

The Choir:

Watership Cantabile, with their Musical Director, David Holland, are a local mixed-voice choir who sing a wide variety of music from all over the world. Based in Newbury, they have performed many concerts in the surrounding areas and are well known to audiences there. They are delighted to perform for the first time in Popley, bringing a selection of music, old and new, with a "Music for all Seasons" theme.

The choir like to undertake tours, at home and in Europe, most recently visiting Luxembourg and France. On their last foreign tour they went to the Dordogne, singing a Byrd mass in Brantôme Abbey and had the opportunity to sing in Bordeaux Cathedral prior to their return. Closer to home, they had a short tour to Dorset, singing in a small parish church in Shillingstone and then in Christchurch Priory. They have performed in Arts Festivals in Hungerford and Thatcham, and given concerts in Eastbury, Beenham and Brimpton.

The choir are actively recruiting, especially in mens' voice parts. If anyone is interested in singing and would like further information about the choir, they should contact the Chairman, Chris Druce on 01635 865339.



"a Little Seasoning"

The Passing of the Year in Song

by

Watership Cantabile

in

St Gabriel's Church, Popley

Thursday, 15^h July, 8.00pm

Proceeds towards the Families and Youth-worker project

Programme

Summer

Introduction: from "Summer" by Christina Rossetti

When Summer's Merry Days Come In E T Davies
Those Lazy-Hazy-Crazy Days of Summer Hans Carste

Reading: from "The Hidden Roads – a Memoir of Childhood" Kevin
. Crossley- Holland

To be sung of a Summer's night on the water Frederick Delius
I do like to be beside the Seaside John A Glover-Kind,
. arr. Andrew Carter

Autumn

Introduction: from "Autumn" by John Clare

All good gifts from "Godspell" Stephen Schwartz,
. choral arrangement by David Holland
Autumn Frank Bridge

Reading: "Business Girls" John Betjeman

Hymn to St. Cecilia Benjamin Britten
Autumn Leaves Joseph Kosma, arr Andrew Carter

Short Break

Winter

Introduction: from "The Year" by Coventry Patmore

Now Winter Nights Norman Gilbert
The Birth of Nicolas Benjamin Britten

Readings: from "the Diary of Ernest Shackleton, 8 January 1909
"Talking Turkeys" Benjamin Zephaniah

A New Year Carol John Ireland
Jack Frost J L Hatton

Spring

Introduction: "Thaw" by Edward Thomas

Flower Carol Piae Cantiones (1582) arr. Martin Shaw
It was a lover and his lass George Shearing

Readings: from "April" Robert Browning
"April" G F Bradby

Spring, the Sweet Spring from "Songs of Springtime", E J Moeran
The Floral Dance Katie Moss, arr. David Holland

**We all hope you enjoy the concert this evening. We should
be glad to meet you over refreshments afterwards.**

For Spring:

Flower carol

Arr. Martin Shaw

This is a free translation, with a doxology, of the original words for the well known melody “Tempus adest floridum”, from Piae Cantiones, printed in 1582.

It was a lover and his lass

Music: George Shearing Words: William Shakespeare

The blind jazz pianist George Shearing “collaborated” (in his own words) with William Shakespeare to produce this jazz choral setting of a text from “As you like it”. It was first performed on July 9th 1999 directed by Shearing’s great friend John Rutter. In typical style Shearing has written: “If Mr. Shakespeare hadn’t done HIS part in the first place, we’d all be in the soup. Enjoy!”

Spring, the sweet Spring

Music: E.J. Moeran Words: Thomas Nashe

This is the third of Moeran’s “Songs of Springtime”, seven settings of Elizabethan poems, published in 1933. Nature was always an inspiration for his compositions; at the time of composition of this piece, Moeran was living in the Cotswolds. A wide ranging melody line is supported by his characteristic harmonies.

The Floral Dance

Katie Moss arr. David Holland

On May 8th 1911 Katie Moss, a London composer visiting Helston, observed the traditional Furry Dance and joined in the dancing herself in the evening. The dance celebrates the passing of Winter and the arrival of Spring. On the train home she wrote words and music of a solo song with piano accompaniment about her experience, calling it “The Floral Dance”. In this choral arrangement listen out for the town band as it accompanies the dance in the chorus and even taking centre stage at one point.

Musical Notes – by David Holland

For Summer:

When Summer’s merry days come in

Music: E.T.Davies Words: A.J.Perman

Composed in 1913, this Part Song revels in the joys of summer. Just in case we should forget, there is a section which looks back on the grey days of winter!

Those lazy-hazy-crazy days of Summer

Music: Hans Carste arr. Frank Metis Words: Charles Tobias

Nat King Cole took this well-known number into the Top Ten in 1963

To be sung of a summer night on the water

Frederic Delius (ed. David Holland)

Delius was born in Yorkshire of German parents but spent most of his life working in France. Edvard Grieg, his lifelong friend, undoubtedly influenced Delius’ style. His music was championed by Thomas Beecham. This wordless chorus, described by some as a dreamy idyll, was composed in 1917 for the Oriana Madrigal Society.

I do like to be beside the seaside

John A. Glover-Kind arr. Andrew Carter

Listen out for the brass bands playing (raucous basses!) in this amusing arrangement of a song from the heyday of the variety theatre and the music hall in the 1900s.

For Autumn:

All good gifts

Stephen Schwartz arr. David Holland

The musical “Godspell” opened on Broadway on May 17th 1971. The structure of the show is a series of parables based on the Gospel of Matthew. In the show this song is used to illustrate the parable of the sower of seeds, i.e. the Word of God. The words will be very familiar as a Harvest Hymn.

Autumn

Music: Frank Bridge

Words: Shelley

The style of this Part Song, composed in 1903, owes much to the music of Brahms and Stanford. It looks back over the summer just gone and the change in the weather, but there is also a wish for Autumn and Winter to pass as soon as possible.

Hymn to St. Cecilia (Part 1)

Music: Benjamin Britten Words: W.H. Auden

St. Cecilia is the Patron Saint of musicians because as she was dying she sang to God. Her Saint’s Day is November 22nd which also happens to be Benjamin Britten’s birthday. Britten started work on the piece in America in late 1940. He decided to return to England in 1942 but American Customs Officers confiscated the manuscript thinking it was some kind of code useful to the enemy! Britten rewrote it on the voyage home and completed it in April 1942.

Autumn leaves

Music: Joseph Kosma arr. Andrew Carter

Words: Johnny Mercer and Geoffrey Parsons

This much-recorded popular song was originally a 1945 French song “Les feuilles mortes” (The Dead Leaves). Johnny Mercer wrote the English lyrics in 1947. Nat King Cole sang it over the title sequence of the 1956 film of the same name starring Joan Crawford.

For Winter:

Now winter nights

Music: Norman Gilbert Words: Thomas Campion

Gilbert’s setting of Campion’s poem of 1617 paints for us a picture of long, dark nights filled with “wine, women and song”.

The birth of Nicolas

Music: Benjamin Britten

Words: Eric Crozier

This Cantata was written for performance at the Centenary Celebrations of Lancing College, Sussex on July 24th, 1948. It is the story of the life, legendary work and death of Saint Nicolas, Bishop of Myra and Patron Saint of children, seamen and travellers. He became the model for the modern day Santa Claus. His Saint’s Day is December 6th.

A New Year carol

Music: John Ireland

Words: Traditional

Ireland composed this New Year Carol in 1941, just after he had left Guernsey to escape the German invasion. There is more than a hint of folk-song in this setting which captures the hopes and expectations expressed in the traditional words.

Jack Frost

J.L. Hatton arr. Percy Jackman

Hatton was born in Liverpool, a city synonymous with musicians and comedians. He was renowned as a pianist and comic singer as well as a composer of literally hundreds of songs and Part Songs. In “Jack Frost” we hear of the exploits of a rather mischievous character in the depths of Winter.

