

✧ **NANTWICH CHORAL SOCIETY** ✧

Berliner Messe

- *Arvo Pärt*

Little Organ Mass

- *Haydn*

Beatus Vir

- *Monteverdi*

Soloist

Sue Tyson - Soprano

Organist

Andrew Mildenhall

Consort of Strings

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Patrick Larley

The Parish Church of St Mary, Nantwich

Saturday 21st June 2003 at 7.30 p.m.

PROGRAMME

“Peace in the World” – Patrick Larley (for solo voice & string quartet)

Composer's note: I was first handed a copy of this Chinese proverb at the outset of the war with Iraq and have pondered the words many times over the last few months. My intention was to create a musical setting which reflected the absolute simplicity of the text yet emphasised the profound message which it carried, and several earlier attempts were abandoned as the musical ideas started to become too complicated or involved. The power of the proverb is in its simplicity; and, therefore, its musical representation must not detract from this. The answer finally came to me on the morning of June 3rd – and the piece was completed in just over an hour.

Berliner Messe – Arvo Pärt

Arvo Pärt was born in Paide, Estonia, in 1935 at a time when the country was firmly in the grip of Soviet repression. In 1958, after a period playing percussion in an army band and working as a recording engineer in a state-owned radio station, he enrolled as a student at the Tallinn Conservatoire. He had a particular interest in Mediaeval and Renaissance polyphony and immersed himself in the works of Machaut, Josquin, Ockeghem and numerous composers of that period. However, it wasn't until the late 1970s that he discovered a distinct, very personal style with which he found an immediacy of expression. He called this new technique 'tintinnabuli' because over its bell-like overtones.

The Berlin Mass was first performed, liturgically, at the Catholic Days in Berlin during May 1990 – scored for four singers and organ. Pärt later revised the score and orchestrated it for strings and chorus. The *Alleluia Verses* and the setting of the Pentecost hymn *Veni Sancte Spiritus*, which are often omitted in liturgical performance, fit perfectly into the tonal scheme when performed in concert.

Little Organ Mass: Missa Sancti Joannis de Deo – Franz Joseph Haydn

The Missa Sancti Joannis de Deo dates from about 1775. It was written for the Order of the Brothers of Mercy who maintained a convent in Eisenstadt as well as a house in Vienna. Haydn was particularly well disposed towards the Brotherhood and dedicated several church works to their patron, Saint John of God.

The emphasis in Haydn's short masses was towards conciseness and practicality, with little or no solo work, simple accompaniments (often based on two violins and continuo) and some repetition to facilitate both composition and easy learning. Brevity was often achieved in the Gloria and Credo by allowing the vocal parts to carry different lines of the text simultaneously. The compression of the Gloria in this mass to some thirty-one bars is an extreme example of polytextual treatment and Haydn's younger brother, Michael, made a more extensive arrangement for use in the cathedral at Salzburg. The Benedictus is a beautiful, soaring solo for soprano with a prominent obligato on the organ. It is this movement which gives the mass its nickname 'Little Organ Mass'.

Organ Solo – Music by Gabrieli

By the mid 16th century the 'Ricercare' was an established type of instrumental music, alongside the Toccata and the Fantasia. The Italian term 'Ricercare' means 'to seek or search out' and it is possible that the word became linked to the practice of improvising a piece of keyboard or lute music prior to a vocal work, in order to establish a sense of tonality for the singers.

The two organ Ricercari which will be played immediately prior to 'Beatus Vir' are from a collection by Andrea Gabrieli (1533-1585) published posthumously in 1587. Gabrieli is generally regarded as among the most important Italian composers of the mid 16th century, and a major figure in the development of both sacred and secular vocal forms and keyboard music. After studying with Lassus in Munich he returned to Venice when he became organist at St Mark's in 1566. As a teacher he had a major influence and included Sweelinck and his nephew Giovanni Gabrieli among his pupils. We can safely assume that his music was still in use at St Mark's during Monteverdi's tenure as Maestro.

Beatus Vir – (Setting of Psalm 112) – Claudio Monteverdi

Monteverdi was born in Cremona in 1567. He was a violinist in the court of the Duke of Mantua – later become Maestro di Cappella. He was dismissed in 1612 but took up a similar post in St Mark's Venice the following year. The 6-part *Beatus Vir* (Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord) is a setting of Psalm 112 dating from about 1640. There is a marked resemblance to his popular secular canzonetta *Chiome d'ora* (1619) which also mixes the techniques of ostinato (repetitive bass figure) and rondo (recurring phrase). The repetition of the opening two bars and the four-bar instrumental ritornello is a feature of the work whilst the Gloria is treated sequentially between groups of voices finally coming together in the closing five bars.

PROGRAMME

Musical Director: PATRICK LARLEY
Soloist: SUE TYSON
Organist: ANDREW MILDENHALL
THE CONSORT OF STRINGS

Peace in the World

(for solo voice and string quartet)

If there be righteousness in the heart,
There will be beauty in the character.
If there is beauty in the character,
There will be harmony in the home.
If there is harmony in the home,
There will be order in the nation.
When there is order in each nation,
There will be peace in the world.
(Chinese proverb)

Patrick Larley

Berliner Messe

Kyrie
Gloria
Alleluia
Veni Sancte Spiritus
Credo
Sanctus and Benedictus
Agnus Dei
Alleluia

Arvo Pärt

INTERVAL

Of 20 minutes

Tea/Coffee and Biscuits will be served in the Parish Room

Little Organ Mass: Missa Sancti Joannis de Deo

Franz Joseph Haydn

Kyrie
Gloria
Credo
Sanctus
Benedictus
Agnus Dei

Organ Solo

Ricciare – sesto tono
Ricciare – Deu decimo tono

Andrew Mildenhall

Andrea Gabrieli
Andrea Gabrieli

Beatus Vir
(Setting of Psalm 112)

Claudio Monteverdi

Sue Tyson – Soprano – is an English graduate of Cambridge University where she has also studied Anglo-Saxon and Norse, and took leading roles in several operas and plays.

Sue is a versatile performer, her solo engagements ranging from mediaeval music to premieres of contemporary pieces, including the dramatic and spectacularly high soprano solo in Patrick Larley's *Appearing, Shining, Distant or Near*. She also sang the solo in Patrick Larley's *A Girl for the Blue* in the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, and on BBC Radio 3 with the chamber choir Canzonetta, and has performed with BBC Northern Singers and Chudleigh's Cumpanie, featuring as a soloist and ensemble singer on three CDs of contemporary works.

Sue sings and plays recorders, crumhorn and rauschpfeife in two early music ensembles, 'La Brigata' and 'The Gallery Players', appearing at various festivals including Birmingham Early Music Festival, Bath Festival and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. She has also performed as a soloist with a number of the leading period instrument orchestras including 'His Majesty's Sagbutts and Cornetts', 'The Orchestra of the Golden Age' and 'The English Haydn Orchestra'.

As well as playing and teaching the clarinet, Sue helps to run music and drama workshops for children and for mentally and physically disabled adults.

Apart from her musical activities, Sue devotes time to bringing up her two children and enjoys walking and exploring Scottish islands.

Patrick Larley – conductor and composer, has been Musical Director of Nantwich Choral Society since 1998 and holds a similar post with Ludlow Choral Society in Shropshire. During this time he has widened the choir's horizons by adding new and challenging works to the standard repertoire, leading the choir in performances with prestigious orchestras such as the Manchester Camerata, Orchestra of the Golden Age and His Majesty's Cornetts and Sagbutts, and by encouraging the performance of unaccompanied choral music.

Patrick studied Organ, Singing and Choral training at the RNCM, and since then he has worked with a number of leading professional orchestras in the North-West as conductor, keyboard player and singer, and has taken part in many of the country's major music festivals including Aldeburgh, Chester, Paisley, York and the Proms. He is also founder and director of his own orchestral ensemble – **The Consort**, the vocal ensemble **Chudleigh's Cumpanie**, and the children's choir, **Ludlow Young Voices**.

Many of Patrick's compositions have been recorded on CD and broadcast on Radio 3. Recordings include *The Rose of Peace* – music for a cappella voices, and *On a Fine Morning* – music for solo voice and piano. The cantata *Appearing, Shining, Distant or Near* (a setting of The Great Egyptian Hymn to Aten) was composed for LCS in 1998 and recorded on their CD Praise for Creation, and a *Mass of a Thousand Ages* was commissioned by NCS for the millennium celebrations and premiered on 8th April 2000 in St Mary's Church, Nantwich. New commissions include a joyful anthem for the Berkshire County Schools' Choirs and Orchestra celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, to be performed in Windsor Castle on 9th July 2003, and a musical sequence on the life of St Columba commissioned by Opus Anglicanum for performances in Glasgow Cathedral and Iona Abbey in May 2004.

NANTWICH CHORAL SOCIETY MEMBERS

SOPRANO 1

Ann Barnard
Janice Brown
Jo Butchart
Joyce Clegg
Glenda Colemere
Gail Corfield
Rita Davies
Ann Ferguson
Cynthia Gorton
Maeve Hague
Frances Hughes
Sheila Luke
Sue Munks
Maire Pedder
Rachel Pentecost
Jacqueline Weatherill
Helen Kerr
Elizabeth Kirby

SOPRANO 2

Sue Briscoe
Christine English
Joyce Foster
Gill Handford
Dorothy Layfield
Anne-Dorothee Maechtig
Eileen Robertson
Barbara Shone
Christine Thomas

ALTO 1

Jean Atkin
Alison Bailey
Diane Disbury
Susan Elliott
Isobel Hope
Linda Lewis
Jane Lincoln
Ann Nicol
Sue Sherwood
Margaret Smith
Gillian Wakeley
Diane Wheatley
Joss Cooper

ALTO 2

Shirley Burton
Rita Donnelly
Angela Greaves
Joy Guest
Janet Miller
Nancy Kellett
Anne McKay
Brenda Midgley
Brenda Morris
Jean Nurse
Sheila Pemberton
Joan Shaddick
Gwyneth Rollins

TENOR

Martyn Colley
Wal Kaye
Thomas Maechtig
Mike Moore
Mike Moores
Peter Pedder
Ian Robertson
Jeremy Rogers
Nick Smith
Philip Trinder
Joe Watson

BASS

Roger Boulton
Christopher Findlay
David Foster
Nick Green
Martin Jones
Ron Kelly
Jock Knight
Jonathan Layfield
Ray Potts
Bob Pugh
John Saunders
Simon Stubbington
David Walker

Nantwich Choral Society evolved from a WEA evening class in 1972 and has now grown into a society of over 80 voices with members drawn from a wide geographical area. NCS has gained an enviable reputation for its high standard of performance and works regularly with outstanding professional soloists and orchestras, and has become an important element of musical life in the town. The Society's chosen venue, the Parish Church of St Mary in Nantwich, is often described as the 'Cathedral of South Cheshire'. Like so many buildings of its time, the acoustics are superb and it is for this reason that the choir, as well as the professional musicians they engage to work with them, consider it a privilege to perform in St Mary's. Membership of Nantwich Choral Society is open to all. We rehearse on Wednesdays from 7.30 – 9.30. If you would like to sing, please come along to our next rehearsal which will be in September, or contact the Chairman, Jacquie Weatherill, Tel.01270 569551.