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THE WAVERLEY SINGERS SUMMER CONCERT

Organ – PAUL GRIFFITHS

Conductor – MALCOLM HICKS

Saturday, June 10th at 7.30 p.m.

at THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS

ODIHAM



Programme £3.50



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Paul Griffiths began playing the organ at the age of ten and won first prize in the London Musical Competition Festival at the age of 13. Whilst studying with Malcolm Hicks, he gained the ARCO, ARCM and LRAM within a six-month period and the FRCO two years later. In 1981, he was placed second in the Trianon Organ Competition.

Having been Organist and Choirmaster at St. Mary's, Welwyn, from 1980, he moved to Hong Kong in 1986, where he became Assistant Organist at St. John's Cathedral and Head of Organ at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. He also featured in broadcasts with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and has given recitals in several countries, including the English Cathedrals of Ely, Peterborough and St. Paul's.

Malcolm Hicks graduated in Music at the University of Birmingham where he was also Assistant Master at the Cathedral, and organist and Assistant Conductor with major choirs and orchestras. After further studies in piano, cello, singing and conducting at the Guildhall School of Music, he has since pursued a full-time career as keyboard player and conductor. He plays with all the major London Orchestras in South Bank concerts, Proms, many broadcasts for radio and TV, films and gramophone records, and on tour abroad, many times in Europe, and as far afield as Japan, Korea and Mexico. He was Associate Conductor of London Philharmonic Choir for 13 years and now works as chorus master with the Royal Choral Society and BBC Choirs. He has worked on the staff of the European Community Youth Orchestra, has taught, lectured and examined extensively. He was appointed Musical Director of the Waverley Singers in May 1982.

PROGRAMME

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem

Charles Villiers Stanford
(1852–1924)

Charles Villiers Stanford distinguished himself as an accomplished and successful composer in his own life. He was Organ Scholar at Queen's College, Cambridge, then organist at Trinity College. After study in Leipzig and Berlin he held many important musical posts in England at the Royal College of Music, Cambridge University and as a conductor of the Bach Choir, etc.

Mass

Andrew Fathers
(1972–1993)

While still a schoolboy and organist-cum-chorister at All Saints', Odiham, Andrew Fathers wrote several anthems for the church choir. He was Organ Scholar at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, from 1990 to 1993, where he wrote this Mass in 1992. He sometimes used to sing with the Waverley Singers (where his mother is a member) during the holidays, and gave an organ recital in Farnham in aid of choir funds. Tragically, Andrew died while tramping on Mount Egmont in New Zealand, where he was born, in June 1993.

Prelude and fugue in Eb (St. Anne)

J. S. Bach

This prelude and fugue are the opening and closing pieces respectively of Clavierübung Pt. 3. The prelude, "pro organo pleno" (full organ), is a strong work with something of the character of an orchestral overture (such as in Bach's own orchestral suites). The fugue, again "pro organo pleno", is a triple fugue, in three sections — and three flats — altogether a symbolic assertion of Bach's faith in the Holy Trinity.

O nata lux If ye love me

Thomas Tallis
(c. 1505–1585)

Thomas Tallis, English composer and organist, was one of the fathers of church music. He was a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal under Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth and organist of the Chapel conjointly with Byrd.

A Voluntary

Thomas Tomkins
(1572–1656)

Welsh by birth and grandson of an organist of Worcester Cathedral, where he was himself organist 1596–1646, Tomkins is thought to have studied with Byrd. He was Organist of the Chapel Royal from 1621, composing music for Charles I's coronation in 1625. He was a prolific composer of both religious music (95 anthems, services, etc.) and secular — his finest work perhaps was his polyphonic madrigals in up to six parts.

Haec dies Civitas sancti tui Laetentur coeli

William Byrd
(1543–1623)

Of William Byrd's life little is known apart from various lawsuits over property, and the fact of his Roman Catholicism, from the consequences of which he seems to have been protected at a time of anti-Papism by his fame as a composer and by friends in high places. He was unsurpassed as a composer of all current forms of church music, string consort music and keyboard music.

Three spirituals from "A child of our time"

Sir Michael Tippett
(b. 1905)

Sir Michael Tippett, still flourishing and composing at 90, is a composer of exceptional range and originality of style. He studied at the Royal College of Music (composition with Wood, conducting with Boult and Sargent). He was Musical Director of Morley College 1940–51 and Director of the Bath Festival 1969–74. He was imprisoned during 1943 for failure to comply with conditions of his conscientious exemption from military service. He was knighted in 1966. C.H. 1979. O.M. 1983.

The Negro spirituals in "A Child of our Time" are interpolated rather in the manner of Bach chorales in the Passions or cantatas. The oratorio's libretto is by the composer, and tells of the persecution of Jews begun after the assassination of a Nazi official Vom Rath by a Jewish boy Grynszpan at the German Legation in Paris, in the autumn of 1938.

INTERVAL

Two spirituals from "A child of our time"

4. By and by 5. Deep river

Sir Michael Tippett
(b. 1905)

Prelude and fugue in D major

Dietrich Buxtehude
(1637–1707)

Jesu, meine Freude

J. S. Bach
(1685–1750)

Amongst the set of Bach's six famous and great motets this one stands out not only for its consistently high level of musical inspiration but most obviously for its variety of texture and style. It is in eleven sections — mostly very short — and grouped around a central more extended fugal setting:

Chorale (SATB)	Jesu, meine Freude
Chorus (SSATB)	Es ist nun nichts
Chorale (SSATB)	Unter deinen Schirmen
Trio (SSA)	Denn das Gesetz des Geistes
Chorus (SSATB)	Trotz dem alten Drachen
Chorus (SSATB)	Ihr aber seid nicht fleischlich
Chorale (SATB)	Weg mit allen Schätzen
Trio (ATB)	So aber Christus in euch ist
Quartet (SSAT)	Gute Nacht o Wesen
Chorus (SSATB)	So nun der Geist
Chorale (SATB)	Weicht, ihr Trauergeister

Hymn to the Virgin (words anon. circa 1300)

Benjamin Britten
(1913–1976)

Hymne à la Vierge

Pierre Villette

O taste and see

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872–1958)

Vinea mea electa

Francis Poulenc
(1899–1963)

O magnum mysterium

Pierre Villette

Te Deum laudamus

Herbert Howells
(1892–1983)

Herbert Howells is a major composer in the English church tradition. He held posts at Salisbury Cathedral, St. John's, Cambridge, succeeded Holst as Director of Music at St. Paul's Girls' School, was Professor of Music at London University and on the staff of the Royal College of Music. Though influenced by Elgar and Vaughan Williams, his style of harmony and texture is unmistakably his own — and his smaller scale music for the cathedral and college choirs as well as his organ music are cherished by the church's musicians. The organ prelude "Out of the Deep" and the "Te Deum" written, as its name says, for King's College, are both characterised by an atmosphere and spaciousness associated with such buildings.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Waverley Singers would like to thank their advertisers and patrons for their continuing support.

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Anyone interested in becoming a Patron of the choir is invited to contact Mrs. Ann Garnett, 21 Tavistock Road, Fleet (tel. Fleet 615713). Patrons receive advance notice of concerts and priority booking forms, and are entitled to reserved seats in the position of their choice. Their names are listed in concert programmes and gentlemen are entitled to wear the very attractive Waverley Singers' tie. They are also invited to the choir's social events. Present contributions from Patrons range from £25 to £100, and because of the tax benefits the choir particularly appreciates contributions by Deed of Covenant.

If you would like to join the choir as a singing member would you please contact the Secretary, Miss Judith Miller, 7 Frensham Avenue, Fleet. Tel. (01252) 613765.

The Waverley Singers would like to thank Canon Raymond Hubble and the P.C.C. for making them so welcome in their lovely church.

This concert is subsidised by the South-East Arts Association, and Waverley Borough Council.

The Waverley Singers are affiliated to the National Federation of Music Societies.

FUTURE PROGRAMMES

Saturday, November 11th: at Amesbury Abbey Church.
Music for choir and organ.

Saturday, December 9th: at St. Andrew's Garrison Church, Aldershot.

"A Renaissance Christmas"
with The Locke Brass Ensemble

Saturday, March 16th, 1996: at St. Andrew's Garrison Church, Aldershot.

"Israel in Egypt"
by Handel

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