

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY

Conducted by Graham Bull

Piano — Richard Kubiak

The Best of British!

Saturday 9th July 2022 @ 7.30pm

St Mary's Church, Chepstow

CCS is affiliated to Tŷ Cerdd , Music Centre Wales
and is also a Registered Charity (No: 1127098)

www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk

BEST of BRITISH CONCERT PROGRAMME

Zadok the Priest – Coronation Anthem	G F Handel
Missa Princeps Pacem :	W Lloyd Webber
• Kyrie	
• Gloria	
• Sanctus	
• Benedictus	
• Agnus Dei	
Jazz Songs of Innocence :	B Chilcott
• Piping Down the Valleys Wild	
• The Lamb	
• The Little Boy Lost/The Little Boy Found	
• The Echoing Green	
• The Divine Image	
Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened	G F Handel

INTERVAL

The Best of Bond medley	arr. N Ginsburg
The Sprig of Thyme :	arr. J Rutter
• The Keel Row	
• The Willow Tree	
• Down By the Sally Gardens	
• Willow Song	
• The Miller of Dee	
• Afton Water	
A Tribute to Queen	arr. M Brymer
Mass in Blue :	W Todd
• Gloria	
• Sanctus	
Welsh & UK National anthems	
Hallelujah Chorus (from The Messiah)	G F Handel

Future Concerts

Wednesday 14th December - Our festive Christmas concert – Arts Hall, Chepstow School @ 7pm

Saturday 25th March - Spring Concert – St Mary’s Church, Chepstow @ 7.30pm

Wednesday 5th July - Summer Concert – Arts Hall, Chepstow School @ 7pm

We would kindly ask that you switch off all electronic devices during the concert, including cameras, and mobile phones. Thank you.

Welcome!

Welcome to our Summer Concert 2022. On behalf of Chepstow Choral Society it gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all back to St Mary's Church this evening to our Summer Celebration Concert- The Best of British! What better way to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year than to showcase some wonderful music from some of Britain's finest composers. Let us take you on a journey through the years with a collection of some choral classics and some magnificent contemporary pieces.

There will be something for everyone, so sit back, relax and enjoy!

Sue Carter - Chair, Chepstow Choral Society.

Programme Notes

As happened in 2012, Chepstow Choral Society thought it appropriate to mark this Jubilee year with a tribute to all that is musically great in our own land. Tonight's programme represents much that is 'The Best of British' - both art-music and more popular repertoire.

Handel's Coronation Anthems date from 1727, on the accession of King George II. Texts for 4 anthems were taken from biblical threads that had been used in the 1685 service, but Handel's settings have been used in all subsequent coronations, including that of 1953. Use of the text for **Zadok the Priest** at coronations dates back even further, to that of Edgar in 973AD in fact. After a grand instrumental introduction, the music evolves in 3 distinct sections, culminating in Alleluiahs and Amens.

William Lloyd Webber, father of musical theatre impresario Andrew, and of cellist Julian, was himself a very fine mid-20th c. composer, as well as a distinguished academic and brilliant organist. His music is highly romantic, and covers a variety of genres, including much choral repertoire. **Missa Princeps Pacis** was written in 1962, and sets all the usual Mass texts except the Credo. At a centenary celebration of the composer in 2014, a reviewer noted that the work was "beautifully crafted and proportioned, with echoes of Faure".

Bob Chilcott sang with and composed for Kings Singers, but has also written numerous pieces for amateur choirs – many of them in a variety of jazz idioms. **Jazz Songs of Innocence** present settings of 5 poems from William Blake's 'Songs of Innocence' of 1788. Each are in a different jazz style, musically reflecting the poems' timeless themes of wisdom and humanity. The last song of the group, *The Divine Image*, sums this up well in its final words – "Where Mercy, Love and Pity dwell, there God is dwelling too."

Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened is another of **Handel's** anthems used for the 1727 coronation. The text derives from Psalm 89, and, like *Zadok*, is structured in 3 sections, ending with further Alleluiahs.

Interval

If music representing the life-span of tonight's performers and audience is what's required, then surely the name's '**Bond...James Bond**'. Tonight's medley includes the unforgettable title theme, plus songs from several of the earlier (1960s/70s) film outings. Enjoy!

John Rutter may well be the best known living composer and arranger of amateur choral music. His music can be traced back to Christmas carols in his student days (*Shepherd's Pipe Carol*), and his prolific output is often sympathetic to choirs like ours. His **A Sprig of Thyme** is a collection and arrangement of 11 traditional folk songs from around the UK. We have chosen 6 to give a flavour of this delightful

work, starting with a lively version of *The Keel Row* (Northumbrian) and ending with a gentle Scottish lullaby *Afton Water*.

There couldn't be a much better way to celebrate the best of popular and rock music than a selection of favourite songs by legendary rock band **Queen**. This short medley features 4 of the band's best known songs. Feel free to hum along!

British composer **Will Todd** studied music at nearby Bristol University. He is well-known for his choral output, and his *The Call of Wisdom* was a commission for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations a decade ago. **Mass in Blue** has grown consistently in popularity since its composition in 2003, and is now a favourite with choral groups world-wide. To give a flavour of this composer's most successful work to date, we are singing two movements, the Gloria and the Sanctus.

We conclude our programme with 2 National Anthems and perhaps the most celebrated piece of choral writing in the English-speaking repertoire.

Handel's Messiah was first performed in 1748, and the **Hallelujah Chorus** that ends Part 2 of the oratorio was instantly popular with audiences. It may be that the (nowadays much doubted) myth surrounding King George II standing to show appreciation, and the public tradition that has since followed, has something to do with this.

Perhaps a rousing finale just does bring an audience to its feet!

CCS welcomes new members!

Choral singing lifts the spirits and gives a sense of collective pleasure, and everyone in CCS is a member because they love singing – and we welcome new singers in all voice sections.

We do not have a formal audition policy and prospective members should contact Marjorie Duerden (tel. 01291 623310) or through the website link www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk. **No-one** is excluded on grounds of lack of previous choral experience, ability to play instruments, etc, - just come and enjoy singing!

Patrons, Supporters and Friends

CCS promotes and encourages music within the community through its concerts. We particularly foster and support young and aspiring musicians but our ticket sales rarely cover our costs of our concerts. Patrons (minimum subscription £30) receive a complimentary ticket for each concert and an invitation to our Patrons' evenings. This patronage helps us to arrange concerts confident that we can cover at least some of our costs. We are extremely grateful for the ongoing support of our patrons, and particularly over the last couple of challenging years. If you would like to join us please contact Kathryn Hughes, Patrons and Membership Secretary :

kathryn.m.hughes@gmail.com or call **07872 528152**

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