I trust,
the worker of my wealth:
My refuge, buckler, and my shield,
the horn of all my health.

The sly and subtle snares of hell
were round about me set:
And for my life there was prepar'd
a deadly trapping net.

When I sing laud unto the Lord,
most worthy to be serv'd;
Then from my foes I am right sure,
that I shall be preserv'd.

I thus beset with pain and grief,
did pray to God for grace:
And he forthwith heard my complaint
out of his holy place.

Such is his pow'r that in his wrath,
he made the earth to quake,
Yea, the foundation of the mount
of Bashan for to shake,

And from his nostrils came a smoke,
when kindled was his ire,
And from his mouth came kindled coals,
of hot consuming fire.

The Lord descended from above,
and bow'd the heavens high:
Underneath his feet he cast,
the darkness of the sky.

On cherubs and on cherubims
full royally he rode:
And on the wings of mighty winds,
came flying all abroad.

Domine secundum multitudinem

Psalm 94, v. 19

William Byrd

Domine secundum multitudinem dolorum
meorum in corde meo, consolationes tuae
laetificaverunt animam meam.

*O Lord, according to the multitude
of my sorrows in my heart,
thy consolations have gladdened my soul.*

O God, thou art my God

Psalm 63, vv. 1-5, 8

Henry Purcell

Solos: Judith Watts, Naomi McCarthy, Anne Webster, Martin Hurst, Naveen Rajendran

O God, thou art my God: early will I seek thee.
My soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh also longeth after thee in a barren and dry land where no
water is.
Thus have I looked for thee in holiness, that I might behold thy power and glory.
For thy loving kindness is better than life itself: my lips shall praise thee.
As long as I live will I magnify thee on this manner and lift up my hands in thy Name.
Because thou hast been my helper, therefore under the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.
Hallelujah.

Tunes for Archbishop Parker's Psalter

Thomas Tallis
(c.1505-85)

(1) The Sixth Tune

Psalm 5, vv. 1-4

Expend, O Lord, my plaint of word,
In grief that I do make:
My musing mind, recount most kind;
Give ear for Thine own sake.

O hark my groan, my crying moan,
My king, my God thou art:
Let me not stray, from thee away,
To thee I pray in heart.

My voice and vow, thou wilt allow,
Betimes, O Lord so free:
In spring of day, I thee will pray,
And shall look up to Thee.

This I may vow: the God art thou,
Which hatest all wickedness:
No malice fell, with thee can dwell,
Thou lov'st no cruelty.

To God on high, in Trinity,
In unity again.
Reign, pow'r, and praise, as due always,
To him be giv'n. Amen.

(2) The Seventh Tune

Psalm 52, vv. 1-4

Why brag'st in malice high,
O thou in mischief stout,
God's goodness yet is nigh,
All day to me no doubt.

Thy tongue to muse all ev'l,
It doth itself inure,
As razor sharp to spill,
All guile it doth procure.

Thou malice lov'dst to wry,
Above all goodness walk:
And more thou lov'st to lie,
Than righteousness to talk.

Yea loved thou hast no less,
To speak one word for all:
All words of noughtiness,
Thou tongue in fraud most thrall.

To God the first of might,
To Christ both God and Lord:
To God the Holy Sp'rit,
Though three in just accord.

Reign, pow'r, and praise by right,
Ascribe in open sight.
From this time forth hath been,
Say we thereto. Amen.

Exsurge Domine

Psalm 44, vv. 23-4

Exsurge, quare obdormis, Domine?
Exsurge, et ne repellas me in finem.
Quare faciem tuam avertis?
Oblivisceris inopiae nostrae et
tribulationis nostrae?

*Arise, why sleepest thou, Lord?
Arise, and reject me not for ever.
Why dost thou avert Thy face
And forget our helplessness and
trouble?*

William Byrd

O give thanks

Psalm 106, vv. 1-2, 4-5, 46

*Solos: Ruth Ilton, Mike Chambers, Charlotte Dodson, Tony Zacaroli
Violins: Alice Ruffle, Anne Webster*

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious: and his mercy endureth for ever.
Who can express the noble acts of the Lord? or shew forth all his praise?
Remember me, O Lord, according to the favour that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me
with thy salvation;
That I may see the felicity of thy chosen: and rejoice in the gladness of thy people, and give
thanks with thine inheritance.
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting and world without end: and let all the people
say, Amen.

Henry Purcell

THE ELYSIAN SINGERS

Alice Ruffle
Andrew Daws
Anne Taylor
Anne Webster
Antony Zacaroli
Charlotte Dodson
Dan Rollison
David Parker
Greg Davies
Heather Devine

Jessica Buchanan-Barrow
Jessica Marais
Jo Dew-Jones
John Hayward
Jon Snow
Judith Watts
Katie Parker
Laura Taylor
Lois Gallagher
Martin Hurst

Mike Chambers
Miranda Hickman
Naomi McCarthy
Naveen Rajendran
Nick Richmond-Smith
Penny Chalmers
Richard Warren
Ruth Ilton
Sally de Frates
William Gough

Organ

Mark Brafield

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 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
Richard Warren, 20 Downs Road, Beckenham BR3 5JY or email mailinglist@elysiansingers.com

www.elysiansingers.com

Registered charity, number 1095739



The Elysian Singers have been singing for 30 years, and are celebrating with a whole year of song! Through ten concerts we will showcase 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!

From Lassus to MacMillan
West End Festival

7.30 pm Saturday 18 June
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

7.30 pm Saturday 16 July
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'.

Choral Masterpieces of Germany and Austria
Roman River Festival

3.00 pm Sunday 25 September
Moot Hall, Colchester Town Hall,
Colchester

From the 17th-century Schütz to the 19th-century Bruckner, the German-speaking lands produced some of the most impressive and enduring psalm settings in the repertoire: including such well-known pieces as Mozart's 'Laudate Dominum' but also some rarities such as a Hebrew setting by Schubert. The crowning glory is Bach's motet 'Singet dem Herrn' but he is well supported by fellow Leipzigers Heinrich Schein and Felix Mendelssohn.

From East to West

7.30pm Saturday 15 October
St James' Church, 197 Piccadilly,
London W1J 9LL

We spread our wings to encompass Orthodox, Protestant, Catholic and Jewish psalm settings, on a journey from Finland to Spain, via Lithuania, Russia, Hungary, Italy and France. Highlights include movements from the 'All-Night Vigil' by Rachmaninoff and Rautavaara, Monteverdi's 'Beatus Vir' and the unique Hebrew settings by his colleague Salomone Rossi. And we are proud to give the first performances of the winning entries from our Composition Competition.