



# Tyndale Choral Society

Conductor: Michael Power

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# *MESSIAH*

*by G F HANDEL*

*This concert is dedicated to the memory of  
Diana Collins, who died earlier this year.*

*Diana was accompanist to the choral society for many years  
and an accomplished singer when not playing. She will be  
remembered with affection by all those who knew her.*

Saturday 10th November 2001  
Dursley Parish Church 7.30pm

Programme 50p

# Tyndale Choral Society

with

## Tyndale Chamber Orchestra

*Leader - Claire Piper*

and

Lisa Wilson - soprano

Stephen Power - counter tenor

Peter Wilman - tenor

Philip Webb - bass

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### ***PROGRAMME NOTES by Michael Power***

So much has already been written about the Messiah by very eminent scholars that I shall do no more than write a very brief introduction to tonight's performance. From the beginning it seems as if Handel had intended that the Dublin performances of Messiah, and other works of his, were to give support to three Dublin charities - Mercer's Hospital, the Charitable Infirmary and the Charitable Music Society (for the relief of imprisoned debtors).

Handel arrived in Dublin on November 18th 1741 but Messiah was not performed for the first time until 13th April of the following year. It had more than one performance and in fact Handel's last concert in Dublin on 29th May 1742 was another Messiah performance. It was the last concert in a series which had included many of Handel's finest Oratorios to date and much of his instrumental and church music.

The following extract appeared in Faulkner's 'Dublin Journal' on 17th April 1742 - 'the best judges allowed it to be the most finished piece of Musick. Words are wanting to express the exquisite Delight it afforded to the admiring crouded Audience. The Sublime, the Grand, and the Tender, adapted to the most elevated, majestick and moving Words, conspired to transport and charm the ravished Heart and Ear'.

Tonight's performance does not seek to perform the whole work as printed in the Watkins Shaw edition but, with the minimum of cuts, I have tried to include everyone's favourite numbers, while remembering that today's audiences are not used to the long concert programmes of former years, especially whilst seated on church pews.

## PART 1

**SINFONIA** Grave, Allegro.

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low: the crooked straight and the rough places plain: and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come; the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire. And he shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, God with us.

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain: O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light, and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

For unto us a child is born, unto a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

### PASTORAL SYMPHONY

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, goodwill towards men.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, thy King cometh unto thee! He is the righteous Saviour, and he shall speak peace unto the heathen.

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart and the tongue of the dumb shall sing.

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, and he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young: Come unto him all ye that labour, and he will give you rest. Take his yoke upon you, and learn of him, for he is meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. His yoke is easy, and his burthen is light.

## **INTERVAL** (10 minutes)

### **PART TWO**

Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world. He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.

He gave his back to the smiters, and his cheeks to them that plucked off the hair. He hid not his face from shame and spitting.

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him: and with his stripes we are healed:

All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

All they that see him laugh him to scorn: they shoot out their lips, and shake their heads saying. He trusted in God that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, if he delight in him.

Thy rebuke hath broken his heart; he is full of heaviness: he looked for some to have pity on him, but there was no man, neither found he any to comfort him.

Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto his sorrow.

He was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of thy people was he stricken.

But thou didst not leave his soul in hell; nor didst thou suffer thy Holy One to see corruption.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates: and be ye lift up, ye

everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is the King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

The Lord gave the word: great was the company of the preachers.

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things.

Why do the nations so furiously rage together, and why do the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed. Let us break their bonds asunder and cast away their yokes from us.

He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn. The Lord shall have them in derision.

Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron. Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Hallelujah: for the Lord God omnipotent, reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

## **SHORT PAUSE**

### **PART THREE**

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first-fruits of them that sleep.

Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by his blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing and honour, glory and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.

## SOLOISTS

**LISA WILSON** (soprano) held a choral scholarship for four years at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge and studied English Literature. She has won many awards for solo singing including a Godfrey-Paynton Trust bursary to study with Emma Kirkby. She now lives and teaches singing in Oxford, where she has sung with the Schola Cantorum and the Brabant Ensemble, and sings in several London Choirs, including the Oxford Camerata, under Jeremy Summerley, St. Margaret's Church, Westminster and St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street. She has performed soprano solos in many choral works including the Bach *St John Passion*, Mozart and Brahms *Requiems* as well as Handel's *Messiah*. Roles with New Chamber Opera include Ottavia in Monteverdi's *Poppea* and recently the role of Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro*. She also took part in masterclasses on the latter opera with Sir Thomas Allen.

**STEPHEN POWER** (counter-tenor) was a chorister at Gloucester Cathedral with Dr John Sanders OBE. He also fell under the influence of the then assistant organist Mark Blatchly whose organ playing he much admired. After a period as a Choral Scholar in the Gloucester Cathedral Choir he went on to study music at Huddersfield University and switched to singing counter-tenor. He soon started singing in the Leeds Parish Church Choir as a Choral Scholar and then as a Lay Clerk under Simon Lindley. He has sung many solos in that choir and has sung with the University of Huddersfield Chamber Choir as a soloist. He graduated this summer and has been appointed organ scholar at Wakefield Cathedral. At present he studies singing with Richard Hill at York Minster. You will remember that he played the organ in our performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* in his first year at University.

**PETER WILMAN** (tenor). Peter's early training was also as a chorister at Gloucester Cathedral under John Sanders. He later studied at Christ Church College, Canterbury where he gained a Master's Degree in Piano Performance. As a singer, oratorio work includes Rossini's *Petite Messe Solonelle* (St Alban's Cathedral), *Messiah* (Leicester Cathedral), Mozart *Requiem* (Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury), Bach *B minor Mass*, (Royal Naval Chapel, Greenwich) and the Mozart *Mass in Bflat*. In opera, Peter has sung Tamino in the *Magic Flute* by Mozart and Guillot in Massenet's *Manon* for English Touring Opera. He has also sung with British Youth Opera, Garsington Opera, Broomhill Opera and is currently a member of Welsh National Opera. This year he has sung at the Salzburg Festival and the BBC Proms with the BBC Singers and performed in recital at the Buxton Festival accompanied by Michael Pollock.

**PHILIP WEBB** (bass) is well known to Tyndale audiences having first sung in Vaughan Williams' *Mass in G minor* in my second season as conductor. He was also a Gloucester chorister with John Sanders and after leaving The King's School he studied music at Durham University. Later he sang Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs* with us and sang in three performances of *Death of a Martyr* by Christopher Boodle (a Tyndale commission) in 1994. He also sang in our Purcell concert in 1995 and then in our performance of Carmina Burana. Last year he sang the baritone solos in John Sanders' *The Cotswolds*. He is a member of the St. Cecilia Singers and lives in Gloucester with his wife and two children.

# Tynale Choral Society

Founder --- Mrs M Neale  
President --- Dr John Sanders OBE



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The Society is most grateful to its Friends for their generous support and continuing interest. If you too would like to become a Friend, please give your name and address to the Chairman, Anne Shipton, or any member of the Society.



The Society is indebted to Dursley Town Council  
for their continued support with donations.

# Concert Programme for 2002

## Summer Concert

Saturday 6th July

St Mary's Wotton-under-Edge  
Songs of the Fleet by Charles Stanford  
HMS Pinafore (Concert Version) by Gilbert and Sullivan  
with Richard Bacon (baritone)  
and soloists from the choir

## Winter Concert

Saturday 9th November

Dursley Parish Church

Four Coronation Anthems - G F Handel

St Nicholas - Benjamin Britten  
*with*

Tyndale Concert Orchestra



Rehearsals for this programme begin at the end of March 2001 at 7.30pm in Stinchcombe Village Hall. New members in all parts will be most welcome.

If you are interested in joining, please contact the Chairman:

Anne Shipton, 21 Shakespeare Road, Whiteway, Dursley