



Composer and pianist **Will Todd** is globally revered for his beautiful and exciting music. His work encompasses choral works, opera, musical theatre and orchestral pieces, as well as jazz and chamber works, and was performed at the late Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.



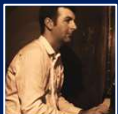
Stephen Hall, Music Director and co-founder of The Civil Service Choir, is a government statistician at DEFRA. Starting out with just 4 singers in an office basement in 2009, Stephen has developed and led the choir from strength to strength, through the challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic, to celebrating over 150 performances this summer. In 2018, Stephen was appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) for voluntary and charitable service. **The Civil Service Choir** is no ordinary workplace choir: un-auditioned, it boasts nearly 200 active members, and a reputation for remarkable performances. To date the choir has raised over £45,000 for charity, most recently fundraising for **The Cardinal Hume Centre** and the **Charity for Civil Servants**.



Italian-born singer **Francesca Confortini** (*soprano*) is an accomplished vocalist, songwriter, arranger and educator with a background in jazz, pop and musical theatre performance. She has performed internationally, for artists and acts including Yusuf Islam (Cat Stevens), The New York Voices, the BBC Concert Orchestra and Katy Perry.



Rob Barron (*piano*) has played with numerous acclaimed American and UK jazz musicians. As a session musician he has played on many film soundtracks and has worked with the BBC Big Band, The Philharmonia Orchestra and The Ronnie Scott's Jazz Orchestra.



Tommy Andrews (*saxophone*) is an award-winning multi-instrumentalist, composer and educator. A graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, he is a recognised band leader and appears as a sideman with the BBC Big Band and many of the UK's greatest jazz ensembles and musicians.



Tom Green is an alumnus of the Royal Academy of Music and a leading trombonist on the London jazz scene. The **Tom Green Jazz Orchestra** has been selected and created for this concert comprising young and proven jazz stars:



Bass: Alec Dankworth

Drums: Matt Skelton

Percussion: Dickie Horne

Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone & Flute: Rob Cope

Bass Clarinet & Baritone Saxophone: Tom Smith

Trumpet 1: James Davison

Trumpet 2: Alex Ridout

Trombone 1: Tom Green

Trombone 2: Vij Prakash

Bass Trombone: Yusuf Nargın

Upcoming performances by the Civil Service Choir

Lunchtime Carol Service | 1pm, Tue 19th Dec | **St Stephen's Church, Rochester Row**
Traditional carol service with collection for The Cardinal Hume Centre & Charity for Civil Servants.

Brahms – Ein Deutsches Requiem | 7pm, Sun 17th Mar | **St John's Smith Square**
An evening choral concert with the Kensington Philharmonic Orchestra.



The Civil Service Choir would like to thank **SPARTA Recreational Association**, John Billett (JBGB Events), our rehearsal accompanists **Matthew Reed**, **Daniel Leung**, **Patrick Lillie**, and **Harry Dadswell**, our vocal coach **Mark Oldfield**, the **Choir Committee**, **Barbara & John Stewart**, the team at **St. John's Smith Square**, the **Cardinal Hume Centre**, Father John Scott and Westminster Cathedral for use of the **Sacred Heart Church** for rehearsals, the Reverend **Graham Buckle** for use of **St Stephen's Church, Rochester Row**, and all others who have supported the choir in putting on this concert.

Civil Service Choir

Directed by Stephen Hall, OBE



ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE



Tom Green Jazz Orchestra
Soprano – Francesca Confortini
Piano – Rob Barron
Saxophone – Tommy Andrews

Celebrating WILL TODD Choral Jazz

19 November 2023
St John's Smith Square, London



Civil Service Choir



@CSChoir



civilservicechoir.org.uk

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Programme

Jazz Missa Brevis

Kyrie
Gloria
Sanctus
Benedictus
Agnus Dei

Will Todd in conversation
with John Billett

Songs of Love

I Love You
A Kiss
I Sing Because

Amazing Grace

Interval – 20 minutes

Will Todd showcases Mass
in Blue with John Billett

Mass in Blue

Kyrie
Gloria
Credo
Sanctus
Benedictus
Agnus Dei

Prize draw



Welcome

We have waited three years to perform the *Mass in Blue*. After the challenges of the pandemic, we are thrilled to be here at St John's Smith Square joined by tonight's stellar line-up of jazz musicians as part of the EFG London Jazz Festival. We hope to make this evening as special for you as it is for us. I am most grateful to all who have supported the choir and made it possible to put on this concert, and to you, for making it worthwhile by coming to hear us.

Stephen Hall - Music Director, Civil Service Choir

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. Please ensure that all digital devices are switched off. Bottled water and drinks purchased in our Footstool Café-bar are permitted in the auditorium – please ask at the bar when ordering for a reusable cup.

Jazz Missa Brevis was written for Portsmouth Cathedral Choir and first performed on 4th October 2015 at the St Thomas Becket Festival. Will Todd wrote: "I have aimed to create simple and lasting music that will work equally well in liturgy or in concert.... In the same way that I would in a jazz gig, I've made sure that there is a contrast of rhythmic feels between the movements."

Songs of Love is a setting of three poems by Californian poet Nils Peterson (b.1933), based on words by Greek female poets *Myrtiotissa* (Theony Dracopoulou, 1883-1968), *Maria Polydouri* (1902-1930) and a Greek lyric who remains anonymous. Commissioned by conductor Elena Sharkova and first performed by the Symphony Silicon Valley Chorale in 2012, the songs take us on a journey from a heartfelt and ecstatic declaration of love, through to a moving reminiscence of love lost.

Will Todd's arrangement of John Newton's renowned hymn *Amazing Grace* was written for Andrew Earis and the choir of St Martin in the Fields, London. It was performed at President Obama's Inauguration Day prayer service in 2013 and in the BBC's Nelson Mandela Thanksgiving Service in 2014.

Mass in Blue was commissioned by David Temple and Hertfordshire Chorus in 2003 and performed in the same year. In his note on the piece Will Todd writes about the challenges of composing a work that "represents a conscious collision of two musical genres: sacred choral music and jazz...in the end, plainsong and 12-bar blues showed me the way forward. I also incorporated several features of Gospel singing: improvisatory solos, choral textures that veer between unison and much richer harmonies, and call-and-response patterns." The work follows the usual six-movement scheme of the Latin Mass but following a final prayer for peace in the *Agnus Dei*, the piece is brought to its ebullient and uplifting conclusion by recalling the end of the *Credo*: *Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum, et vitam Venturi saeculi*: I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Please use the QR-code to respond to our **short feedback questionnaire** for a chance to win **two tickets** to our upcoming performance *Brahms – Ein Deutsches Requiem* with the Kensington Philharmonic Orchestra on Sunday 17th March!

Latin Mass Texts

Kyrie: Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Gloria: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te. 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. Suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, O miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu Solus Dominus, tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu: in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

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 omnia 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 Scripturas. Et ascendit in caelum: sedet ad dexteram Patris. Et iterum venturus est cum gloria, iudicare vivos et mortuos: cuius 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 apostolicam Ecclesiam. Confiteor unum baptisma in remissionem peccatorum. Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum. Et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen.

Sanctus: Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus! Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus: Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

Agnus Dei: Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me;
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come;
'Tis Grace hath brought me safe thus far, and Grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

This earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine;
But God, who called me here below, will be forever mine.

I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

- John Newton (1725-1807)

Songs of Love

I Love You - Myrtiotissa

I love you,
I can say nothing,
Nothing more simple,
Nothing more deep.
I offer you my heart
As pillow for your head,
And when you tire,
For your bed.
My love, I offer all of me,
All of me, my love.

A Kiss - anonymous Greek lyric

I kissed a red lip
And my own lip turned red,
Wiped my lip upon my sleeve
And my sleeve turned red.
Washed my shirt in the river
And the river turned red,
And the edge of the shore,
And red out even
To the middle of the sea.
An eagle flew down to drink water
And his wings turned red.
He flew up and up, and lo!
Half of the sun - red.
And the whole of the moon - red.
I kissed a red lip.

I Sing Because - Maria Polydouri

I sing because you loved me once.
I sing when the sun shines,
when it rains and when it snows.
Because you held me
In your arms one night.
I am as beautiful as a wide-open lily.
Because you looked at me once
and your soul was in your look
I fix my hair and wear perfume.
Because you admired me walking by
I saw my slender shadow move.
I was born into this world
because you loved me.
Now you are gone.
Because you loved me once,
I too can sweetly die.
So beautifully you loved me once.

- Translated & adapted by Nils Peterson