

Richard Pearce *Conductor*

Richard Pearce was organ scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge, where as conductor and organist he toured and recorded extensively with the chapel choir. After graduating with first class honours in music, he studied piano accompaniment for two years at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London.

Richard is fortunate to work in a variety of musical fields, but working with chamber choirs and choruses has become a speciality. He records and broadcasts regularly with the BBC Singers, and in November conducted a recording with the Singers of works by Britten, Poston and Roxanna Panufnik. He has also directed them in broadcasts from the Vézelay festival in France and a concert featuring works by James MacMillan and Judith Bingham. Richard enjoys the challenge of preparing an extremely wide variety of repertoire including much contemporary and new music. He has a long-standing association with the Royal Choral Society, and performs with them several times a year at the Royal Albert Hall in London. In addition he makes twice-yearly trips to Sweden to work with groups in the Stockholm and Malmö areas.

Richard is regular organist with the Philharmonia and BBC Symphony Orchestras in London; recent performances have included Mahler's 8th Symphony with Esa-Pekka Salonen to great acclaim in London's Royal Festival Hall, and recently he toured China with the Philharmonia performing the Saint-Saëns organ symphony with Vladimir Ashkenazy. He also performs regularly in Promenade concerts and recordings, including at the *Last Night of the Proms* to a worldwide

television audience, and last year also performed Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* in Greenwich in a matinée Prom.

He frequently conducts and plays for services at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster and at the Houses of Parliament.

Richard is a vocal coach and staff accompanist at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London.

Philip Scriven *Organist*

Philip Scriven received his early musical training at Westminster Abbey and Charterhouse, and was organ scholar at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle and St John's College, Cambridge. He subsequently studied conducting at the Vienna Musikhochschule, and at the Juilliard School in New York. Accompanist and Assistant Conductor to The Bach Choir since 2011, Philip has also worked for English and Welsh National Operas, and was Assistant Conductor for Glyndebourne Festival Opera. He has twice performed the complete organ works of J.S. Bach, and transcribed works by Brahms, Warlock and Bernstein for the instrument. He has made numerous recordings including jazz-inspired music for organ, and his own transcription of Holst's *The Planets*. His CD *Piping Hot* was praised in Gramophone magazine for 'the outstanding quality of his playing ... good-humoured and sparkling ... a joy to listen to'. He has held positions at Westminster Abbey, Winchester Cathedral and Lichfield Cathedral, and is currently Organist in Residence at Cranleigh School and Principal Conductor of the Darwin Ensemble Chamber Orchestra. Forthcoming projects include concert tours of France, Italy, Germany, Russia and Australia.

Come Sing

Handel *Israel in Egypt*

Saturday 18 February 2017

St Thomas-on-The Bourne,
Frensham Rd, Farnham GU9 8HA

Conductor Richard Pearce

Organist Philip Scriven

11:00	Registration with coffee
11:30 – 13:00	Rehearsal
13:00	Lunch, (included in ticket): sandwiches, teas/coffees
14:00 – 15:30	Rehearsal
15:30	Tea
16:00	Sing-through performance

Non-singers are welcome to attend the performance free of charge.

There will be a retiring collection in aid of choir funds.

Waverley Singers will perform ***Israel in Egypt*** on Saturday 25 March at 7.30 pm at St Andrew's Garrison Church, Aldershot GU11 2BY.

Tickets available today, or from Choir members, or telephone 01252 792563

Waverley  Singers

Israel in Egypt

G F Handel (1685–1759)

Though German by birth, Handel came to England first in 1710, and fifteen years later took up permanent residence in London where he lived till his death. At first he devoted himself primarily to composing operas in the Italian style, but by the mid-1730s found that they were losing their appeal, and he turned instead to oratorio. With this medium he would set English texts from the Bible in a semi-dramatic form that was to reach its climax in 1742 with his most famous oratorio of all, *Messiah*.

Of the many he composed, *Israel in Egypt* is the next most popular, but it had not always been so. Originally composed in 1738, it comprised two parts: an adaptation of a funeral anthem he had written for Queen Caroline, wife of George II, setting the scene with an account of the death of Joseph, and then an extended celebration of God's work in bringing his people Israel out of Egypt in the Song of Moses. But the first performance in 1739 was not a success, and Handel radically revised

the whole work. He cut out the first part completely, so that it now begins in a curiously abrupt manner without orchestral introduction.

Then follows a new first part describing the plight of the Israelites and the succession of plagues God inflicted upon Egypt. Then comes the original second part.

The whole work, unusually, has remarkably little for the soloists, while the choir has a large number of single and double choruses. But it is notable for the dramatic and often humorous setting of the texts that imitate the words in a succession of highly imaginative movements.

Though Handel borrowed extensively from his own works and from other composers (such plagiarism then was not uncommon), he reworked the material in a wholly convincing evocation of the texts, illustrating, for example, the eerie thick darkness, the hopping frogs, buzzing flies or pounding hail. In this oratorio, Handel offers us a fresh and energetic account of God's triumphant delivery of his people from slavery in Egypt and their miraculous escape across the Red Sea.

We hope to rehearse and sing some, if not all,
of the following selection of choruses from

Israel in Egypt

<i>No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>page</i>
No. 2	And the children of Israel sighed	1
No. 4	They loathed to drink of the river	11
No. 6	He spake the word	18
No. 7	He gave them hailstones for rain	26
No. 8	He sent a thick darkness	34
No. 9	He smote all the first-born of Egypt	36
No. 10	But as for his people	41
No. 14	But the waters overwhelmed their enemies	61
No. 16	And believed the Lord	65
No. 23	The depths have covered them	99
No. 27	And with the blast	118
No. 37	The Lord shall reign	160
No. 39	Sing ye to the Lord	163

For further information about the Waverley Singers, or if you'd like to join the choir, please visit our website: www.waverleysingers.com
or phone 01420 83962

Waverley  Singers