

Civil Service Choir

Directed by Stephen Hall, OBE



ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE



DAN FORREST

JUBILATE DEO

Wednesday 13th July, 1.05pm
St John's Smith Square



ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE
SOUTHBANK SINFONIA
EDUCATION PROGRAMME

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Welcome

Welcome to the Civil Service Choir's first concert in 2½ years. There have been times when I feared that our last concert, here in St John's Smith Square in January 2020, was indeed the last one ever. Our Dvorak Mass in D was cancelled soon after the pandemic took hold, followed by Dan Forrest's *Jubilate Deo* in July, followed in November by our second appearance in the London Jazz Festival – Will Todd's *Mass in Blue* with a big band and with the acclaimed Voces8 as the main feature.

During the lockdowns we produced several virtual recordings which you will find on YouTube. They were hard work but brought us together, albeit virtually. In December 2020 we published a daily recording from past Christmas concerts and carol services, including performances of parts I and VI of the Bach Christmas Oratorio. We had brief periods when a few of us had a least some appetite for Zoom-based rehearsals, and during the even briefer periods when some singing was allowed under the Covid-19 rules some of us sang together in person at St Stephen's, Rochester Row – at one point this was limited to just six singers. One of the legacies of the pandemic is extensive home working, which has added further to the challenges in getting the choir back.

However, here we are at last with some singers on stage and an instrumental ensemble, and to celebrate we are performing a piece I fell in love with four years ago. I hope in due course that we can perform it with the much larger forces we were used to, but I am delighted that we are performing it at all.

When I started the choir in 2009, 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. Over 140 performances later – some small, some huge – and with Covid-19 almost bringing us to a halt, we are back! 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. We do all this for charity, and we are looking forward to being able to raise money for our charities for the first time in over two years.



Music Director, the Civil Service Choir

Follow the Civil Service Choir:



civilservicechoir.org.uk



etcetera@civilservicechoir.org.uk



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JUBILATE DEO

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth!”

The Civil Service Choir

Orchestra Consort

Daisy Livesey (Soprano)

Mia Serracino-Inglott (Alto)

Conductor – Stephen Hall OBE

Dan Forrest's *Jubilate Deo* brings to life the global aspect of the traditional Psalm 100 text, “O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands”, by setting it in seven different languages and drawing from a wide spectrum of musical influences. Each movement combines some characteristics of its language-group's musical culture with the composer's own musical language.

The opening movement sets the ancient liturgical Latin translation of the Psalm in a rather American musical idiom, reflecting various influences from the composer's native country and introducing key musical motives for the work.

The second movement sets the “from age to age” portion of the text in Hebrew and Arabic, evoking ancient cultures from the Middle East. The music intentionally intertwines the two languages in a symbolic gesture of unity between these cultures.

Movement three uses Mandarin Chinese in a tranquil setting of the shepherd-sheep metaphor from the traditional text and quotes “the Lord is my shepherd” from Psalm 23, while the orchestra evokes the sounds of traditional Asian instruments.

The fourth movement shifts to Africa, setting celebratory portions of the text in Zulu and drawing from African vocal and drumming traditions.

Movement five represents Latin America, setting Spanish text to a folk-song style melody and blending traditional folk instrumental sounds with polyphonic textures from the classical choral tradition.

The sixth movement, “Song of the Earth,” portrays the Earth itself singing – first wordlessly, but eventually finding its own voice – and leads seamlessly into the final movement.

The finale unites many of the key themes and cultures from previous movements with other material, both old and new, as all the earth sings as one, “omnis terra, jubilate!”

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“I love this wonderful choir”

Will Todd - composer

1. Jubilate Deo...

(Choir)

Jubilate Deo, omnis terra;
servite Domino in laetitia.
Introite in conspectu ejus in exultatione.
Scitote quoniam Dominus ipse est Deus;
ipse fecit nos, et non ipsi nos:
populus ejus, et oves pascuae ejus.
Introite portas ejus in confessione;
atria ejus in hymnis: confitemini illi.
Laudate nomen ejus,
quoniam suavis est Dominus:
in aeternum misericordia ejus,
et usque in generationem
et generationem veritas ejus.

*O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God;
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise;
be thankful unto him,
and speak good of his name.
For the Lord is gracious,
his mercy is everlasting;
and his truth endureth from generation
to generation.
(Psalm 100, Latin Vulgate)*

2. Ve adthdor vador (From age to age)

(Soloists and choir)

בְּרַכּוּ שְׁמוֹ
כִּי־טוֹב יְהוָה לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ
וְעַד־דָּר וְדָר אֱמוּנָתוֹ
בָּרְכוּ אִשְׁמֵהּ. לֵאנֹן אֱלֹהִים
וְאֵלֵי אֲבָדִים רַחֲמֵהּ, וְאֵלֵי דוֹר וְדוֹר אֱמָנֵהּ.

*Bless his name. For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is
everlasting, and his truth endures from age to age.
(From Psalm 100:4-5, Hebrew and Arabic)*

3. Ta cao chang de yang (The sheep of his pasture)

(Solo and choir)

我们是他造的，
也是属他的；
我们是他的民，
也是他草场的羊。
耶和华是我的牧者，
我必不至缺乏。

*It is he that has made us, and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
(From Psalms 100:3 and 23:1, Mandarin Chinese)*

4. Ngokujabula! (With great rejoicing!)

(Choir)

Hlokoma kuJehova ngezwi lokuhlalalisa, mhlaba
wonke. Mkhonzeni uJehova ngokujabula, nisondele
ebusweni bakhe ngokuhuba kwentokozo. Yazini
ukuthi uJehova unguNkulunkulu!

*Shout with triumph to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the
Lord with joy, come before his presence with singing.
Know that the Lord is God! (From Psalm 100:1-3, Zulu)*

5. Bendecid su nombre (Bless his name)

(Solo and choir)

Entrad por sus puertas con acción de gracias, a sus
atrios con alabanza. Dadle gracias, bendecid su nombre.

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, his courts with praise.
Be thankful, and bless his name. (Psalm 100:4, Spanish)*

6. Song of the Earth

(Choir)

Alleluia.

Praise Jehovah. (Nearly universal transliteration)

7. ...Omnis Terra!

(Choir)

Omnis terra, jubilate, omnis terra, laudate,
Omnis terra, jubilate Deo!
(Adapted from Psalm 100, Latin Vulgate)

Sing for joy, dance in gladness,
shout for joy, all the earth!
(Adapted from various English translations)

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Applause is very welcome at the end of the performance. Please refrain from applauding between individual movements.

Dan Forrest



Dan Forrest (b. 1978) has been described as having “an undoubted gift for writing beautiful music....that is truly magical” (NY Concert Review), with works hailed as “magnificent, very cleverly constructed sound sculpture” (Classical Voice), and “superb writing...full of spine-tingling moments” (Salt Lake Tribune). His music has sold millions of copies, has received numerous awards and distinctions, and has become well established in the repertoire of choirs around the world via festivals, recordings, radio/TV broadcasts, and premieres in prominent international venues.

Dan’s choral compositions (published by Beckenhorst Press, The Music of Dan Forrest, and Hinshaw Music) range from small choral works to extended multi-movement works for chorus and orchestra. His major work *Requiem for the Living* (2013) has become standard choral/orchestral repertoire with nearly 1000 performances from ensembles around the world. His *Jubilate Deo* (2016) is following a similar trajectory, and his more recent major works *LUX: The Dawn From On High* (2018) and *the breath of life* (2020) have also received similar critical acclaim.

Dan holds a doctorate in composition and a master’s degree in piano performance, and served for several years as a professor and department head (music theory and composition) in higher education. He currently serves as Editor at Beckenhorst Press, Chair of the American Choral Director’s Association Composition Initiatives Committee, and Artist-In-Residence at Mitchell Road Presbyterian Church (Greenville, South Carolina). Details about Dan and his work can be found at www.danforrest.com.

Daisy Livesey – Soprano



Daisy Livesey joined the Royal Academy of Music in September 2021 on the Undergraduate Vocal Studies course with a scholarship and is taught by Alex Ashworth. At the Academy, she has worked with John Butt, Eamonn Dougan, Iain Ledingham and Philippe Herreweghe as a choir member and soloist in Bach series concerts, as well as singing with the Academy Symphony Orchestra directed by Andrew Gourlay. Daisy’s musical beginnings were with Oxford Girls’ Choir, a group with which she sang as a soloist and chorus member in performances such as Handel’s *Semele* and Purcell’s *Dido and*

Aeneas and The Fairy Queen at SJE Arts. Whilst singing with the group she was also selected for projects with Roderick Williams and for Edward Higginbottom’s *Instruments of Time and Truth*. Daisy has previously been taught by Sophie Bevan and achieved her DipABRSM in 2018 under the guidance of Richard Vendome.

Mia Serracino-Inglott – Alto



Mia Serracino-Inglott is a Maltese-British mezzo soprano, currently based in London. She is a scholarship student at the Royal Academy of Music and is entering her final year of undergraduate studies, under the tuition of Marie Vassiliou and Joseph Middleton. Mia has premiered roles in contemporary operas at both the Royal Academy of Music (*Daylighting*) and the Tête-à-Tête Opera Festival (EXPO: MCYO). Her recital performances at the RAM have included Ravel’s *Sherezade*, de Falla’s *Siete Canciones Populares* and a recital combining song and spoken word, dedicated to settings of Edna St Vincent Millay. Mia is honoured to have been a soloist for the RAM’s prestigious Bach

in Leipzig concert series and has also enjoyed being a soloist for choral societies across the northwest. Recent engagements have included Vivaldi’s Gloria (Philharmonic Choir of Manchester), Haydn’s Nelson Mass (Hallam Choral Society), and Dvorak’s Mass in D (Lindow Singers).

Stephen Hall OBE – Conductor



Conductor Stephen Hall is a government statistician and policy advisor in the Rural and Place team of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. He co-founded what is now the Civil Service Choir in 2009 as music director and principal administrator – his first experience of leading a choir. He has been instrumental in the choir's development and success and has conducted the choir in almost every one of its 140 performances, including its ten concerts at St John's Smith Square (including Beethoven's Mass in C, Mozart's Great Mass in C minor, Poulenc's Stabat Mater, Schubert's two Stabat Maters, Ola Gjeilo's *Sunrise Mass*, Bach's Christmas Oratorio and in the London Jazz Festival). As well as singing in other choirs and conducting a local choir, he is involved in amateur theatre at the Lantern Arts Centre in Raynes Park, where he will be playing David Bliss in a production of Noël Coward's comedy *Hay Fever* next week.

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

The Civil Service Choir

The Civil Service Choir is no ordinary workplace choir. Pre-Covid-19 it boasted over 150 active members drawn from government departments and agencies in Westminster, and a reputation for remarkable performances. It performs a wide range of accompanied and unaccompanied repertoire in ambitious programmes in concerts and for events.

The choir has been honoured to perform in the prestigious and magnificent baroque concert venue of St John's Smith Square. It has also given concerts at St Martin-in-the-Fields, St Sepulchre-without-Newgate and St Katharine Cree, as part of the Brandenburg London Choral Festival, as well as at St Stephen's Rochester Row, the Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks, and at events in various Government Departments in Westminster. In June 2019 the choir sang in a Service of Thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey for the life and work of Jeremy, Lord Heywood of Whitehall GCB CVO. The choir also undertook its first tour in October 2018, during which it sang at the Menin Gate Last Post Ceremony in Ypres and gave a concert at the church of St Walburga in Bruges, Belgium.

The choir was officially recognised as The Civil Service Choir in May 2019, although it was founded in September 2009 as Etcetera, originally as a staff choir covering three government departments – Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra); Transport (DfT); and Communities and Local Government (DCLG) – now the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). However, it 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 what happened to it is to be researched.

"If anyone needed further proof that singing can bring people together and transform our lives, look no further than the Civil Service Choir! Their enthusiasm and sheer enjoyment of performing is infectious, in addition to their commitment and diligence in entertaining their audience with truly heartening performances."

Ben Parry – Artistic Director of National Youth Choirs of Great Britain & Assistant Director of Music, King's College, Cambridge

The Civil Service Choir comprises members drawn from across government departments and agencies, as well as former civil servants. Those singing today include:

Sopranos

Sophie Buckland, Abi Coskun, Immy Findlay, Laura Green, Daria Gromyko, Sarah Heywood, Beverley Howes, Juliet Kirkland, Diana MacDowall, Tracie Meisel, Nancy Newberry, Katharine Petty, Rosalynde Phillip, Amy Simon, Tricia Vincent

Altos

Judy Addy, Natalie Berman, Elspeth Coke, Lucia Constanzo, Maria Freeman, Anne Gair, Sue Harling, Sue Kirk, Jenny Maresh, Alex McColl, Hannah Reid, Hannah Vlcek, Anna Williams, Rachel Worledge

Tenors

Simon Ashdown, Rob Bradburne, Nigel Dawbney-Fisher, Andrew Frost, Jan Gladysz, Richard Kwasniewski, Tim May, William Sing Lam Ng, Barbara Stewart, Richard Vincent, Matthew Yau

Basses

Arthur Ashman, Ian Boughton, David Freeman, Graham Hysted, Chris Mason-Thom*, David McColl, Hans Rashbrook, Alex Rees, Mark Rothen

** Caller in movement 4*

Committee: Stephen Hall (chairman, music director), Graham Hysted (membership secretary, treasurer, score management), Jan Gladysz (assistant treasurer), Beverley Howes (coordination and general support), Diana MacDowall (concert manager, coordination and general support), Rachel Worledge (business manager and social secretary), Nick Boorer (business manager), Felicity Jones (secretary), Robert Bradburne (repertoire), Daria Gromyko (posters, publicity and social media).

Further support from: Barbara and John Stewart (audio and video recording); Mark Oldfield (vocal coaching); and choir members and communications colleagues helping with publicity.

Patron: Clare Moriarty DCB, Chief Executive of Citizens Advice

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

Violin: Catherine Vincent

Oboe: Nancy Johnston

Harp: Gabriella Dall'Olio

Cello: Jennifer Sturt

B^b Clarinet: Roy Simpson

Percussion: David Coronel

Flute/Piccolo: Carla Finesilver

Horn: Mark Morley

Piano: Matthew Reed*

**Principal rehearsal accompanist*

Orchestra recruitment & 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); SPARTA (for financial support)



SPARTA – the Sports and Recreational Association of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Department for Transport – celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2022. We would like to thank it for all the support it provides to the choir.

Please donate generously to the charity collection, which will be split between the charities detailed below. Donations can be made in cash in collection buckets or via contactless credit/debit card payment at the doors.



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



Each year, Southbank Sinfonia welcomes 33 of the world's most promising graduate musicians to form an orchestra and ‘pass the baton’ between established and aspiring performers, inspiring generations of musicians to come. Our annual fellowship, now located at St John’s Smith Square, provides unparalleled opportunities to gain crucial orchestral experience and the skills that 21st century musicians need to thrive. More than just an orchestra, it is a community where promising young talents can find their own voice and creative strengths, fulfil personal goals, make lasting contacts, and take their musicianship to new frontiers.
southbanksinfonia.co.uk



Supporting civil servants, past and present, when times are tough, listening without judgement and offering practical, financial and emotional support.
foryoubyyou.org.uk

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 on the SJSS Terrace.