

Civil Service  
Choir



ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE

# Ola Gjeilo Sunrise Mass

Vaughan Williams  
The Lark Ascending

1pm Tuesday 16 July  
St John's Smith Square  
London SW1P 3HA

Charity  
collection  
supporting

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Centre  
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[www.civilserviceshoir.org.uk](http://www.civilserviceshoir.org.uk)

Welcome to The Civil Service Choir's eighth appearance in this prestigious venue and London's only baroque concert hall. Hundreds of events are put on here every year, so do look at what else is on.

We started giving concerts in this venue in 2013, and since 2017 have performed as part of the St John's Smith Square Holy Week Festival. This, our first summer concert here, is an experiment, and we shall be back here again in November as part of the EFG London Jazz Festival. I am so very grateful to Richard Heason, Director of St John's Smith Square, and his team, for giving us the opportunity to perform here and for all their support. We are having a remarkable year, with three concerts here, singing recently in Westminster Abbey and Central Hall Westminster, and a concert coming up in St Martin-in-the-Fields in September. Where next?

The main work in today's concert is New York-based Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo's beautiful Sunrise Mass for choir and string orchestra. I have been wanting for us to do this piece since I first heard it two years ago. We are also trying something new and preceding this with Martin Gerigk's string sextet arrangement of Vaughan Williams' The Lark Ascending, which I hope you will agree works very well as a companion piece. Violinist Christian Halstead has led our orchestras for several concerts and it should be a treat to hear him perform the iconic Lark solo.

It is the choir's 10th birthday this autumn. Ten years ago, while trying to rehearse a small group of colleagues in a basement room, with a radio blaring from a room next door, I could not have imagined the incredible choir journey ahead. 108 performances on, I hope you will be delighted by where we have got to today.

On everyone's behalf I should like to thank you for making it all worthwhile by coming to support us and for your generosity at the end, as we do all this for charity.



**Music Director, The Civil Service Choir**



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[The Civil Service Choir](https://www.youtube.com/TheCivilServiceChoir)

# Programme

Conductor – Stephen Hall OBE

Vaughan Williams: *The Lark Ascending*  
String arrangement by Martin Gerigk (2018)

Violin – Christian Halstead

Ola Gjeilo: *Sunrise Mass*

## The Spheres (Kyrie)

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie  
eleison.

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord  
have mercy.

## Sunrise (Gloria)

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae volun-  
tatis  
Laudamus te.  
Benedicimus te.  
Adoramus te.  
Glorificamus te.

Glory to God in the highest.  
And on earth peace to all those of good  
will.  
We praise thee.  
We bless thee.  
We worship thee.  
We glorify thee.

Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam  
gloriam tuam.  
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater  
omnipotens.  
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.  
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
Suscipe deprecationem nostram.  
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere  
nobis.  
Quoniam tu solus sanctus.  
Tu solus Dominus.  
Tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe.  
Cum Sancto Spiritu in Gloria  
Dei Patris. Amen.

We give thanks to thee according to thy  
great glory.  
Lord God, Heavenly King, God the Father  
almighty.  
Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son.  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.  
Who takes away the sins of the world,  
Thou who takes away the sins of the  
world,  
Receive our prayer.  
Thou who sittest at the right hand of the  
Father, Have mercy on us.  
For thou alone art holy. Thou alone art  
the Lord.  
Thou alone art the most high, Jesus  
Christ.  
With the Holy Spirit in the glory  
of God the Father. Amen.

## The City (Credo)

Credo in unum Deum,  
Patrem omnipotentem,  
Factorem caeli et terrae,  
Visibilium omnium et invisibilium.  
Et in unum Dominum Jesum Christum,  
Filium Dei unigenitum.  
Et ex Patre natum ante omni saecula.  
Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine, Deum  
verum de Deo vero.  
Genitum, non factum, consubstantialem  
Patri,  
per quem omnia facta sunt.  
Qui propter nos homines,  
et propter nostram salutem descendit de  
caelis.  
Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto  
ex Maria Virgine. Et homo factus est.  
Crucifixus etiam pro nobis: sub Pontio  
Pilato passus et sepultus est.  
Et resurrexit tertia die secundum Scrip-  
turas.  
Et ascendit in caelum,  
sedet ad dexteram Patris.  
Et iterum venturus est cum gloria, judi-  
care vivos et mortuos,  
cujus regni non erit finis.  
Et in Spiritum Sanctum  
Dominum et vivificantem,  
qui ex Patre Filioque procedit.  
Qui cum Patre et Filio  
simul adoratur et conglorificatur, qui  
locutus est per Prophetas.  
Et unam sanctam catholicam et apostoli-  
cam Ecclesiam.  
Confiteor unum baptisma  
in remissionem peccatorum.  
Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum.  
Et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen.

I believe in one God, The Father Al-  
mighty,  
Maker of heaven and of earth,  
And of all things visible and invisible.  
And I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
The only begotten Son of God,  
Born of the Father before all the ages.  
God from God, light from light,  
True God from true God. Begotten, not  
made,  
Of one substance with the Father,  
By whom all things were made.  
Who for us and for our salvation  
Came down from heaven.  
And was incarnated by the Holy Spirit  
Of the Virgin Mary. And was made man.  
Crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate,  
He suffered, and was buried.  
And on the third day he rose again,  
According to the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and  
He sits at the right hand of the Father.  
He shall come again with glory  
To judge the living and the dead;  
And of his kingdom there will be no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Spirit  
The Lord and Giver of Life,  
Who proceeds from the Father and the  
Son  
Who together with the Father and the  
Son Is adored and glorified,  
Who spoke to us through the Prophets.  
And I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.  
I confess one baptism  
For the remission of sins.  
I await the resurrection of the dead  
And the life of the ages to come. Amen.

## **Identity (Sanctus) & The Ground (Benedictus/Agnus Dei)**

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.  
Osanna in excelsis.  
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.  
Osanna in excelsis.  
Agnus Dei,  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
Dona nobis pacem.

Holy, Holy, Holy  
Lord God of Hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of  
the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Lamb of God,  
Who takest away the sins of the world,  
Grant us peace.

Translation excerpted from *Translations and Annotations of Choral Repertoire, Volume I: Sacred Latin Texts*, by Ron Jeffers, earthsongs, 1988.

## **Ralph Vaughan Williams**

Born into a well-to-do family in 1872, Ralph Vaughan Williams showed musical promise at a young age. Although a late bloomer musically, certainly by 19th century standards (he had relatively modest success until well into his 30s) he has come to be regarded as one of the most significant and influential English composers of the last 200 years.

Vaughan Williams' influences were varied and privileged. He was a great nephew of Charles Darwin and enjoyed a progressive (if strongly moral) upbringing, which included scholarships to Charterhouse public school, the Royal College of Music and Trinity College, Cambridge. One of his fellow students at the Royal College was Gustav Holst, who would become a lifelong friend and the pair hugely influenced each other's music. His composition teachers at the College included Hubert Parry and Charles Villiers Stanford, but his

style always tended away from the more formal, Germanic style of these composition heavyweights. He really started to flourish after studying in Paris with Maurice Ravel in 1907-1908, a more modernist composer who helped him escape this Teutonic style and find his own expressive voice. It is no coincidence that some of his most enduring compositions, such as the *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*, were composed soon after this instruction.

Vaughan Williams' compositional legacy was huge, but his contribution and influence on British music is perhaps even more marked by his dedication to folk music and hymnody. He was a principal musical editor of *The English Hymnal*, published in 1906, and is attributed as the main driver of the book's musical quality. Versions of this work are still staples of many church choirs to this day. He also travelled the country listening to and transcribing local folk songs, many of which would now be lost through the oral tradition had he not made these transcriptions. This

love of folk music was a heavy influence on his modal compositional style, which clashed so much with Stanford and was finessed by Ravel.

## **The Lark Ascending**

Based on the poem of the same name by George Meredith, *The Lark Ascending* is probably Vaughan Williams's most well-known work. It is frequently at the top (and almost always in the top 5) on Classic FM's list of the nation's favourite music.

The poem itself, composed in 1881, was regarded by Siegfried Sassoon as an absolute masterpiece of its kind – "...one has only to read the poem a few times to become aware of its perfection". It is a long (122 lines) ode to the Skylark and his song, written in rhyming couplets. In his original sketches, which date back to 1914 (despite the work not being premiered until 1920), Vaughan Williams inserted a few lines from the poem. These included the opening and closing few lines, as well as the lines in which the lark embodies wine. There is a suggestion here that Vaughan Williams was drawing out a reference to the Eucharist in this selection.

The original version, for violin and piano, was composed just before the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, but was not premiered until 1920. The version with orchestra, which you will hear today (and is now the more common version) was premiered six months later. Vaughan Williams dedicated the work to the violinist Marie Hall, who premiered both versions.

## **Ola Gjeilo**

Born and bred in Norway, Ola Gjeilo studied at the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo, the Juilliard School of Music in New York and the Royal Academy of Music in London. After earning his bachelor's degree in London in 2004, he returned to Juilliard for his master's degree and settled in the USA. He currently resides in Manhattan and is the composer-in-residence for Distinguished Concerts International New York and Albany Pro Musica.

Gjeilo's musical style is influenced by his eclectic musical upbringing, showing signs of jazz and folk music as well as classical and pop. However, it is perhaps the music of his adopted country, America, which has the greatest influence on his compositional style, especially film music, arguably the most prominent exponent of classical music in the modern age. His compositions are often described as cinematic, with a lush, harmonious sound.

## **Sunrise Mass**

Gjeilo uses the text of the Latin mass in a slightly unusual way. Rather than setting the text in a series of movements based on the particular section of the mass, he gives the movements English titles 'The Spheres' (Kyrie), 'Sunrise' (Gloria), 'The City' (Credo) and 'Identity & The Ground' (Sanctus/Benedictus and Angus Dei). Gjeilo himself describes the reason for this as "...mainly to do with the initial idea behind *Sunrise Mass*. I wanted the musical development of the work to evolve from the most transparent and

spacey, to something completely earthy and grounded; from nebulous and pristine to more emotional and dramatic, and eventually warm and solid – as a metaphor for human development from child to adult, or as a spiritual journey”. The influence of film music on Gjeilo is evidenced throughout the work in the highly cinematic musical images he creates.

## **Conductor: Stephen Hall**



Stephen is a government statistician and policy advisor in the Rural Policy team of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

He co-founded The Civil Service Choir ten years ago as music director and principal administrator – his first experience leading a choir. He has been instrumental in the choir’s development and success.

Since 2013, during each Holy Week, he has conducted The Civil Service Choir in performances of major choral works at St John’s Smith Square, including Beethoven’s Mass in C, Mozart’s Great Mass in C minor and most recently Poulenc’s Stabat Mater.

Stephen is chairman of the English

Baroque Choir and also sings with the Orchestra of St John’s Voices, the Anton Bruckner Choir, and several other choirs. He leads a community choir and has performed in many theatre productions with the Lantern Arts Centre and is in a production of the musical Bye Bye Birdie this week. Stephen has been a volunteer leader of National Trust Working Holidays for 25 years, undertaking countryside management tasks, particularly in Cornwall.

Stephen was appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen’s Birthday Honours for voluntary and charitable service in June 2018.

## **Violinist: Christian Halstead**



Christian Halstead started learning the violin with his mother when he was 5. He continued his studies with professor Dona Lee Croft at the Royal College of Music, where he also won several prizes and memorably led the Symphony Orchestra for a performance of Rimsky-Korsakov’s Scheherazade in the presence of the Prince of Wales, and performed The Lark Ascending for Lady Ursula Vaughan-Williams.

Since graduating in 1999 Christian has

been a very busy freelance violinist, and has performed regularly with London Mozart Players, St. Paul's Sinfonia, City Chamber Orchestra, Dorset Opera, and the Festival Chamber Orchestra (based in Canterbury). He also leads Kent Sinfonia and Surrey Opera, and guest-leads Westminster Philharmonic and Isle of Wight Symphony Orchestra.

Passionate about chamber music, Christian founded the Abraxas Ensemble in 2001 and also plays for the Stretto Quartet and the Haysden String Quartet.

Christian has been delighted to lead the Whitehall Orchestra for the last two years!

## **The Civil Service Choir**

No ordinary workplace choir, The Civil Service Choir (formerly called Etcetera), established in 2009, is the largest and most thriving choir in the Civil Service. The un-auditioned membership includes administrators to senior civil servants and those who have not previously sung in a choir to highly experienced choral singers.

The choir normally rehearses for just one hour per week – on Monday lunchtimes – but preparation for this concert has also included a Saturday workshop and evening revision sessions. Repertoire ranges from large scale choral works to jazz and lighter music.

The choir has sung in 36 public concerts and 72 other performances in St John's Smith Square; St Stephen's Rochester Row; the Guards' Chapel Wellington

Barracks; City churches St Sepulchre-without-Newgate and St Katharine Cree (Brandenburg London Choral Festival); and in Government buildings across Whitehall. Its first tour in October 2018, to Belgium, included the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres and a concert in St Walburga's Church, Bruges. The choir recently sang in a Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Jeremy, Lord Heywood of Whitehall GCB CVO at Westminster Abbey and for the Centenary of the Department for Transport in Central Hall Westminster.

As well as performing beautiful music, the choir raises money for nominated charities - so far raising a total of over £35,000.

Although celebrating its tenth birthday this year, the choir can trace a lineage through several predecessor choirs: Victoria Singers (1997-2000), Marsham Singers (1972-97), St Christopher Singers (1964 to 1972) and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Choral Society (1957-72). There was a Civil Service Choir in the 1920s, and with the help of the Civil Service Sports Council, research is underway to find out more.

**The Civil Service Choir boasts over 150 members, representing around 30 government departments and agencies, as well as former civil servants.**

Those singing today include:

### **Sopranos**

Emily Botsford, Nathalie Branch, Anna Brohan, Moira Costello, Clare Dryhurst,

Nicola Ellis, Martine Follain, Carolyn Foxall, Manuela Galan, Honor Gay, Clare Gillett, Daria Gromyko, Jennifer Hall, Emily Handley, Sophie Hoare, Beverley Howes, Bridget Jones, Felicity Jones, Jackie Jowett, Amanda Kamugisha, Jessica Kirby, Elizabeth Learmonth, Diana MacDowall, Gill McManus, Tracie Meisel, Doreen Mitchell, Louise Mount, Preshanthi Navaratnam, Amy O'Brien, Lisa Oyama, Rosalynde Phillip, Jennie Pick, Maisie Robinson, Ruth Shepherd, Adele Stevenson, Aleksandra Trzeciak, Iulia Turiac, Tricia Vincent, Anna Wardell, Gemma Warren.

### **Altos**

Judy Addy, Lorraine Bennett, Natalie Berman, Sarah Bracken, Esther Chilcraft, Elspeth Coke, Hannah Crawford, Jess Curzon, Janet Dixon, Maria Freeman, Stephanie Freeth, Anne Gair, Vicky Giles, Esperanza Gomez, Caroline Graham, Sue Harling, Jane Houghton, Diana Killip, Sue Kirk, Stella Kremer, Tacey Laurie, Catherine Lovell, Sara Lymath, Bethan MacDonald, Sharon Maddix, Jenny Maresh, Cathy McCarthy, Danielle McLennaghan, Eileen Mortby, Sue Nowak, Mary Obeng-Asomani, Florence Pritchard, Alisoun Probert, Jennie Rayner, Pamela Roberts, Kim Sibley, Meriel Smith, Barbara Stewart, Seonaid Taylor, Suzanne Verhoven, Edith Walker, Jacquie Waller, Rachel Worledge.

### **Tenors**

Dave Anstice-Pim, Robert Bradburne, Phil Earl, Jan Gladysz, Mike Mansbridge, Tim May, Matthew Reed, William Sing Lam Ng, Peter Swift, Richard Vidal, Pam Whittingham Webb, Gordon Woods, James Young.

### **Basses**

Solomon Abraham, Nick Boorer, Simon Croft, Michael Denniss, David Freeman, Paul Gillett, Ian Grimley, Harry Grimshaw, Jan Hegenbart, Fintan Horan-Stear, Graham Hysted, Rob Kirtley, Kevin Lei, Chris Mason-Thom, Mark Rothen, Krishna Sompura, Jonathan Tillson, Ed Walkington, James Whitehouse.

### **Principal rehearsal accompanist**

Alan Bowden

### **Committee**

Stephen Hall (chairman, music director, posters, social media, publicity coordination), Graham Hysted (membership secretary, treasurer), Jan Gladysz (assistant treasurer), Beverley Howes (librarian, printing, general support), Eileen Mortby (business manager), Felicity Jones (Secretary), Diana MacDowall (concert manager, programmes, publicity and general support), Robert Bradburne (repertoire), Alan Bowden (repertoire).

### **Further support from:**

Doreen Mitchell, Jane Houghton, Andrew Frost and David Freeman (Voice Reps); David Freeman (assistant librarian); Barbara and John Stewart; Stella Kremer, Dave Anstice-Pim and James Adutt (additional rehearsal support); Ian Boughton, Stephanie Freeth, David Freeman, Phoebe Clapham, Sue Harling, Adele Stevenson (repertoire advisory group); Daria Gromyko and Tacey Laurie (social media); Natalie Berman, Jennie Rayner, Fintan Horan-Stear and Dave Anstice-Pim (programme research and production); and choir members and

communications colleagues helping with publicity.

### **Patron**

Clare Moriarty CB, Permanent Secretary of the Department for Exiting the European Union.

## **Orchestra**

The orchestra includes members of the Whitehall Orchestra and other guest players:

### **Violin**

Christian Halstead (Leader), Kaori Abe, Stephen Brown, Teresa Coakley, Jeremy Cook, Francis Dickinson, Janet Farrell, Rachel Moyce, Jane Onojafe, Usman Peguero, Adéla Ševčíková, Catherine Vincent.

### **Viola**

Rosemary Cook, Helen Jeffries, Roger Levett, John Rokos.

### **Triangle**

David Coronel

### **Cello**

Fern Carter, Jonathan Few, Stefan Knapik, Rachel Mulvey, Hedley Rokos, Malachi Siner-Cheverst.

### **Bass**

Graeme Hollingdale

### **String sextet**

Christian Halstead (soloist), Catherine Vincent, Jeremy Cook, Rosemary Cook, Stefan Knapik, Graeme Hollingdale.

## **Orchestra recruitment and liaison**

Richard Vincent

### **Further thanks to:**

Richard Heason and all the team at St John's Smith Square; Cardinal Hume Centre, Father John Scott and Westminster Cathedral (for use of the Sacred Heart Church for rehearsals); Rev. Graham Buckle and St Stephen's, Rochester Row (for rehearsal space); SPARTA – the Sports and Recreational Association of MHCLG and DfT; CSSC Sports & Leisure (for financial and promotional support); and Defra facilities.



Patrons are warmly invited to the Footstool restaurant for food and drink before or after the concert.

This concert is ticketed but has free admission. A charity collection will be taken in the hall immediately after the concert. We will have card readers available for electronic donations.

Our principal charity is the Cardinal Hume Centre – turning lives around to overcome poverty and homelessness – which provides remarkable support to young and other vulnerable people just a short walk from St Stephen’s.

[www.cardinalhumecentre.org.uk](http://www.cardinalhumecentre.org.uk)



 **Cardinal Hume Centre**  
Turning Lives Around

[www.CardinalHumeCentre.org.uk](http://www.CardinalHumeCentre.org.uk)  
Charity number: 1090836

 <p><b>£5</b> help a child in our family services programme</p>	 <p><b>£10</b> pay the travel costs to college for a teenage hostel resident</p>	 <p><b>£15</b> support an Easter activity for a local underprivileged family</p>
 <p><b>£20</b> provide a cookery lesson for an asylum seeking child</p>	 <p><b>£25</b> buy essentials for a homeless young person in our hostel</p>	 <p><b>£30</b> offer an advice session with our immigration lawyers for a destitute family</p>

 <p>Housing and Welfare Rights Advice</p>	 <p>Hostel for Young People</p>	 <p>Family and Young People's Services</p>	 <p>Learning and Employment</p>	 <p>Immigration Advice and Advocacy</p>
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We also support The Lifeboat Fund – helping the RNLI to save lives at sea – which is the oldest charity supported by the Civil Service. Reaching its 150th anniversary in 2016, the Fund aims to raise sufficient money to purchase a new lifeboat for the Royal National Lifeboat Institute.

[www.thelifeboatfund.org](http://www.thelifeboatfund.org)



## **The Civil Service Choir's forthcoming public performances:**

**Thursday 5 September 2019, 7pm**

The Brandenburg Choral Festival of London Autumn Series  
Vivaldi, featuring the Brandenburg Sinfonia  
St Martin-in-the-Fields

**Saturday 23 November, 7.30pm**

EFG London Jazz Festival  
The Voices of Jazz  
also features The Swingles and VoCollective  
St John's Smith Square

**Thursday 5 December, 7pm**

Yuletide Comfort & Joy  
St Stephen's Parish Church, Rochester Row

**Tuesday 10 December, 1pm**

Christmas Concert  
St Stephen's Parish Church, Rochester Row

**Tuesday 17 December, 1pm**

Carol Service  
St Stephen's Parish Church, Rochester Row

In accordance with the requirements of Westminster City Council, persons shall not be permitted to sit or stand in any gangway. The taking of photographs and use of recording equipment is strictly forbidden without formal consent from St John's Smith Square. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in St John's Smith Square. Please ensure that all digital watch alarms, pagers and mobile phones are switched off.

Refreshments are permitted only in our Footstool Restaurant in the crypt. The Footstool Restaurant will serve post-concert refreshments.