

Tyndale Choral Society

Conductor: Ian Harrold

Reg. Charity No. 284840

Mass in B Minor



Johann Sebastian Bach

7.30pm Saturday 14th November 2009
Dursley Parish Church

www.tyndale-choral-society.org

Tyndale Choral Society

Programme

Mass in B Minor **BWV 232**

by

Johann Sebastian Bach

with

Tina Power ~ soprano Debra Blake ~ mezzo soprano
Martha McLorinan ~ alto Simon Allatt ~ tenor
Christopher Monk ~ bass

and

Amadeus Orchestra

Leader ~ Francesca Barritt

Conductor ~ Ian Harrold

This concert is dedicated to the memory of Rosemary Bowmer, who was an active member of the Society from 1968 - 1981. Miss Bowmer's long support of the Society continued up to her recent death, when the Society received a generous bequest, for which we are most grateful.

Please Note: This evening's concert is being recorded. Please ensure all mobile phones are switched off and stifle coughs as far as possible.

Programme Notes by Michael Power

It was after the death of The Elector of Saxony in 1733 and during the five months of official mourning which followed, that Bach found time to write the 'Kyrie' and 'Gloria' of the B minor Mass. We don't know if these two sections were performed at the time but Bach took the parts to Dresden when he petitioned the new Elector for a court position. Bach expressed the hope that His Royal Highness would take him under his 'most mighty protection'. The petition failed and Bach did not receive an appointment to the Dresden court.

Bach and his contemporaries were quite adept at getting a new text for music which had been written for another purpose or fitting music already composed to a text for which it was not specifically intended. We know that Bach borrowed music from his sacred cantatas for sections of the Mass. 'Gratias agimus' and 'Qui tollis peccata mundi' come from Cantatas 29 and 46 and parts of the 'Credo' are drawn from earlier cantatas. The 'Sanctus' was originally written for Christmas 1724 and the 'Osanna', 'Benedictus' and 'Agnus Dei' can all be found in earlier cantatas. Of the twenty-four sections that form the complete Mass perhaps only half-a-dozen were composed specially for it.

The 'Credo' starts with a chorus in the 'stile antico' (old style). The Gregorian plainchant is passed in turn to each of the five parts. Later Bach uses plainchant in the chorus 'Confiteor unum baptisma' in a similar way but even more astonishing in its contrapuntal resource. The plainchant appears first in a canon at the fifth (basses and altos) and then in the tenors. We think that these two choruses were specifically composed for the Mass but much of the Mass was compiled by Bach from other works and put together in the last years of his life.

It was conceived without any regard to its place in the liturgy and represents a dedication to God of a whole world of human experience. There is a close juxtaposition of learned fugue and racy concerto textures, a mingling of prayer with song and dance and a mixture of the 'galant' style and the deliberately archaic. Thus, while it may lack the stylistic unity of, say, the St. Matthew Passion, the B minor Mass will continue to be admired for its contrasting parts and amazing and unflagging invention.

(Original note adapted by Ian Harrold)

Order

1. Kyrie

Chorus and soloists	Kyrie Eleison
Duet: soprano and mezzo-soprano	Christe Eleison
Chorus	Kyrie Eleison

2. Gloria

Chorus and soloists	Gloria in excelsis Deo
Aria: Mezzo-soprano	Laudamus Te
Chorus	Gratias agimus tibi
Duet: Soprano & Tenor	Domine Deus
Chorus	Qui tollis peccata mundi
Aria: Mezzo-soprano	Qui sedes ad dexteram
Aria: Bass	Quoniam tu solus sanctus
Chorus	Cum sancto spiritu

INTERVAL

3. Credo

Chorus	Credo in unum deum
Chorus	Patrem omnipotentem
Duet: Soprano & Mezzo-soprano	Et in unum Dominum
Chorus	Et incarnatus est
Chorus	Crucifixus etiam pro nobis
Chorus	Et resurrexit tertia die
Aria: Bass	Et in spiritum sanctum
Chorus	Confiteor unum baptisma

4. Sanctus

Chorus	Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus
Chorus	Hosanna in excelsis
Aria: Tenor	Benedictus qui venit
Chorus	Hosanna in excelsis

5 Agnus Dei

Aria: Mezzo-Soprano	Agnus Dei
Chorus	Dona nobis pacem

Soloists

Tina Power (soprano)

Tina studied singing with Susan Grey at Whitelands College in London while training to be a teacher. She learnt a varied soprano repertoire of songs, oratorio and opera, from Monteverdi to the composers of the twentieth century. Since she and her husband Michael moved to Gloucester in 1978, she has sung with local Opera Groups and has sung in oratorios and baroque works with several Choral Societies, including Tyndale Choral Society on many occasions, most recently in Mendelssohn's *St. Paul* in 2008.

She has given many successful song recitals including the songs of Gloucestershire composers and memorable works by Mozart, Haydn, Orff, and Handel, including the *Messiah* performed in Gloucester Cathedral in *Hallelujah for Hospices* concert. She has also enjoyed the Requiems of both Malcolm Archer and John Rutter For many years Tina was a member of the Saint Cecilia Singers and she is a full-time junior teacher at the King's School, Gloucester.

Debra Blake (mezzo soprano)

Debra studied violin at the Birmingham School of Music and then went on to complete her teacher training at the University of London. She only started her singing career after she returned to Gloucestershire in 1990 studying initially with Mary Brigg and then Antony Pristicvic.

Debra has a wide oratorio repertoire that includes Mozart's *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah* and Dvorak's *Mass in D major* and has sung as a soloist with a number of choral societies in the area.

Debra classes herself as a versatile singer having performed in various operatic roles and musical theatre and for a while sang in a jazz trio. She has been Musical Director for several musicals and still likes to play the violin, playing in the orchestra for the Proms concerts in Cheltenham. She is Head of Music at a secondary school in Herefordshire and is getting back into performing having recently had a short break to have a family. Debra last sang with us in 2006 in the Mozart Requiem.

Martha McLorinan (mezzo soprano)

Martha McLorinan, who is singing the alto part with us this evening, recently graduated with first class honours from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, having studied voice with Tim Rhys-Evans and Jeff Howard. She held a scholarship with the BBC National Chorus of Wales throughout her time at college, and has sung as soloist with them for broadcasts on both BBC Radio Wales and BBC Radio 3, most recently as the alto soloist in Rachmaninov's *Vespers*. She recently won the judge's discretionary prize at the Thelma King Award for singers, and was awarded the Margaret Tann Williams prize for singers at college. Martha played the lead role in the RWCMD's production of Chabrier's *L'Etoile* last year. The review in *Opera* magazine stated that

“Martha McLorinan shone in the trouser role of Lazuli”. She has also sung Third Lady in *Die Zauberflöte* for a BBC Radio 3 broadcast with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. This summer, she worked for Opera Holland Park, singing in the chorus for their productions of Verdi’s *Un Ballo in Maschera* and Janacek’s *Kat’a Kabanova*. Martha recently successfully auditioned for a place on Welsh National Opera’s Extra Chorus List, so hopes to work with them soon.

Martha now works with various different consorts. She has recently finished filming with The Sixteen for a BBC television series to be broadcast next year. Her work with the Gabrieli Consort this year has taken her abroad, and she frequently appears as a soloist in oratorios across England and Wales.

Martha features as the mezzo soprano soloist in Laudibus’ recent CD of the a cappella works of Vaughan Williams, recorded by Delphian records. She can be heard as the soloist in *O Vos Omnes*, and throughout the *Mass in G Minor*. The disc received critical acclaim, and was Classic FM’s CD of the month last September.

Simon Allatt (tenor)

Simon read Music and French at Bristol University before carrying out interdisciplinary research in music and literature and now studies musicology at the Sorbonne, Paris. His research includes the place for baroque music in today’s society and the interpretation of Baroque music. He has a rich choral musical background and has sung in church choirs from an early age. He sung most recently with Bristol Cathedral Choir, Bristol University Singers and directs and manages his own baroque ensemble *Musica Ornata*. His solo work, although varied, concentrates on 18th-century music.

He has sung solo for choirs across Bristol, the south-west and further afield such as Ensemble Vocale Aquitaine on tour in China and Tunisia, and the baroque ensemble Orféo in Bordeaux. He has studied singing with Andrew Padmore, Janet Price and Joanna Morton and now works on baroque technique with Howard Crook. His solo work includes the Sailor in *Dido and Aeneas*, Purcell, *Elijah*, Mendelssohn and *Maria Theresa Mass*, Haydn with the *Yorkshire Philharmonic Choir*, *Coronation Mass*, Mozart; and *Fairy Queen*, Purcell.

Christopher Monk (bass)

Christopher is Senior Lay Clerk with Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum and Baritone in the professional male-voice sextet, "The Songmen" (www.songmen.co.uk). A former Lay clerk of Gloucester Cathedral, Christopher now also sings with the Glevum Consort and in the little time left, enjoys performing as soloist, principally with several regional choral societies such as Stroud, Cirencester and Monmouth. Christopher has performed for the Tyndale Choral Society on several occasions previously, notably Coleridge-Taylor’s "Hiawatha’s Departure" and Elgar’s "King Olaf", and is greatly looking forward to performing with us again tonight.

Amadeus Orchestra

The Amadeus Orchestra was formed in 1990 and is one of the world's foremost training orchestras for young professionals and music students. The orchestra meets every summer for intensive training and concerts, and throughout the year at various times. They are also often hired by other organisations such as choral societies and concert promoters for professional concerts.

The orchestra likes to tour and it is fast becoming a tradition to tour China every winter! The summer music course remains the mainstay of the orchestra. Musicians who have trained with Amadeus have gone on to play in almost every major orchestra in the world. They are a commissioning orchestra and have given numerous world premieres including Alan Rawsthorne's *Kubla Khan* at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester.

In recent years the orchestra has performed eight of Shostakovich's fifteen symphonies, most of Stravinsky's ballets, Mahler and Rachmaninov's Second Symphonies, Walton's first Symphony, Elgar Cello Concerto with Raphael Wallfisch and Strauss' Four Last Songs with Janis Kelly. The Orchestra performances are usually in London, Oxford, Swindon, Bath, Bristol, Wells and Exeter but have also recently played in Manchester to the North and China to the East!

Ian Harrold M.A., A.R.C.M.

Ian developed his interest in music while at King Edward's School, Birmingham in the 1950s, largely through a close friendship with the late David Munrow, that pioneer of early music. During a working life in I.T. and teaching, Ian sang with many fine choirs, under many distinguished musicians, such as Leonard Bernstein and Igor Stravinsky. After many years, he was able to fulfil a life's dream: to sing in a Cathedral Choir. He was a Countertenor Lay Clerk at Gloucester Cathedral from 1998 to 2003, and continues to sing regularly with the Schola Cantorum of Tewkesbury Abbey.

Composition has always been an important part of his musical life and he is currently working on two settings of the Anglican evening canticles. He has conducted the Tyndale Choral Society since 2004, during which time they have trodden musical highways, like tonight's B minor Mass and Kodály's *Psalmus Hungaricus*, and several by-ways, like Elgar's *King Olaf*, Mendelssohn's *Saint Paul*, and Ian's own symphonic-style arrangements of the songs of Richard Rodgers and George Gershwin.

The Choir

Tyndale Choral Society was founded in 1960 by Mollie Neale, from a community choir she organised in North Nibley to sing the 'Messiah' in 1959. True to these roots, Tyndale remains a non-audition choir which welcomes both experienced singers and newcomers to the world of choral works. Those with less skill at reading the scores are given a strong lead by the old hands until they are up to speed, and so the tradition continues.

The stated objects of the Society are "to educate the public in the art and science of music and in particular of choral music by the presentation of public concerts and such other ways as the Society through its committee shall determine from time to time."

The 'other ways' include free performances of workshop pieces, vocal technique training, and our trail-blazing 'Absolute Beginners Course', first held in 2008 with great success – many of the graduates are singing with us tonight.

We work hard at our singing, and hard at our fund raising to enable us to bring performances such as tonight's concert to our community. The economics of such a concert are harsh – the true cost of every audience seat is £25, so we are grateful to all our members, the Friends of the Society, to our loyal audience, to our advertisers, and other supporters, who help us keep the ticket price affordable.

We hope that you will enjoy this evening's performance – it truly is a *Meisterwerk*.

Recording in Progress!

Tonight's concert is being recorded by students taking the BTEC National Diploma in Music Technology at Bournville College, under the supervision of Curriculum Leader Paul Harper and Lecturer Rik Staines. This practical exercise will afford the students the valuable experience of working with the choral and orchestral sound world. We are grateful to our professional performers for giving their permission for this initiative to proceed.

Absolute Beginners Class 2010

The **ABC** is a choral apprenticeship programme for adults who are **absolute beginners** (although rusty returners are also welcome), and for **all voices from soprano to bass**. We hope that having a gentleman tutor will particularly encourage any budding tenors and basses to come forward – don't be shy!

The ABC 2010 is a **10 week course**, held on Mondays from 11 January to 15 March, 7.30 - 9.30pm in the Dursley Methodist Church.

Christopher Swain will introduce the basics of musical notation and coach you using practical fun exercises, so that you will soon be able to turn the 'dots on the page' into real music. There will be refreshments in your coffee break, to give you a chance to get to know your fellow classmates and some of the TCS members who will come along to support you.

On successful completion of the course (if you have done your homework!) you should then have the *basic* tools to enable you to find an outlet for your singing, whether it be with a choral society, harmony group, male voice choir, gospel group... You won't know everything there is to know, but you will develop your skills as you continue with your singing. It takes time and work!

Please speak to any member of the choir for more information, and pick up a leaflet tonight, or visit our website: www.tyndale-choral-society.org.

Something to Celebrate!

We congratulate sisters Estelle James and Shelagh Fitzarthur of the alto section, who sang in the first performance with Mollie Neale in 1959. This is Estelle's fiftieth Winter concert.

Quite an achievement!

Members of the Choir

Sopranos

Liz Barnes
Fiona Chandler
Mavis Church
Jenni Culverwell
Glenis Ewer
Diane Freeland
Anne Glanville
Christine Gourd
Joy Green
Jenni Hamley
Claire Harrison
Marjorie Harrison
Diana Hobbs
Sheelagh Hudleston
Maggie Jordan
Rosemary Lea
Margaret Lloyd
Lynette Magnone
Doreen Manning
Marion Miller
Victoria Osborne
Angela Pendlebury
Julie Phillips
Barbara Sanderson
Anne Shipton
Valerie Skinner
Joyce Theaker
Sandra Tucker
Ros Wakefield
Vanessa Weaver
Elaine White
Mary Wright
Elizabeth Young

Altos

Catherine Bennett
Jill Brown
Jenny Coles
Sophie Cox
Pam Davis
Colleen Dunmall
Shelagh Fitzarthur
Betty Hebditch
Annette Heylings
Angie Hill
Jacquelin Hill
Estelle James
Monica James
Sally Lamerton
Lorna Lane
Christine Leeding
Angela MacNair
Frances Neale
Anne Nuttall
Julia O'Connor Beach
Lisa Randell
Kate Reeves
Wendy Richardson
Rosemary Robinson
Elizabeth Rymer
Miriam Salman
Wendy Thomas
Eve Tudgay
Sue Walshaw

Tenors

Niall Bird
Jean Dabinett
Sue Davies
John Ewer
Peter Harney
Alastair MacLeod
Len Miller
Kathie Rebbeck
Audrey Sewell
Mark Wright-Davies
Andrew Young

Basses

Frank Andoh
Jim Austin
Brian Bolsher
Mike Chambers
John Hicks
Max Holland
Brian Kitching
Colin Levine
Derek Manning
Brian Neale
John Palmer
Dick Skinner
Geoff Whiley

Rehearsal Accompanist ~ James Corbett

Tyndale Choral Society

Founder --- Mrs M Neale
President --- James Bowman CBE



Friends

Mrs P Bozworth

Mr & Mrs P T Coles

Mr & Mrs C E Jukes

Mr B O'Connor

Miss D Wren

Miss J Cobb

Mr & Mrs W Grant

Ms F Keey

Mr B Taylor

Mr R Coles

Mr & Mrs F James

Mrs P Lee

Rev Canon Dr M Tucker

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 contact the Friends Secretary, Kate Reeves, or any member of the Society.



Acknowledgement

The Society is indebted to Uley Brewery for supporting this concert.



The Tyndale Choral Society is affiliated to Making Music, which represents and supports amateur vocal, instrumental and promoting societies throughout the United Kingdom.



Looking forward to 2010
50th Anniversary Year



Absolute Beginners Course
January to March



Summer Concert
Saturday, 3 July, St Mary's Church, Wotton-under-Edge

Durufié ~ Requiem
Ireland ~ These Things Shall Be



'Come and Sing' Elijah
with Nigel Perrin
Saturday 2nd October



Winter Concert
Saturday, 13 November, St James' Church, Dursley

Handel ~ Messiah

With guest appearance by James Bowman CBE



Rehearsals for 2010 begin on Monday 22 March at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church, Dursley. New members in all parts will be most welcome. For further information, please contact the Secretary, Julia O'Connor-Beach by email:
secretary@tyndale-choral-society.org