

# The Esterházy Chamber Choir

Edwardian Classics  
Stanford Parry  
Wood



At St Mary's Ringmer  
Saturday 1st July 7.30

Conducted by Derek Froud

## PROGRAMME

Let all mortal flesh keep silence	Bairstow
Vox dicentis: Clama	Naylor
Three Latin motets, Op 38 Justorum animae Coelos ascendit hodie Beati quorum via	Stanford
Magnificat for eight-part chorus, Op 164	Stanford
- <i>Interval</i> -	
The Blue Bird, Op 119 No 3	Stanford
The Swallow, Op 119 No 6	Stanford
Piano Improvisations Clive Osgood, piano	Gershwin
Songs of Farewell My soul, there is a country I know my soul hath power to know all things Never, weather-beaten sail There is an old belief	Parry
Hail, gladdening light	Wood

Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry was a prolific composer with five symphonies, an opera, several oratorios and much chamber music to his credit, but it is for his choral works that he is best remembered and none more so than the unison song, Jerusalem. But perhaps his most personal testimony is the set of six motets entitled Songs of Farewell which reflects the acute inner loneliness that plagued him in his later years. Written between 1913 and 1917 Parry never lived to hear them performed as a complete set, the first such performance being at a memorial concert at Exeter College, Oxford on February 23, 1919. This evening's performance includes the first four songs of the set.

Charles Villiers Stanford was equally prolific though comparatively little of his musical output has survived. As a teacher of composition at the Royal College of Music from its opening in 1884 and professor at Cambridge until his death in 1924 he was a formative influence on the succeeding generation of British composers, his pupils including Vaughan Williams, Herbert Howells and Arthur Bliss. His contribution to Anglican church music is even larger than Parry's, and his canticle settings lie amongst his most original works, for he revitalised the well-worn texts by treating them symphonically. The Three Motets (Op.38) were published in 1905, but they probably date from 1892 when he handed over his post as organist of Trinity College, Cambridge, to Alan Gray to whom the motets were dedicated. The Magnificat in B Flat (Op.164) for double choir was completed in September 1918 and bears the Latin inscription "Huic operi quod mors vetuit ne Carolo Huberto Hastings Parry vivo traderem nomen moerens praescribo" (This work which death prevented me from handing Charles Hubert Hastings Parry in life, I dedicate to his name in grief). Whilst universally acclaimed as a master technician, Stanford is sometimes accused of lacking the

emotional depth of Parry and Elgar. There could be no better defense to this charge than the songs, *The Blue Bird* and *The Swallow* (Op. 119) which are masterpieces of delicate impressionism.

Edward Cuthbert Bairstow was a noted composer of church music and organist of York Minster. *Let all mortal flesh keep silence*, though short, is a jewel among jewels and a firm favorite of both singers and audiences.

The composer of *Vox dicentis: Clama*, Edward Woodall Naylor is probably best known for his opera, *The Angelus*, written in 1909, which won the Ricordi prize for an English work. A lecturer at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, he was not only a composer of much church music, but also a distinguished writer and musicologist.

Charles Wood, composer of *Hail gladdening light*, which concludes this evening's programme, was very closely connected with Stanford. Both Irishmen, composers and organists, Wood was a pupil and successor of Stanford's at the Royal College of Music. He also was an organist and lecturer at Cambridge (Gonville and Caius) where he was appointed professor on Stanford's death. In contrast to the rich romanticism of his contemporaries, Wood was capable of a purity of style comparable to Byrd or Palestrina.

## **Derek Froud**

Derek Froud is Chairman of the Esterhazy Chamber Choir and Director of Music at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Brighton. He studied organ with Peter Stevenson at Portsmouth Cathedral and later with Ivor Keys at Birmingham University.

Since moving to Brighton in the late 'seventies, Derek has sung regularly with Brighton Festival Chorus and, for the last eight years, with the Esterhazy Chamber Choir. He was organist at St George's Church, Kemp Town for twelve years from 1984. In 1993 he gave up his career in banking to take up the post of Communications Director at the Royal School of Church Music. He is at present Head of Fundraising for the Royal Blind Society.

## **The Choir.**

**Sopranos:** Dilys Goggins, Leanne Holmes, Alison Jeffery, Lucy Morgan-Jones, Joanna Stephens, Jancis Ham, Fran du Corbier, Judy McKerras

**Altos:** Maria Birch, Alison Brown, Kinga Woodward, Joyce Phillips, Janet Ormerod, Karen Zeff, Grainne Sinclair

**Tenors:** Michael Bulman, Robert Carpenter, Nick Martin, John Carroll

**Basses:** John Astbury, John Burns, Chris Dixon, Matthew Spencer, Clive Osgood (also rehearsal pianist), David Brown

## **About The Esterházy Chamber Choir**

The Esterházy Chamber Choir was founded in 1993 and is based in Lewes, East Sussex. Comprising 24 experienced singers from a wide variety of backgrounds, the choir aims to perform at a professional standard whilst remaining firmly rooted in the fine English tradition of amateur music making. The choir's repertoire spans four centuries of sacred and secular music with an emphasis on *a cappella* singing.

New singers (all voices) are welcomed. Entry is by audition, usually held following one of our regular rehearsals on a Wednesday evening.

## **To contact the Choir**

To support the choir, to audition or to enquire about hiring the choir for weddings and other special events, please email [choir@esterhazy.org.uk](mailto:choir@esterhazy.org.uk). To prevent your email from being identified as spam, please include the word **choir** in the subject box.



Why not help us to make more music by becoming a Friend, or by sponsoring the Choir or a musical event? If you feel you might be able to help in this way, please contact John Astbury on 01273 403935.

### **Friends of Esterházy**

#### **Benefactors**

Mr S Ffoulkes  
Mr D Froud  
Mr & Mrs H Foord

#### **Patrons**

Mr M Evans      Mr & Mrs M Lipton  
Mr C B d' A Fearn  
Mr & Mrs P Gillham      Mr D Millington  
Mrs P Johnstone      Mr DJ Platt OBE  
Prof A Wood  
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Mr H Cornwell      Ms D M Peat  
Mrs M Freeman      Ms D M Peat  
Mrs J Gumpert      Mrs A Robinson  
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#### **Forthcoming Events**

November 2006 Tompkins and Britten  
March 2007 German motets  
June 2007 Summer programme St Mary's Ringmer