

Civil Service
Choir

Celebrating 150 performances

a medley of musical
Memories

Tuesday 11th July 2023

St Stephen's Rochester Row, Westminster

Directed by Stephen Hall, OBE

Pianist: Matthew Reed

Welcome to this concert, which is celebrating the Civil Service Choir (formerly Etcetera Choir) reaching its 150th performance in December 2022. To mark this milestone, we're performing for you today pieces sung by the choir over the years since it was formed in 2009. The original year we sang each piece is shown below.

Programme

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|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Zadok the Priest (2010) | George Frideric Handel |
| 2. For the Beauty of the Earth (2009) | John Rutter |
| 3. The Silver Swan (2012) | Orlando Gibbons |
| 4. Lay a Garland (2014) | Robert Lucas Pearsall |
| 5. O Nata Lux (2017) | Morten Lauridsen |
| 6. Sleep (2018) | Eric Whitacre |
| 7. Identity from <i>Sunrise Mass</i> (2019) | Ola Gjeilo |
| 8. Der 43. Psalm: Richte mich, Gott (2015) | Felix Mendelssohn |
| 9. The Invention of Printing (2016) | Bob Chilcott |
| 10. Don't Think Twice, It's All Right (2020) | Bob Dylan |
| 11. Chattanooga Choo Choo (2011) | Harry Warren |
| 12. Hail Holy Queen (2013) | Marc Shaiman/Roger Emerson |



SPARTA is the Sports and Recreational Association of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Department for Transport. We would like to thank it for all the support it provides to the choir.

1. Zadok the Priest - G F Handel (1685 - 1759)

Handel's anthem was composed for the coronation of George II on 11 October 1727. The piece is part of a set, known as the *Four Coronation Anthems*. The others are entitled *The King Shall Rejoice*, *My Heart is Inditing*, and *Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened*. Zadok served as a high priest during the reigns of King David and King Solomon and was a major figure in the history of ancient Israel. The words of the piece are derived from the Bible, *The Book of Kings*, 1:34-45.

*Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anointed Solomon king.
And all the people rejoiced and said:
God save the King! Long live the King! God save the King!
May the King live for ever. Amen. Hallelujah.*

2. For the Beauty of the Earth - John Rutter (b. 1945)

John Rutter's composition is a setting of an 1864 hymn by Folliott S. Pierpoint and was published in 1980. Rutter uses four stanzas of Pierpoint's eight-verse hymn, which the poet wrote in response to the beauty of the countryside near to his home in Bath. Rutter wrote the music in response to a commission from the Texas Choral Directors Association. He changed the text of the refrain to each verse from 'This our Sacrifice of Praise' to 'This our joyful hymn of praise'.

*For the beauty of the earth
For the beauty of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies*

Refrain

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise*

*For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and moon and stars of light*

*For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild*

*For each perfect gift of thine
Unto us so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth, and buds of Heaven*

3. The Silver Swan - Orlando Gibbons (1583 - 1625)

Gibbons' piece was published in his *First Set of Madrigals and Motets of 5 parts* in 1612. *The Silver Swan* is the composer's most famous madrigal. The anonymous words deal with the legend that swans are mostly silent throughout life but sing beautifully just before they die (hence 'swansong'). It is conjectured that the last line may be a reference to the end of the English madrigal tradition, which had flourished from the 1580s until the 1620s. The tradition had already become unfashionable in Europe by the time Gibbons composed his piece in 1612.

*The silver Swan, who, living, had no note,
When Death approached, unlocked her silent throat.
Leaning her breast against the reedy shore,
thus sang her first and last, and sang no more:
"Farewell, all joys! O Death, come close mine eyes!
More geese than swans now live, more fools than wise."*

4. Lay a Garland - Robert Lucas Pearsall (1795 - 1856)

Robert Pearsall is chiefly known as a composer of vocal music. Apart from this piece, he is well known for his arrangement of *Dulci Jubilo*. *Lay a Garland* is a poem from the play *The Maid's Tragedy*, written by Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher and published in 1619. The words are spoken by Aspasia, when her fiancé is made to enter a marriage of convenience to the king's mistress. Pearsall's piece was written in 1840 and is scored for eight-part choir. The adapted words are changed from the first to the third person:

*Lay a garland on her hearse
of dismal yew.
Maidens, willow branches wear,
say she died true.
Her love was false, but she was firm
Upon her buried body lie
lightly, thou gentle earth.*

5. *O Nata Lux* - Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

Lauridsen's *O Nata Lux* is the third movement of the composer's *Lux Aeterna* and was written for the conductor Paul Salamunovich and the Los Angeles Master Chorale. It was premiered on 13 April 1997. Rather than composing a liturgical work, Lauridsen brings together Latin texts from the Requiem Mass and the Te Deum with heavenly light as the unifying theme. *O Nata Lux* (*O Light born of Light*) is often performed separately from its larger work and is a beautiful standalone piece.

*O nata lux de lumine,
Jesu redemptor saeculi,
Dignare clemens supplicum
Laudes precesque sumere.*

*O Light born of Light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
with loving-kindness deign to receive
suppliant praise and prayer.*

*Qui carne quondam contegi
Dignatus es pro perditis,
Nos membra confer effici
Tui beati corporis.*

*Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
for the sake of the lost,
grant us to be members
of thy blessed body.*

6. *Sleep* - Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

Sleep was commissioned by Julia Armstrong, a professional mezzo-soprano, in memory of her parents. She asked Whitacre if he would write a piece set to her favourite poem, *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* by Robert Frost. The piece was completed and performed in October 2000, but there followed a protracted legal battle between the composer and the Robert Frost Estate, who forbade Whitacre to set the poem to music until 2038. Whitacre then asked his poet friend, Charles Anthony Silvestri, to write a poem to the same music, "that had the exact structure of Frost's poem (and) even incorporate(d) key words from (it)." *Sleep* is the result of the Whitacre/Silvestri collaboration.

*The evening hangs beneath the moon,
A silver thread on darkened dune.
With closing eyes and resting head
I know that sleep is coming soon.*

*If there are noises in the night,
A frightening shadow, flickering light,
Then I surrender unto sleep,
Where clouds of dream give second
sight,*

*Upon my pillow, safe in bed,
A thousand pictures fill my head.
I cannot sleep, my mind's a-flight;
And yet my limbs seem made of lead.*

*What dreams may come, both dark and
deep,
Of flying wings and soaring leap
As I surrender unto sleep,
As I surrender unto sleep.*

7. Identity from Sunrise Mass - Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Ola Gjeilo wrote his *Sunrise Mass* for the Majorstua Chamber Choir and Nova Chamber Choir of his native Norway, and it was premiered in 2008. Whereas Gjeilo uses the conventional Latin and Greek text of the Mass in each of the work's four movements, for the titles of each movement he uses English. They are *The Spheres*, *Sunrise*, *The City* and *Identity*. The final movement, which we perform today, incorporates the Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei of the Latin Mass. Gjeilo explains the spiritual journey of the music thus: "I wanted the musical development of the Mass to evolve from transparent and spacey, through increasing emotion and movement, to something solid and grounded - as a metaphor for human development from child to adult, for a spiritual journey, or for the creative process itself."

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,

Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.

Osanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit

in nomine Domini.

Osanna in excelsis.

Agnus Dei,

qui tollis peccata mundi.

Agnus Dei.

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 that cometh

in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Lamb of God,

*Who takest away the sins of the
world,*

Lamb of God.

Grant us peace.

8. Der 43. Psalm: Richt mich, Gott - Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847)

Mendelssohn's piece is one of many psalm settings he composed. It is scored for eight-part double-choir and is set in German. The strident opening asks for deliverance from "deceitful and unjust man" and poses the question 'where is God when I am surrounded by the wicked?' In the face of this turmoil we are encouraged to place our faith in God, and the Psalm ends in affirmative praise to God the saviour.

Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people; from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!

For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you rejected me? Why do I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!

Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

9. The Invention of Printing - Bob Chilcott (b. 1955); words by Charles Bennett (b. 1954)

Five Days that Changed the World was written for the Worcester International Festival for Young Singers 2013. As the composer's note on the piece explains: "The theme of the festival was peace and unity, so I wanted to find an idea that would embrace this. The poet Charles Bennett came up with five new texts identifying events that have brought people together and, by their nature, become a force for good." *The Invention of Printing* is the first of these five pieces; the others are *The Abolition of Slavery*, *The First Powered Flight*, *The Discovery of Penicillin* and *The First Man in Space*.

*The quick brown fox, the quick brown fox.
The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.*

*I saw them walking like footprints in the snow.
Saw them walking into houses all over the world.
Open the door of the eye and let them in.*

*I saw each letter. Saw each letter like a person.
'Z' was lonely and 'E' was everyone's friend.
I watched them gather together into words.*

*I knew if I took the letters one by one.
Knew if I held them tight in forty-two lines.
They could speak to everyone everywhere.*

*In the beginning were footprints over the page.
The footprints of a fox who jumps.
Into your eye and over the lazy dog.*

10. Don't Think Twice, It's All Right - Bob Dylan (b. 1941) - arranged by Louise Drewett for The Civil Service Choir

The late Head of the Civil Service, Jeremy Heywood, was a Bob Dylan fan. In response to a commission by The Civil Service Choir, Louise Drewett arranged the song for four voices and accompaniment and dedicated to Lord Heywood's memory. Bob Dylan's song was written in 1962 and is said to be his response to the break-up of a relationship with his girlfriend.

*Well it ain't no use to sit and wonder why, babe
If you don't know by now.*

*And it ain't no use to sit and wonder why, babe
It'll never do somehow*

*When your rooster crows at the break of dawn
Look out your window and I'll be gone
You're the reason I'm travelling on
But don't think twice, it's all right*

*Well it ain't no use in turnin' on your light, babe
That light I never knowed*

*And it ain't no use in turnin' on your light, babe
I'm on the dark side of the road*

*Well I wish there was something you would do or say
To try and make me change my mind and stay
But we never did too much talking anyway
But don't think twice, it's all right*

*Well it ain't no use in callin' out my name, gal
Like you never done before*

*And it ain't no use in callin' out my name, gal
I can't hear ya anymore*

*I'm thinking and wond'ring, walking down the road
I once loved a woman, a child I am told
I give her my heart but she wanted my soul
But don't think twice, it's all right*

*I'm walkin' down that long and lonesome road, babe
Where I'm bound, I can't tell*

*Goodbye is too good a word, babe
So I'll just say fare thee well*

*I ain't sayin' you treated me unkind
You could have done better but I don't mind
You just kinda wasted my precious time
But don't think twice, it's all right*

11. Chattanooga Choo Choo - Harry Warren (1893 - 1981); arr. Pete Schmutte

Chattanooga Choo Choo was written in 1941. It was originally recorded by Glenn Miller and his Orchestra and featured in the 1941 movie *Sun Valley Serenade*. It was spectacularly successful, being the first song to receive a gold record by RCA Victor for sales of 1.2 million copies.

*Pardon me sir, is that the Chattanooga choo choo?
Track 29, sir you can give me a shine
I can afford to board the Chattanooga choo choo
I've got my fare and just a trifle to spare*

*You leave the Pennsylvania station 'bout a quarter to four
Read a magazine and then you're in Baltimore
Dinner in the diner, nothing could be finer
Then to have your ham 'n' eggs in Carolina*

*When you hear the whistle blowing eight to the bar,
Then you know that Tennessee is not very far
Shovel all the coal in, gotta keep it rolling
Woo, woo, Chattanooga, there you are*

*I'm gonna meet a certain party at the station
Dressed in satin and lace, with a smile on my face
She's gonna cry until I tell her that I'll never roam
So, Chattanooga choo choo, won't you choo choo me home?*

12. Hail Holy Queen - arr. Marc Shaiman, adapted by Roger Emerson

Hail Holy Queen features in the 1992 comedy film, *Sister Act*. It stars Whoopi Goldberg as a singer who witnesses a gangland execution and is placed in witness protection in a Convent.

*Hail holy Queen enthroned above
Oh, Maria
Hail Mother of Mercy and of love
Oh, Maria
Triumph all ye cherubim
Sing with us ye seraphim
Heaven and earth resound the hymn
Salve, salve, salve Regina*

*Hail holy Queen enthroned above
Oh, Maria
Hail Mother of Mercy and of love
Oh, Maria
Triumph all ye cherubim
Sing with us ye seraphim
Heaven and earth resound the hymn
Salve, salve, salve Regina*

*Our life, our sweetness here below
Oh, Maria
Our hope in sorrow and in woe
Oh, Maria
Triumph all ye cherubim
Sing with us ye seraphim
Heaven and earth resound the hymn
Salve, salve, salve Regina*

*Alleluia
Mater amata intermerata
Sanctus sanctus dominus
Virgo respice mater adspice
Sanctus sanctus dominus
Alleluia*

*Our life, our sweetness here below
Oh, Maria
Our hope in sorrow and in woe
Oh, Maria
Triumph all ye cherubim
Sing with us ye seraphim
Heaven and earth resound the hymn
Salve, salve, salve Regina*

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

Sopranos

Kate Bennett, Sophie Buckland, Stephanie Clackworthy, Phoebe Clapham, Abi Coskun, Moira Costello, Antonella Cuccurullo, Carolyn Foxall, Daria Gromyko, Beverley Howes, Imogen Hussey, Jacqueline Jowett, Diana MacDowall, Gill McManus, Tracie Meisel, Nancy Newberry, Mary Ngei, Jane Osborne, Katharine Petty, Georgie Salzedo, Christine Solway, Iulia Turiac, Tricia Vincent

Altos

Natalie Berman, Charlotte Brown, Kate Brown, Elspeth Coke, Lucia Costanzo, Helena Dodd, Sally Donaghey, Alice Ertl, Clare Essex, Maria Freeman, Sue Harling, Sophie Harrington, Sara Lymath, Sharon Maddix, Alex McColl, Eileen Mortby, Sally Paterson, Eden Portman, Pamela Roberts, Kim Sibley, Ruby Tabner, Emma Tarran, Vicky Vale, Iona Wakely, Sophie Westcoat, Maddy Watt, Jess Whitehead, Imogen Wignall, Rose Woolhouse, Rachel Worledge

Tenors

Andrew Frost, Jan Gladysz, Joe Haig, Richard Kwasniewski, William Sing Lam Ng, Barbara Stewart, Alan Strowger, Peter Swift, Gordon Woods, Matthew Yau

Basses

Nick Boorer, David Freeman, Matthew Holt, Graham Hysted, Chris Mason-Thom, Steve Railton, Alex Rees, Mark Rothen, John Stainer, Jonathan Tillson

Choir Committee

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

Further support from:

Matthew Reed, Daniel Leung, Patrick Lillie and Harry Dadswell (rehearsal accompanists); Barbara and John Stewart (general support); Mark Oldfield (vocal coaching); and choir members and communications colleagues helping with publicity.

Patron

Clare Moriarty DCB, Chief Executive of Citizens Advice.

Further thanks to:

St. Stephen's Rochester Row; Cardinal Hume Centre; Father John Scott and Westminster Cathedral for use of the Sacred Heart Church for rehearsals.

Since its formation, the Civil Service Choir has raised over £40,000 for a number of charitable causes. Donations from today's retiring collection will be supporting:



Turning lives around to overcome poverty and homelessness, providing support to young and vulnerable people in Westminster.

cardinalhumecentre.org.uk

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cfcs.org.uk



St. Stephen's Church, undertaking work in this parish and further afield, and maintaining the historic church building.

sswsj.org

Smoking or vaping is not permitted anywhere in the church. Please ensure that all mobile phones and any other noise-emitting devices are switched off.

Forthcoming Performances

Celebrating Will Todd Choral Jazz

19 November 2023

St. John's Smith Square

Christmas Concert

13 December 2023

St. Stephen's, Rochester Row

Carol Service

19 December 2023

St. Stephen's, Rochester Row

Brahms Requiem

with the Kensington Philharmonic Orchestra

17 March 2024

St. John's Smith Square