

Plainchant to Britten

European Sacred Music

Conductor: Jack Apperley

Accompanist: Paul Plummer

Saturday 2nd April, 2022

at 7.30pm

**St John the Divine, Kew Road, Richmond,
TW9 2NA**

Plainchant to Britten

Verleih uns Frieden	Mendelssohn
Christus factus est	Bruckner
Locus Iste	Bruckner
Os justi	Bruckner
Cantique de Jean Racine	Faure
Rhapsody No. 3 in C# minor	Howells
Festival Te Deum	Britten

Interval

O Jesu Christ, meins Lebens Licht	Bach
Jesu, dulcis memoria – Chant	
Jesu, dulcis memoria	Victoria
Ave Maria	Victoria
Sicut cervus	Palestrina
Prelude in Eb, BWV 552	Bach
Panis angelicus	Franck
Ave Maria	Stravinsky
Cherubic Hymn	Glinka
Bogoroditsye Dyevo	Rachmaninov
Geistliches Lied	Brahms

Welcome to this evening's concert, featuring music by European composers from earliest times to the 20th century.

The language of music is universal and knows no borders; many composers travel widely and have influenced and inspired each other over the centuries. It is a medium that draws people together.

This evening's programme includes three pieces by Russian composers. Though very different in character they are all beautiful, sacred works of music.

Glinka (1804 – 1857) lived and worked in pre- revolutionary Russia.

Rachmaninov (1873 - 1943) was effectively driven out of Russia in 1917 after the Russian Revolution, which was the end of Russia as he had known it. He was a man of deep and personal religious faith and this is reflected in the piece we will perform this evening, as well as in his many other compositions.

Stravinsky's mother was a native of Kyiv. He emigrated from Russia after the outbreak of WW1, living first in Paris where he sometimes attended Russian Orthodox Church services held by fellow Russian emigrants. His Ave Maria was composed there in 1934. In 1946 he moved to the US. Censorship of most of his music continued in Russia until 1962.

The works by Glinka and Rachmaninov are set to Church Slavonic (or Slavic) texts; this is a primarily religious language dating back to before the Middle Ages. Stravinsky also used Church Slavonic, but later set his Ave Maria to the traditional Latin text to make it more accessible.

Two of the three pieces we are performing were therefore written in exile by composers who no longer felt that Russia was their home, and Stravinsky (1882-1971) was half-Ukrainian.

During the performance of these pieces we hope that you may take a moment to reflect on the current, terrible events in Ukraine, on the bravery and resilience of the Ukrainian people, on those who, like Rachmaninov and Stravinsky before them, have felt impelled to become refugees and also on the courage of Russian dissidents who have been challenging the current regime for many years, often at grave risk to their lives.

Verlieh uns Frieden

Verleih uns Frieden gnädiglich,
Herr Gott, zu unsern Zeiten.
Es ist doch ja kein Andrer nicht,
Der für uns könnte streiten,
Denn du, unser Gott, alleine.

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Mercifully grant us peace,
Lord God, in our times.
For there is no other
Who could fight for us
But you alone, our God.

Christus factus est

Christus factus est pro nobis obediens
usque ad mortem, mortem autem
crucis.
Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum
et dedit illi nomen,
quod est super omne nomen.

Anton Bruckner (1824 – 1896)

Christ became obedient for us unto
death,
even to the death, death on the cross.
Therefore God exalted him
and gave him a name
which is above all names.

Locus Iste

Locus iste a Deo factus est,
inaestimabile sacramentum,
irreprehensibilis est.

Anton Bruckner

This place was made by God,
a priceless sacrament;
it is without reproach.

Os justi

Os justi meditabitur sapientiam:
et lingua ejus loquetur iudicium.
Lex Dei ejus in corde ipsius:
et non supplantabuntur gressus ejus.

Anton Bruckner

The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom,
and his tongue speaks what is just.
The law of his God is in his heart:
and his feet do not falter.

Cantique de Jean Racine

Gabriel Faure (1845 – 1924)

Verbe égal au Très-Haut, notre unique espérance,
Jour éternel de la terre et des cieux,
De la paisible nuit nous rompons le silence,
Divin Sauveur, jette sur nous les yeux!
Répands sur nous le feu de ta grâce puissante,
Que tout l'enfer fuie au son de ta voix,
Dissipe le sommeil d'une âme languissante,
Qui la conduit à l'oubli de tes lois !
Ô Christ, sois favorable à ce peuple fidèle
Pour te bénir maintenant rassemblé,
Reçois les chants qu'il offre à ta gloire immortelle,
Et de tes dons qu'il retourne comblé!

Word equal to God, the Almighty, our only hope,
Eternal day of the earth and heavens:
We break the silence of the peaceful night,
Divine Saviour, look upon us!
Fan the fire of your powerful grace upon us,
So that all Hell may flee at the sound of your voice;
Shake off the sleep of a languishing soul,
Who has forgotten your laws!
O Christ, be kind to these faithful people
Who have now gathered in thanks.
Listen to the chants they offer to your immortal glory,
And may they come away fulfilled with your gifts!

Rhapsody No. 3 in C# minor

Herbert Howells (1892 – 1983)

Festival Te Deum

Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976)

INTERVAL

O Jesu Christ mein Lebens Licht

O Jesu Christ, meus Lebens Licht,
Mein Hort, mein Trost, mein'
Zuversicht,
Auf Erden bin ich nur ein Gast,
Und drückt mich sehr der Sünden Last.

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)

Oh Jesus Christ, my life's light,
my refuge, my comfort, my confidence,
on earth I am only a visitor
and the burden of sin presses heavily
upon me.

Jesu dulcis memoria - Chant

Jesu dulcis memoria
Dans vera cordis gaudia:
Sed super mel et omnia
Ejus dulcis praesentia.

Nil canitur suavius,
Nil auditur jucundius,
Nil cogitatur dulcius,
Quam Jesus Dei Filius.

Jesu spes paenitentibus,
Quam pius es petentibus!
Quam bonus te quaerentibus!
Sed quid invenientibus?

Nec lingua valet dicere,
Nec littera exprimere:
Expertus potest credere,
Quid sit Jesum diligere.

Sis, Jesu, nostrum gaudium,
Qui es futurus praemium:
Sit nostra in te gloria,
Per cuncta semper saecula.
Amen.

Jesus, the very thought of Thee
With sweetness fills my breast!
But sweeter far Thy face to see
And in Thy Presence rest.

No voice can sing, no heart can frame,
Nor can the memory find,
A sweeter sound than Jesus' Name,
The Saviour of mankind.

O hope of every contrite heart!
O joy of all the meek!
To those who fall, how kind Thou art!
How good to those who seek!

But what to those who find? Ah! this
Nor tongue nor pen can show
The love of Jesus, what it is,
None but His loved ones know.

Jesus! our only hope be Thou,
As Thou our prize shalt be;
In Thee be all our glory now,
And through eternity.
Amen.

Jesu dulcis memoria

Jesu, dulcis memoria,
Dans vera cordis gaudia:
Sed super mel et omnia
Ejus dulcis praesentia.

Ave Maria

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui,
Jesus Christus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.
Amen.

Sicut cervus

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes
aquarum,
ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.

Prelude in Eb, BWV 552

Panis angelicus

Panis angelicus
Fit panis hominum
Dat panis caelicus
Figuris terminum
O res mirabilis
Manducat dominum
Pauper, pauper
Servus et humilis

Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548 – 1611)

Jesus, the very thought of Thee,
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see
And in Thy presence rest.

Tomás Luis de Victoria

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is
with thee;
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus Christ.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)

As a hart longs for the flowing
streams,
so longs my soul for thee, O God.

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)

César Franck (1822 – 1890)

May the Bread of Angels
Become bread for mankind;
The Bread of Heaven puts
All foreshadowings to an end;
Oh, thing miraculous!
The body of the Lord will nourish
the poor, the poor,
the servile, and the humble.

Ave Maria
(as before)

Igor Stravinsky (1882 – 1971)

Cherubic Hymn

Mikhail Glinka (1804 – 1857)

Izhe kheruvimyi taino obrazuyushchye,
i zhivotvoryashchei Troitsye
trissvyatuyu pyessn pripyevayushchye,
Vsyakoye nyinye zhiteiskoye otlozhim
popyechyeniye.

Amin

Yako da Tsarya vsyekh podymyem,
angyelskimi nyevidimo dorinossima
chinmi.

Alliluia

We who mystically represent the
Cherubim, and who sing to the Life-
Giving Trinity the thrice-holy hymn,
let us now lay aside all earthly cares

Amen

Glory be to God in the highest:
with the angelic host above we worship
thee and praise thee.

Alleluia.

Bogoroditsye Dyevo

Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943)

Bogoróditsye Dyévo, ráduissya,
Blagodátnaya Mariýe, Gospód
s Tobóyu.
Blagoslovyénna tyivzhenákh,
i blagoslovyén Plod chryéva Tvoyegó,
yáko Spássa rodilá yessí dush náshikh.

Rejoice, O Virgin Mother Of God,
Mary full of grace, the Lord is with You.
Blessed are You among women,
and blessed is the Fruit of Your womb,
for You have borne the Saviour of our
souls

Geistliches Lied

Johannes Brahms (1833 – 1897)

Laß dich nur nichts nicht dauren mit
Trauren,
sei stille, wie Gott es fügt,
so sei vergnügt mein Wille!
Was willst du heute sorgen auf morgen?
Der Eine steht allem für,
der gibt auch dir das Deine.
Sei nur in allem Handel ohn' Wandel,
steh' feste, was Gott beschleußt,
das ist und heißt das Beste.
Amen.

Do not be sorrowful or regretful;
be calm, as God has ordained,
and thus my will shall be content.
What do you want to worry about
from day to day?
There is One who stands above all who
gives you, too, what is yours.
Only be steadfast in all you do,
stand firm; what God has decided,
that is and must be the best.
Amen

Jack Apperley

Jack Apperley is a London based freelance conductor. Under the tutelage of Patrick Russill, he graduated from the Royal Academy of Music where he obtained a Masters in Choral Conducting. He was awarded a Distinction and received the Sir Thomas Armstrong Choral Leadership Prize. Prior to this, Jack read Music at the University of Birmingham where he was mentored by Simon Halsey CBE. In 2019 he received the Choir Prize at the Jazep Vitols International Choral Conducting Competition in Latvia and was a Semi Finalist in the World Choral Conducting Competition in Hong Kong. In 2018, Jack was awarded Second Prize at the inaugural London International Choral Conducting Competition.

Jack is the Music Director and Conductor of the Imperial College Chamber Choir, Concordia Voices and University Upper Voices at the University of Birmingham.

Jack is an Assistant Chorus Master of the London Symphony Chorus. This season sees Jack take on the roles of Interim Musical Director of Goldsmith's Choral Union and Guest Chorus Master of the Gothenburg Symphony Chorus, Sweden.

Paul Plummer

Formerly organ scholar of New College, Oxford, Paul Plummer trained as a piano accompanist at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and studied with Andrew Ball, Margo Garrett, Malcolm Martineau and Roger Vignoles among others. Recital engagements have included the Oxford Lieder and Presteigne festivals, London's Purcell Room and Wigmore Hall, the Tonhalle in Zürich and BBC Radio 3. Featuring on several recent live-streamed recitals with the collective Proud Songsters (YouTube), he is the pianist on a newly-released CD of Die Schöne Müllerin with baritone Jamie W. Hall (Convivium). Paul has also worked as music staff for several UK opera companies plus those of Kiel, Innsbruck and Köln; advises and accompanies for the international opera scouting company www.nyiop.com; and is highly in demand as a freelance repetiteur and vocal coach.

Concordia Voices

Concordia Voices is a well-established chamber choir of about 30 mixed voices and is currently directed by Jack Apperley. Our regular accompanist is the composer and arranger Paul Ayres.

The choir performs regularly in south-west London where it is based. We have also toured abroad and to other locations in the UK as well as taking part in local musical events. Concordia Voices enjoy performing music from a wide repertoire ranging over 4 centuries and we have a keen interest in performing the work of contemporary composers.

Concordia Voices rehearse on Sunday evenings from 6.45pm to 9pm in Hampton Hill. We are a small, friendly choir and new singers are warmly welcome. If you are interested in joining us please contact our secretary for more information at, secretary@concordiavoices.org or visit our web site for information on how to join the choir. www.concordiavoices.com

<i>Soprano</i>	<i>Alto</i>	<i>Tenor</i>	<i>Bass</i>
Jackie Allen	Lindsey Baldwin	Barry Fisher	Geoff Ashman
Viviane Hardy	Rebecca Bevan	Clive Hall	Alan Baldwin
Julia Lavery	Julie Hall	David Wilson	Adam Brown
Margaret Lord	Jane Newman		Philip Congdon
Ruth Parker	Barbara Orr		Matt Greenway
Fiona Rowett	Jane Purser		Christopher Johnson
Helen Sugiyama	Anne Rowett		Tim Rowett

Future Concerts

The Long Day Closes

Saturday, 25th June 2022, St Mary's, Twickenham

Saturday, 26th November 2022, St John the Divine, Richmond

