



**SUNDAY, 20 MAY 2012
THE CHAPEL OF ST AUGUSTINE,
TONBRIDGE SCHOOL**

**MUSIC FOR THE
CORONATION OF
HER MAJESTY
QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

**IN CELEBRATION OF THE
DIAMOND JUBILEE**

**LONDON CONCERT CHOIR
MARK FORKGEN CONDUCTOR
DAVID WILLIAMS ORGANIST**

PROGRAMME

The items will be introduced by Mark Forkgen.

Zadok the Priest G. F. Handel

Come Holy Ghost arranged by Ernest Bullock

Rejoice in the Lord attributed to John Redford

O clap your hands together Orlando Gibbons

I will not leave you comfortless William Byrd

Hymn: All People that on Earth do Dwell

The Old Hundredth psalm tune arranged by

R. Vaughan Williams

All sing:

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
Come ye before him, and rejoice.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed,
Without our aid he did us make;
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

Choir only:

O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

Choir only:

For why? The Lord our God is good:
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

All:

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the Angel-host
Be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

O taste and see R. Vaughan Williams

Gloria in Excelsis C.V. Stanford

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace S.S. Wesley

I was glad C. Hubert H. Parry

MARK FORKGEN – CONDUCTOR

Mark Forkgen combines his role of Director of Music at Tonbridge with that of Music Director of London Concert Choir. He is also Music Director of Canticum and Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of Kokoro, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's New Music Group. He has worked with a number of leading orchestras, including the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, City of London Sinfonia, English Chamber Orchestra, English Northern Philharmonia and the Composers' Ensemble, appearing at all the major venues, including the Royal Festival Hall, the Barbican and the Royal Albert Hall.

A specialist in the field of choral and contemporary music, Mark has given the first performances of more than 100 works. These include stage works with the Trestle Theatre Company and Britten Sinfonia, and contemporary opera with the Unicorn Theatre Company and an ensemble from the Philharmonia, at the Linbury Studio Theatre, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. His wide range of conducting also includes performances with Deep Purple for the Henley Festival and recreating Pink Floyd's *Atom Heart Mother* in the Chelsea Festival.

Mark has been Conductor and Artistic Advisor for highly acclaimed festivals including: Sir Peter Maxwell Davies' 70th Birthday; Stravinsky, 'A Festival of Britten', 'Music of the Americas', 'Britain since Britten' and 'East meets West'. His recordings with Canticum and Kokoro have been highly recommended by BBC Radio 3 as well as both musical and national press. In Europe he has conducted in Spain, France, Belgium, Germany, Holland and the Czech Republic. He has also given performances of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* in Denmark, Handel's *Messiah* and *Israel in Egypt* in Siena and at the Viterbo Early Music Festival in Italy and most recently Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem* with LCC and the Bavarian Chamber Orchestra.

2012 highlights include concerts with Kokoro for the BBC Music Nation weekend, broadcast on Radio 3 and 'Music for Passiontide' with Canticum at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* at the Royal Festival Hall and 'The Chalk Legends', a project for the Cultural Olympiad.

DAVID WILLIAMS – ORGAN

David Williams is the Head of Piano and Chapel Organist of Tonbridge School. During his time at the Royal College of Music he was a member of the choir of St Michael's, Cornhill, a répétiteur for the Royal Ballet and an accompanist for several singers and string players in particular. These activities formed what became for him a future in the field of Church music and piano accompanying, both of which he now practises continually.

As an organist he has given recitals in St Paul's and Westminster Cathedrals, and last year at Westminster Abbey. At Tonbridge School Chapel he has given UK premieres of works by Philip Glass and Larry King and he specialises in 20th and 21st Century organ music.

THE CORONATION

The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on 2 June 1953 was one of the defining events of the decade following the end of the Second World War. The young Queen was aged just 27 and her coronation brought colour, pomp and pageantry to a nation still suffering the effects of wartime austerity.

The ceremony took place in Westminster Abbey, which has been the coronation church since 1066. The Abbey was closed to the public for six months while extensive preparations were carried out, not the least of which was to provide enough seating for the more than 8,000 guests (four times the Abbey's usual capacity).

Coronations have always been celebrated in the context of the Mass or Holy Communion. The liturgy is complex and there have been many changes over the centuries, but certain key elements have always been present. The most notable of these are: the formal procession into the Abbey; the recognition of the Sovereign by the people; the taking of an oath; the solemn anointing with holy oil; the investiture with regalia, culminating in the crowning; the enthronement (at which point the Sovereign symbolically 'takes possession' of the kingdom), and the receiving of homage.

Music has always played an important role in coronations and for the Queen's coronation in 1953 the Organist and Master of the Choristers of Westminster Abbey, William McKie, was appointed director of music. The choirs of the Abbey and the Chapel Royal were augmented by singers from most of the major cathedrals and choral foundations in the country to create a choir of some 400 voices accompanied by a specially selected orchestra of 60 players. The nature of the seating arrangements in the Abbey made it impossible for everyone to see the conductor and two assistant conductors helped to convey McKie's beat to the performers.

Some of the music sung in 1953 had been performed at previous coronations, most notably Parry's fine setting of *I was glad* which had been written originally for Edward VII's coronation in 1902, and Handel's *Zadok the Priest* which has been performed at every coronation since that of George II in 1727. But there was much new music too, including a *Te Deum* and the march *Orb and Sceptre* from William Walton, and the motet *O taste and see* from Vaughan Williams. The latter's arrangement of the *Old Hundredth*, made at his own suggestion, was a remarkable musical innovation – the first congregational hymn ever to be sung at a coronation.

Programme note by Dr Tony Trowles, Head of the Abbey Collection and Librarian, Westminster Abbey and member of London Concert Choir

As a pianist he has accompanied hundreds of singers and instrumentalists in programmes including, for example, the complete music for piano and strings by Brahms at a London City church where he was in charge of Lunchtime Recitals for several years. His collaborations with the singer Graham Trew over many years have involved the performance of a large part of the English Song repertoire, including a celebration of Housman in the Opera House in Cape Town. Together they have recently produced a CD of thirty songs by contemporary British composers.

He is writing, albeit at a glacial pace, a book on the art of piano practice.

LONDON CONCERT CHOIR

London Concert Choir celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2010. Having begun life as Brompton Choral Society, the choir was relaunched under its new name in 1986. Now with around 150 members of a wide range of ages, the choir is notable for the conviction and expressiveness of its performances in an unusually broad musical repertoire. Under its conductor Mark Forkgen it regularly appears at all the major London concert venues, including the Southbank Centre, the Barbican, Cadogan Hall and St Martin-in-the-Fields, and in cathedrals and churches in and around the capital.

The highlight of the choir's last season was an exchange with the Augsburg Basilica Choir, in which a joint performance of Verdi's *Requiem* at the Royal Festival Hall was followed by a concert with the Basilikachor at the Augsburg Peace Festival. Two memorable performances of Britten's *War Requiem* – at the Barbican and in Salisbury Cathedral – marked the choir's anniversary year.

Among other large-scale choral works in recent seasons have been Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* with the English Chamber Orchestra, Vaughan Williams' *Sea Symphony* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* with Southbank Sinfonia. With the Counterpoint period instrumental ensemble the choir gave the London premiere of a reconstruction of Mozart's C minor Mass and performed Handel's *Coronation Anthems* and Haydn's oratorio *The Creation*.

Concert performances of operas and musicals include Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*, Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* and Lerner and Loewe's *My Fair Lady*. LCC has also presented Duke Ellington's *Sacred Concert* and Orff's *Carmina Burana*, and appeared in the *Star Wars* concerts at the O2 Arena. The choir often gives concerts for charity and has commissioned a number of new works over the years.



SATURDAY 14 JULY, 2012, 7.30PM
THE FORUM, KENTISH TOWN, NW5

London Concert Choir presents the London premiere of

The Chalk Legend

Stephen McNeff *Composer*,
Richard Williams *Director and Librettist*
Mark Forkgen *Conductor*
Erica Eloff *Soprano*, Toby Stafford-Allen *Baritone*

Kokoro, Dorset Youth Orchestra, Ealing Youth Orchestra
Actors from Drama Centre London
and choirs from three local schools

Also in the programme, conducted by Leon Gee
John Williams: **Olympic Fanfare**
Berlioz: **Royal Hunt and Storm from The Trojans**

Tickets £5 (standing) to £20
from Box Office 0844 847 2405
or www.ticketmaster.co.uk

TUESDAY 23 OCTOBER, 2012, 7.30PM
ST. SEPULCHRE-WITHOUT-NEWGATE,
HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON EC1

Rachmaninov: **Liturgy of St John Chrysostom**

Rachmaninov's glorious setting for unaccompanied choir
of the Divine Liturgy (the communion service)
of the Eastern Orthodox Church.