



Stroud Choral Society Concert

Proceeds in aid of the CalonLan Centre

375th Anniversary Concert

Mynyddbach Chapel

Treboeth, Swansea, SA5 7HT

April 30th, 2016 at 7.00pm

Conductor – Huw Williams

Organist – Simon Bell

Soloists

Sopranos – Zoë Hynes, Cécile Ithurbide,

Alto - Pauline Cox

Tenor - Stephen Bryden

Bass - Jonathan Golding

WELCOME.

Stroud Choral Society are thrilled to be back in Swansea – birthplace of our esteemed conductor Mr Huw Williams! It's our second visit in two years.

The choir was founded in 1834 (before most of us were born). We're an un-auditioned, community choir, open to all. We sing about five concerts a year as well as staging workshops, social events and if possible trips outside the Cotswolds, like this one. Later this year, in October, we will be singing in St John's Smiths Square, London. Our major concerts are often either in Gloucester Cathedral or Tewkesbury Abbey. Our recent repertoire has included performances of Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*, Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* and Verdi's *Requiem*. This autumn we'll be singing Brahms' *German Requiem*.

So, like any oratorio choir, we depend on great classical choral works of the past. Fulfilling though this is, we resolved recently that we should put something into the musical pot as well as always taking things out! So we are commissioning a musical setting, for adult and children's voices with orchestra, of Roald Dahl's *The Giraffe and The Pelly and Me*. To be called *The Pelicantata*, the world premiere will be performed in Bath Abbey next March.

We're also very excited to have started our own children's choir. Called The Minpins (after the Roald Dahl book) they are 30 strong, aged 8-13. They are already gaining a great reputation in the Stroud area!

We all hope you enjoy tonight's concert of choral favourites. We firmly believe that singing is a social as well as a musical activity – and we're so pleased to be able to get together for a day out in Swansea to help celebrate Mynyddbach Chapel's amazing 375 years!

Thank you for coming to listen to us.

BroughGirling

Chair, Stroud Choral Society.

**J. Brahms
(1833-1897)**

Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen

**F. Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)**

**Hear my prayer
Soloist: Zoë Hynes**

**F. Schubert
(1797-1829)**

**Mass in G
Kyrie
Gloria
Credo
Sanctus
Benedictus
Agnus**

Soloists: Zoë Hynes, Stephen Bryden, Jonathan Golding

**C. H. H. Parry
(1848-1918)**

I was glad

Interval

**G.F. Handel
(1685-1759)**

Let thy hand be strengthened

**W. Byrd
(c1540-1623)**

Ave verum corpus

**S. S. Wesley
(1810-76)**

Blessed be the God and Father

**C. V. Stanford
(1852-1924)**

Justorum animae

**W. Davies
(1869-1941)**

**The lamb – trio
Soloists: Zoë Hynes, Cecile Ithurbide, Pauline Cox**

**G. Faure
(1845-1924)**

**Après un Reve
Solo: Cécile Ithurbide**

**E. Elgar
(1857-1934)**

As torrents in summer

**Arr H Williams
(b. 1971)**

Arhyd y nos

Welsh Trad

Calonlan (all join in)

**F. J. Haydn
(1732-1809)**

**The heavens are telling
Soloists: Zoë Hynes, Stephen Bryden, Jonathan Golding**

TONIGHT'S SOLOISTS

Your soloists tonight are all members of the choir.

ZOË HYNES – SOPRANO

Zoë, a natural and professional teacher, has been singing in choirs since she was 9. One of her choral highlights was making the televised final of 'Sing out 2000' as part of the University of the West of England's Chamber Choir.

She joined SCS in 2006 and has been a very active member, soloist, and committee member, ever since. She was soprano soloist on the choir's tour to Belgium and Holland in 2014.

Zoë has recently taken on the very exciting role of Musical Director of Stroud Choral Society's new Children's Choir, The Minpins. The choir has over 30 members aged 8-13 and is already in demand, building up a good reputation in the Stroud area.

CÉCILE ITHURBIDE – SOPRANO

Cécile joined the choir in 2010, having previously trained as a pianist at the Conservatoire de Musique in Pau, France, and studied singing with Martene Grimson in London. Before joining SCS Cécile sang with the Hanover choir under Dr Paul Rhys. She regularly sings with the Pierres Lyriques Chamber Choir under Samuel Jean in France – including soloist roles in works by Franck, Britten, Handel, Mozart and Mahler.

When she's not singing Cécile is head of academic administration at an awarding organisation.

PAULINE COX – ALTO

Pauline's love of music started early. She began piano and violin lessons aged 7, and won two music scholarships. She achieved Grade 8 on piano, and Grade 7, with distinction, on the cello.

At the age of 10 she joined her first community choir with her mum and has been singing in choirs ever since: She belongs to no less than 3 choirs in the Cotswolds. She joined SCS in 2005.

When Pauline's not rehearsing, or at a choir practice, or jiving the night away, she is a Ward Sister at Stroud Hospital.

STEPHEN BRYDEN – TENOR

Stephen joined choirs as a boy, and from primary school near Cambridge had voice lessons with Jesus College choir. His musical education continued at St Peter's Caversham which had links to the Royal Schools of Church Music.

Locking the organist/choir-master out of church as he took a crafty cigarette break during a sermon wasn't a musical high-point for Stephen, but was certainly memorable. (The vicar was in on the plan and hastily closed the sermon when he saw the organist crawling down a side aisle.)

Stephen sang a lot at university - choirs and musicals - , and he later joined the Festival Chorus in Wandsworth . He joined Stroud Choral Society in 2012.

JONATHAN GOLDING – BASS

Jonathan studied voice at Birmingham Conservatoire and graduated from there in 2001. He took on several chorus roles including work with Mid Wales Opera. He also sang principle roles with York Opera.

He trained as a secondary school music teacher in 2005. Since the birth of his son in 2009 he has been working as a registered childcare provider. Jonathan joined Stroud Choral Society in 2012, and is a founder member of the Mikitaki Trio.

HUW WILLIAMS – CONDUCTOR

As well as directing Stroud Choral Society since 2009 Huw is the Director of Music at Her Majesty's Chapel Royal, St James's Palace where he directs the professional choir of men and boys. At the Chapel Royal his predecessors include Tallis, Byrd, Purcell and Handel. An experienced performer and recording artist, he has made over 20 recordings as accompanist with The Sixteen and with St Paul's and Hereford Cathedrals Choirs and broadcast live on television and radio as both director and accompanist. As well as the Chapel Royal he directs Cantemus Chamber Choir, teaches at Eton College and is an experienced ABRSM examiner. In the past few years he has directed Bach's B minor mass, St Matthew Passion, Handel's Messiah, Requiems by Verdi, Brahms and Mozart, Elgar's The Dream of Gerontius and Britten's St Nicolas. He has also directed on tours to Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany, radio broadcasts, commissions by John Rutter and Giles Swayne and festival appearances at St David's Cathedral and Tintern Abbey. In 2015 he has directed two recordings – one for Cantemus on the Regent Label and one for Her Majesty's Chapel Royal on the Signum Record label.

Huw has worked extensively in the UK, USA, Africa and in Europe as a conductor, organ soloist and accompanist. He has been invited to direct masterclasses, adjudicate at music competitions and Eisteddfodau. He has performed with many British orchestras including the London Symphony, Royal Philharmonic, Philharmonia, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, BBC Welsh Symphony, the London Mozart Players and the City of London Sinfonia. Recent performances include the opening concert on the new Mander Organ presented to The Queen by the City of London, Bath Abbey and Lagos Cathedral, Nigeria.

Born in Swansea, and a fluent Welsh speaker, he graduated from Christ's College, Cambridge and the Royal Academy of Music before becoming Assistant Organist at Hereford Cathedral. In 1998 he moved to St Paul's Cathedral where, for ten years, as the principal organist, he played for all the major recordings and broadcasts and worked daily with the world famous choir. Whilst at St Paul's he featured in a documentary on S4C, the Welsh television channel and many of his compositions were performed at the cathedral. Between 2008 and 2009 he was Director of Music at the Church of the Redeemer, near Philadelphia. One of his solo organ recordings received Gramophone magazine's Editor's Choice award. In recognition of his work in the musical world he was awarded the Associate of the Royal Academy of Music in 2001 and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

SIMON BELL – ORGANIST

Simon is Stroud Choral Society's accompanist and assistant Musical Director. He is Director of Choral Music at Dean Close School in Cheltenham and also directs Tewkesbury Abbey ScholaCantorum. He has held major musical posts at Winchester Cathedral, Southwell Abbey, Westminster Abbey and St Albans Cathedral.

Graduating from Leeds University and the Royal College of Music, Simon has been a prize winner at the coveted St Albans International Organ Festival (twice). He has won the Limpus Prize in the FRCO diploma examination and is a past holder of the WT Best Memorial Organ Scholarship.

Under Simon's direction ScholaCantorum at Tewsbury Abbey has released several CDs and broadcasts regularly.

CALON LAN

Nid wy'n gofyn bywyd moethus,
Aur y bydna'i berlau mân:
Gofyn wyf am galon hapus,
Calon onest, calon lân.

Cydgan

*Calon lân yn llawn daioni,
Tecach yw na'r lili dlos:
Dim ond calon lân all ganu
Canu'r dydd a chanu'r nos.*

Pe dymunwn olud bydol,
Hedyn buan ganddo sydd;
Golud calon lân, rinweddol,
Yn dwyn bythol elw fydd.

(Chorus)

Hwyr a bore fy nymuniad
Gwydd i'r nef a'r edyn cân
Ari Dduw, er mwyn fy Ngheidwad,
Roddi i mi galon lân.

(Chorus)