

## **ETCETERA – the Civil Service Choir**

### **Forthcoming performances**

#### **Belgium Tour**

Last Post Ceremony  
Menin Gate, Ypres  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October

#### **Tour Concert**

St Walburga, Bruges  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October

#### **A Little Jazz Mass**

Brandenburg London Choral Festival  
7:30pm Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October  
St Katharine Cree Church  
Admission £23/£18

#### **Christmas Concert**

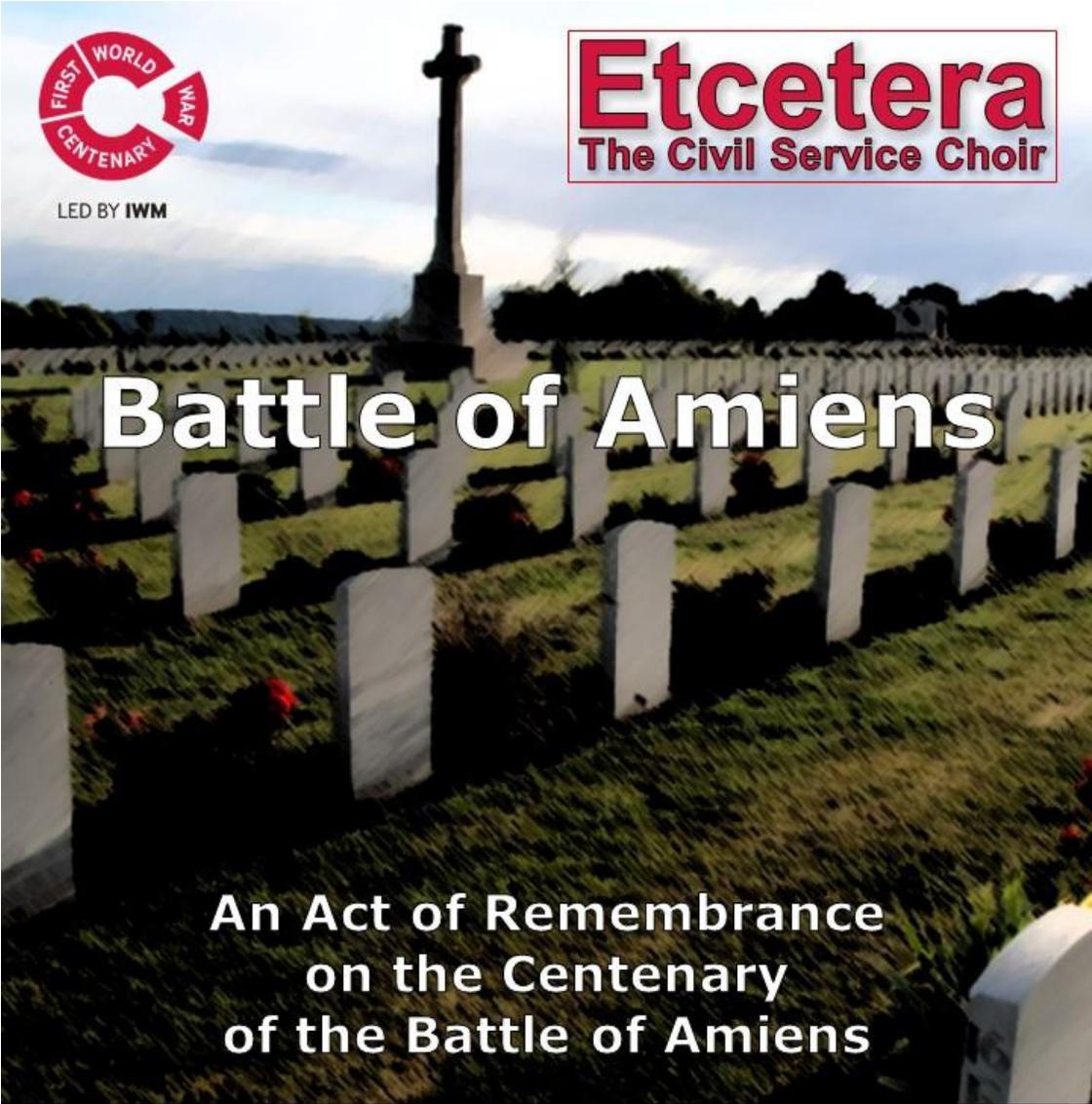
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December  
St Stephen's, Rochester Row, Westminster  
Admission free – Charity collection

#### **Christmas Carol Service**

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
St Stephen's, Rochester Row, Westminster  
Admission free – Charity collection

**There will be a charity collection as you leave. Please give generously. All proceeds will be shared by:**

- The Household Division Charity, providing welfare including help for veterans, especially those wounded on operations, widows and bereaved families
- SSAFA, the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association
- The Guards' Chapel



  
LED BY IWM

**Etcetera**  
The Civil Service Choir

# **Battle of Amiens**

**An Act of Remembrance  
on the Centenary  
of the Battle of Amiens**

**1pm Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

**Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks  
Birdcage Walk, Westminster**

**Free admission – Charity collection**  
[civilservicechoir.org.uk](http://civilservicechoir.org.uk)

# Act of Remembrance on the Centenary of the Battle of Amiens

**Etcetera –The Civil Service Choir**  
**Conductor: Stephen Hall OBE**  
**Accompanist: Alan Bowden**

**CHOIR: A Little Jazz Mass, Sanctus - Bob Chilcott**

## **WELCOME AND PRAYER:**

Teach us good Lord to serve Thee as thou deservest; To give and not to count the cost; To fight and not to heed the wounds; To toil and not to seek for rest; To labour and not to ask for any reward, Save that of knowing that we do Thy will, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **(All) Amen**

**CHOIR: There Is An Old Belief – C H Parry**

LSgt Mark Mclauchlin will be playing by kind permission of The Band of the Irish Guards.

Today's performance is being given in the Guards' Chapel by the kind permission of Major General Ben Bathurst, the Major General Commanding the Household Division. We are also grateful to the Reverend Stephen Dunwoody, the Senior Chaplain to the Household Division, and his staff in the Chapel for assisting the preparations for today's Concert and to the Reverend M W Bezerra Speeks, CF, Chaplain to the Honourable Artillery Company for leading the Act of Remembrance.

We would like to thank Westminster Cathedral and the Cardinal Hume Centre for allowing us to use the Sacred Heart Church, Horseferry Road, for our weekly rehearsals.

## **ETCETERA - THE CIVIL SERVICE CHOIR**

Choir members are drawn from a wide range of Government Departments and there are currently over 150 active members. Those singing today are listed below.

### **Sopranos:**

Emily Botsford, Nathalie Branch, Stephanie Clackworthy, Elizabeth Connolly, Nicola Ellis, Carolyn Foxall, Sarah Graham-Campbell, Daria Gromyko, Laura Haddock, Beverley Howes, Bridget Jones, Felicity Jones, Jessica Kirby, Diana MacDowall, Catriona Marchant, Gill McManus, Tracie Meisel, Doreen Mitchell, Louise Mount, Rosalynd Phillip, Rosalind Read-Leah, Maisie Robinson, Marie Southgate, Adele Stevenson

### **Altos:**

Judy Addy, Esther Chilcraft, Elspeth Coke, Anke Demunster, Janet Dixon, Maria Freeman, Sue Harling, Jane Houghton, Betony Kelly, Tacey Laurie, Sara Lymath, Cathy McCarthy, Eileen Mortby, Shreya Nanda, Jenny Neuburger, Sue Nowak, Mary Obeng-Asomani, Lisa Oyama, Pamela Roberts, Barbara Stewart, Suzanne Verhoven, Edith Walker, Susan Williams, Rachel Worledge

### **Tenors:**

Olivia Burt, Andrew Davis, Andrew Frost, Jan Gladysz, William Sing Lam Ng, Alan Strowger, Richard Vidal

### **Basses:**

Anthony Aderogba, Ian Boughton, David Freeman, Paul Gillett, Ian Grimley, Harry Grimshaw, Ashley Holt, Graham Hysted, Rob Kirtley, Mark Rothen, Felix Smith, Pete Stanger, Philipp Thiessen, Christopher Thom, Ed Walkington

### **Rehearsal accompanists:**

Alan Bowden, Jonathan Lilley

### **Thanks to:**

Karen Mortby, Eileen Mortby and Diana MacDowall who compiled the readings and programme for today's Commemoration and Act of Remembrance

## ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

led by the Reverend M W Bezerra Speeks, CF, Chaplain to the Honourable Artillery Company

### The Exhortation:

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.

**(All) We will remember them.**

**Last Post** – LSgt Mark Mclauchlin, Band of the Irish Guards

### Two Minutes Silence

### Reveille and Dedication:

When you go home, tell them of us and say, For your tomorrow, we gave our today

### CHOIR: The Long Day Closes, Arthur Sullivan

#### (ALL) HYMN: Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;  
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed;  
And guard us through all ills in this world, till the next!

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him Who reigns with Them in highest Heaven  
The one eternal God, Whom earth and Heav'n adore;  
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

#### (ALL) NATIONAL ANTHEM

God save our gracious Queen!  
Long live our noble Queen!  
God save the Queen!  
Send her victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us,  
God save the Queen.

Thy choicest gifts in store  
On her be pleased to pour,  
Long may she reign.  
May she defend our laws,  
And ever give us cause,  
To sing with heart and voice,  
God save the Queen.

#### BLESSING:

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, The Queen, the Commonwealth, and all people, peace and concord; and to us and all His servant's life everlasting; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **(All) Amen**

### The BATTLE OF AMIENS : Colonel (Retired) Hugh Boscawen, Coldstream Guards

In late 1917, Great Britain had conscription, and a large number of trained soldiers were retained in the United Kingdom by the choice of Prime Minister, David Lloyd-George, and the War Cabinet. In the Spring of 1918, German Armies on the Western Front launched five powerful offensives – to try to split the Allied Armies, to divide the British from their supply lines and to try to take Paris. The fighting was very costly on both sides – and the War Cabinet began to release the reserve of manpower to France. At the same time, the impressive if inexperienced American Expeditionary Force began to make an impact on the Western Front.

Let us pay tribute, at this point, to our forefathers in Whitehall, in many Government Departments, who moved those British reinforcements to France at short notice, and with the minimum of disruption. We all appreciate changes in policy and the rapid action that often follows, and this movement of troops by the Departments was a truly impressive, short notice achievement.

Allied forces attacked East from Amiens over the period 8–11 August 1918 in a major offensive to break through the German front lines. It involved the 1st French and 4th British armies and was led by Australian and Canadian forces. The battle was a combined air, artillery, infantry and tank offensive, prepared in great secrecy with the aim of driving the German forces away from the vital Allied railway links.

The innovative parts related to the components in the air, and in the large number of tanks used on the first day, all carefully co-ordinated. A Royal Air Force squadron laid smoke screens over the battlefield, and a heavy mist concealed No Man's Land as Zero Hour approached. On 8th August, at exactly 04:20 AM, 900 Allied guns opened fire and the infantry and tanks headed toward the German lines. The Germans were entirely unprepared for an attack of this scale, and many surrendered at the first chance. Allied soldiers fought through woods to clear German machine gun positions and take prisoners. The tanks lagged behind, however, struggling across the boggy terrain.

General Erich Ludendorff, Germany's military chief, described the 8<sup>th</sup> August as "the black day of the German Army in the history of this war ... Everything I had feared, and of which I had so often given warning, had here, in one place, become a reality." Nearly 28,000 German troops were killed or captured that day, an extraordinarily high figure. Inevitably, despite the initial success, it proved a struggle to sustain success on this scale. The advance continued but losses mounted for fewer gains in ground. Many tanks were out of action and aircraft needed maintenance. The Amiens Offensive ended on 11<sup>th</sup> August. Like all Great War battles, the fighting was costly: 21,243 Allied casualties were sustained at Amiens, one-quarter of whom were killed.

The British Army had learned how to co-ordinate attacks in a way hard to resist. The German Army was short of troops and low on morale. The Amiens battle heralded a final 100 days of the Allies advancing each day for the rest of the War. More people know about the Somme and Passchendaele than about this final Allied offensive phase of the war, which included the taking the Hindenburg Line, and advancing to the River Sambre and Mons in the North, while the French also fought in the Meuse-Argonne Region. By 6 October the German Chancellor, Prince Max of Baden, was requesting an Armistice, although it took time to negotiate. German morale was collapsing. The plain fact was that the Allied Armies, British, French, American and others had defeated the German army in the field. It was unfortunate that this fact was obscured and sometimes overlooked in the years of regret and austerity between the Wars.

**CHOIR: In Flanders Fields – Caz Besterman**

**1 - Who's for the game? (Poem: Jessie Pope 1915)**

**2 - In Flanders Fields (Poem: John McRae 1915)**

**3 - Perhaps (To R.A.L) (Poem: Vera Brittain 1916)**

**4 - The End (Poem: Wilfred Owen 1917)**

**5 - The Poet as Hero (Poem: Siegfried Sassoon 1917)**

**READING:**

Diary entry of Gunner J.R. Armitage, on the night of 7 August 1918, as he lay in readiness for the attack the next day

*It was utterly still. Vehicles made no sound on the marshy ground ... The silence played on our nerves a bit. As we got our guns into position you could hear drivers whispering to their horses and men muttering curses under their breath, and still the silence persisted, broken only by the whine of a stray rifle bullet or a long-range shell passing high overhead ... we could feel that hundreds of groups of men were doing the same thing - preparing for the heaviest barrage ever launched.*

**READING:**

Letter from Gunner Bert Cox about the first day of the battle

*The battle opened up at 4:20 AM the morning of the 8th of August under a heavy mist which lasted until 10:00 AM. It was the sort of ideal morning for a battle which one seldom sees.*

*Every gun shot together and the thing was off. I never heard anything like it in my life, neither has anyone else, as it was about the biggest show that has ever been staged on the Western Front. Several times I could not hear my own gun fire, and for half the series, I laid and fired the gun myself. After 3 hours, I was practically deaf. We fired our first shot at 4:20 AM at 800 yards and in three hours, the enemy was out of our range.*

**READING:**

General Paul von Hindenburg, German Army, on the Battle of Amiens, 8 August 1918

*On the morning of August 8th our comparative peace was abruptly interrupted. In the southwest the noise of battle could clearly be heard.*

*The first reports, which came from Army Headquarters in the neighbourhood of Peronne, were serious. The enemy, employing large squadrons of tanks, had broken into our lines on both sides of the Amiens-St. Quentin road. Further details could not be given.*

*The veil of uncertainty was lifted during the next few hours, though our telephone lines had been broken in many places. There was no doubt that the enemy had penetrated deeply into our positions and that batteries had been lost.*

**READING:**

Extract from a newspaper account by Philip Gibbs on the Battle of Amiens, 27 August 1918  
*Since August 8th we must have taken nearly 50,000 prisoners and nearly 500 guns, and the tale is not yet told because our men are going on, taking new strides, new batches of Germans, and more batteries.*

*The change has been greater in the minds of men than in the taking of territory. On our side the army seems to be buoyed up with the enormous hope of getting on with this business quickly. They are fighting for a quick victory and a quick peace so they may get back to normal life and wipe this thing clean from the map of Europe and restore the world to sane purposes.*

*The success of our infantry is the more remarkable because in this battle very few tanks have been used, and machine-gun nests had to be taken in many cases without their help.*

*This advance gives a sense of the enormous movement behind the British lines, and there is not a man who is not stirred by the motion of it. They are feeling that they indeed are getting on with the war. It is like a vast tide of life moving very slowly but steadily.*

**READING:**

Pericles. On the occasion of the public funeral for the war dead, Peloponnesian war.

*They received, each for his own memory, praise that will never die, and with it the grandest of all sepulchres, not that in which their mortal bones are laid, but in a home in the minds of men, where their glory remains fresh to stir to speech or action as the occasion comes by. For the whole earth is the sepulchre of famous men; and their story is not graven on stone over their native earth, but lives on far away, without visible symbol, woven into the stuff of other men's lives.*

**CHOIR: A Little Jazz Mass, Agnus Dei - Bob Chilcott**