

ALTRINCHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Spring Serenade

Gloria - Carole Stephens

The Lord Bless You and Keep You - Philip Stopford

The Seal Lullaby - Eric Whitacre

Even when He is silent - Kim André Arnesen

Sure on this Shining Night - Morten Lauridsen

God so loved the world - John Stainer

Live with Me and Be My Love - Nigel Hess (1st performance)

Across the Vast, Eternal Sky - Ole Gjeilo

We are the Music-Makers - Patti Drennan

Steven Roberts - Conductor

Lydia Bryan - Accompanist

Nicholas McCarthy - Piano

Saturday 6th April 2019 7.30 pm

The Stoller Hall

Hunts Bank

Manchester M3 1DA

The Florence Matthews Bequest Fund Series

ALTRINCHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

www.altrinchamchoral.co.uk

Registered Charity No 500729

President: Roger Shelmerdine

Honorary Life Members: Steven Roberts, Roger Shelmerdine, Lydia Bryan

Chairman: Robert Gledhill Secretary: Pamela Moulton

Treasurer: Stephen Campbell Deputy Chairman: Karen Jarman

Altrincham Choral Society prides itself in offering a diverse, innovative and challenging programme of concerts, including many choral favourites.

We are a forward-thinking and progressive choir with a strong commitment to choral training and high standards, so providing members with the knowledge, skills and confidence to thoroughly enjoy their music-making.

Rehearsals are on Monday evenings at Altrincham Methodist Church,
Barrington Road, Altrincham.

Car Park entrance off Barrington Road. Satnavs please use WA14 1HF.

We are only a 5 minute walk from the train/metro/bus station.

Rehearsals are from 7.45 to 10.00 pm

For more information contact us

E-mail: secretary@altrinchamchoral.co.uk

Tweet us @acs1945 Like us on Facebook

ACS has a new website – www.altrinchamchoral.co.uk

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD

The Award for Exceptional Service may be conferred on any member who is deemed to have given exceptional service to the society.

The award may be made to a member who has served for 25 or more years on the Committee or a Sub-Committee.

In recognition of their services to the society,
the Exceptional Service Award has been awarded to

Pat Arnold John Greenan Colin Skelton Joyce Venables Andrew Wragg

ALTRINCHAM CHORAL SOCIETY



Would you like to support our choir by becoming a patron or a sponsor?
We operate a well-established scheme for patrons and sponsors
and hope to develop it further with the help of our supporters.

As a patron you will receive advance publicity, complimentary
tickets, reserved seats at concerts, acknowledgement in all our
programmes and on the website.

Michael Cummings is our Patrons Secretary. He is looking forward to
hearing from you and can answer your enquiries about the scheme.
Contact him on 0161 928 1179 or patrons@altrinchamchoral.co.uk

ACS is grateful to the following for their
continued support this season:

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ALTRINCHAM CHORAL SOCIETY



Formed in 1945, *The Altrincham and District Choral Society* gave its first performance in the then Stamford Hall, in aid of the Altrincham General Hospital building fund.

Since then, the choir has continued to grow and offer its members and audience alike a rich tapestry of concerts and events. With over 120 singers, *Altrincham Choral Society* prides itself on producing a diverse, innovative and challenging programme of concerts and events, with a repertoire of not only choral favourites but also new commissions and collaborations with orchestras, choirs and youth groups.

Performing regularly at The Royal Northern College of Music as well as other venues across the country, including The Bridgewater Hall, Gorton Monastery, The Lowry Theatre, Huddersfield Town Hall and St Paul's Cathedral, ACS has also sung in Europe, including France, Prague, Lake Garda, Venice and Florence.

Recent events have seen the choir performing on tour with Russell Watson (*A Candlelight Christmas – 2014, An Intimate Evening with Russell Watson - 2015*), lunchtime recitals at St Paul's Cathedral (*London – 2015, 2016*) and in 2016 working with Barnsley Youth Choir (*2015 European Triple Gold Medalists and Grand Prix Winners*).

ACS also holds vocal training sessions for its membership, with singing days and termly open rehearsals for newcomers to come and meet the choir and explore their own voice potential and enjoy the thrill of singing.

The choir supports local and national charities throughout the year through retiring collections and sales of their CD, *Religion and Reel*. Previous charities have included St Ann's Hospice, The Rainbow Family Trust, Macmillan, Barnardo's, The Lord's Taverners, The David Lewis Centre and The Christie Hospital. This year the choir is supporting Trafford Mencap.

ALTRINCHAM

Brenda Adams
Joy Anderson
Sara Apps *
Pat Arnold #
Ann Ashby
Kate Barlow
Matthew Barr
Janet Bedell *
Frances Broad #
Neil Brougham
Rachel Brougham
Patricia Brown
Anne Bullock *
Stephen Campbell
Anthony Campion
Helen Cash
Barbara Clift *
Michael Cummings *
Adrienne Davies
Jacqueline Davies
Marie Dixon *
Kathy Duffy
Liz Dunn
Michael Dunn
Richard Dyson
Frank Estcourt
Wendy Estcourt
Heather Falconer
Liz Foy *
Joyce Fuller *
Robert Gledhill
Bryan Goude #
Helen Greig
Pauline Griffiths
Caroline Harris
Dudley Harrop *
Liz Harwood
Gill Hayes *
John Hayes
Bill Hetherington

CHORAL

Jane Hollinshead *
Catherine Horrocks #
Valerie Hotter *
Gail Hunt *
Rosie Hurley
Tony Jackman
Sarah Jackson
Karen Jarman
Roy Jervis
Elizabeth Jones ++
Clare Jones
Gillian Jones
Hazel Jones
Melanie-Anne Jose *
George Kistruck *
Elisabeth Lawrence
Keith Lewis *
Annie Lloyd-Walker
Emma Loat
Trish Lovett
Timothy Lowe
Rosie Lucas #
Sarah Lucas
Will Lunt
Anne McDougall
Norma McRae
Andy McWilliam
Ann McWilliam
Cathy Merrell *
Eve Miles
Heather Morrey
Jen Morris
Catherine Mottram
Pamela Moulton *
Annie Muir
John Mulholland *
Jessica Murrills ++
Julian Mustoe
Norma Nock *
Gill Oakley

SOCIETY

Terence Oddy
Debbie O'Driscoll
Melanie Owen
Alex Patel
Alison Patel
Christine Pidcock
Kate Potter
Frances Provost
Ian Provost
Estelle Price
Eleanor Reeves
Linley Roach *
Doris Robinson #
Kate Robinson
Olivia Robinson
Tony Robinson
Sarah Ruther
Rachel Sadler
Tobias Schiebeck
Fiona Simpson
Susan Sinagola
Colin Skelton #
Audrey Smallridge ++
Annie Taylor
Catherine Taylor
Thomas Taylor
Malcolm Thomson
Pamela Thomson
Jean Tragen *
Gill Turner
Elaine Van Der Zeil
Catherine Verdin
Jo Wallwork
Christine Weekes
Geryl Whitaker
Helen Whitehouse *
Kath Whyte *
Yvette Willey #
Ondria Williams
Julia Williamson *
Andrew Wragg #
Cecilia Wright

* 20 years # 30 years
++ 40 years

In tonight's *Spring Serenade*, Altrincham Choral Society celebrates Steven Roberts' 25 years as conductor of the choir.

Enabled by the Florence Matthews Bequest Fund, and to celebrate the occasion, the society commissioned the composer Nigel Hess, best known for his television, theatre and film soundtracks, to write a choral piece for the choir with a special accompaniment for our guest pianist Nicholas McCarthy, the only one-handed pianist to graduate from the Royal College of Music in its 130 year history.

With the exception of the beautiful unaccompanied piece from Stainer's *Crucifixion*, written in the late 1800's, the choir programme features the work of living 20th century composers from around the world. It offers the audience a chance to reflect upon contemporary sacred music and works that celebrate love and the wonders of nature.

Steven Roberts - Conductor

Steven is the Conductor and Musical Director of Altrincham Choral Society, Chesterfield Philharmonic Choir and Honley Male Voice Choir. He is an adjudicator member of The British and International Federation of Festivals and regularly adjudicates throughout the United Kingdom, as well as being Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Federation. Prior to 2006, Steven combined his musical activities with a full-time post at Barnsley College. During 17 years at the college Steven held a number of posts including Head of Performing Arts and Music, Head of Quality and Director of External Relations.

He has also been conductor of Dodworth and Skelmanthorpe Male Voice Choirs, the Allendale Chamber Orchestra, the Liverpool Welsh Choral Union, Sing Live UK, Unlimited Voices and The Huddersfield Choral Society, most notably for concerts with Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and José Carreras.

He has also been chorus master for 'The Magic of Queen' and the Electric Light Orchestra (ELO), rock classics concerts with the Hallé Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Alongside his choral work he has conducted the Manchester Philharmonic, Derbyshire Sinfonia, Lancashire Chamber Orchestra, the National Festival Orchestra, the Yorkshire Wind Orchestra and a variety of other bands and ensembles. He is in demand as a choral and voice specialist, but studied piano, brass as well as voice and has equal extensive experience in each field. Since 1993, he has led choral days, workshops and coaching sessions and this has

taken him as far afield as Peru and Bahrain.

He has conducted many times at the Royal Albert Hall, London and has been privileged to conduct in many of the country's most prestigious concert halls. He has also conducted in many sacred settings including St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City and St Mark's Basilica in Venice as well as in Florence, Sorrento, Amalfi, Milan, Austria, Paris, Bavaria, Montecassino, Barcelona and Poland.

He has also been Musical Director for COAL, the award-winning contemporary dance piece choreographed by Gary Clarke; the piece was set at the height of the 1980s miners' strike and has successfully toured the UK featuring live brass music.

He is delighted to have worked with many well-known brass bands, including Carlton Main Frickley, Brighouse & Rastrick, Tredegar and The Fairey Band, to name but a few.

He is a member of The Lord's Taverners, the cricketing charity that raises money to give 'young people, particularly with special needs, a sporting chance' and holds Honorary Life Membership with both The Royal Philharmonic Society (awarded in November 2013) and Altrincham Choral Society.

Steven is proud to be a Patron of EnRich. The charity was formed for the people of Barnsley in memory of Richard Tolson, a well-loved teacher, manager and an inspirational man. "Rich T" was Head of Music & Performing Arts at Barnsley College for a number of years and had an impact on many lives. The charity set up in his name aims to promote all specialisms in the performing and creative arts.

Lydia Bryan - Accompanist

Lydia has been our accompanist since 1996. She is also a very talented concert pianist and regularly performs solo items in our concerts. She is a graduate of the RNCM where she studied piano, harpsichord, violin and singing. She specialized in piano accompaniment at postgraduate level.

Lydia's career has had many strands:

Her professional concert career started as winner of the North West Arts Young Musicians' Platform and also with concerts awarded through the Live

Music Now scheme, founded by Sir Yehudi Menuhin. She won a British Council Scholarship towards concerts and recording work in Hungary, where she gave performances at the University of Budapest, the residence of the British Ambassador and the Kodály Institute.

Lydia regularly accompanied master lessons with John Cameron and Peter Pears as well as performing in master classes for Bernard Roberts and Vlado Perlemuter.

She has performed many times at the Royal Exchange Theatre for the Manchester Midday Concerts and also at the Purcell Room, and has appeared as concerto soloist at the RNCM as well as recording for BBC radio and television.

Lydia has toured extensively as soloist and accompanist in Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy and throughout the British Isles. Her concert repertoire is wide-ranging.

Lydia teaches at Manchester Grammar School and Loreto Grammar School in Altrincham. She has many successful professional musicians among her past pupils.

Nicholas McCarthy - Piano

Nicholas McCarthy was born in 1989 without his right hand and only began to play the piano at the late age of 14 after being inspired by hearing a friend play Beethoven's Waldstein Sonata.

Having once been told that he would never succeed as a concert pianist, Nicholas would not be discouraged and went on to study at the prestigious Royal College of Music in London.

His graduation in July 2012 drew press headlines around the world, being the only one-handed pianist to graduate from the Royal College of Music in its 130 year history. In March 2018 he was awarded honorary membership by its President, HRH The Prince of Wales.

Nicholas is a champion of the dynamic and brave world of left hand alone

repertoire, a repertoire that first came into being in the early 19th Century and developed rapidly following the First World War as a result of the many injuries suffered on the battlefield. Paul Wittgenstein was responsible for its 20th century developments with his commissions with Ravel, Prokofiev and Benjamin Britten amongst others.

He has performed extensively throughout the UK including The Royal Albert Hall. Internationally Nicholas has toured and performed in France, Belgium, Holland, South Africa, South Korea, Malta, Kazakhstan, Japan, the U.S. and most recently a six city tour of China.

One of Nicholas's proudest moments was performing with the British Paraorchestra at the closing ceremony of the 2012 Paralympic Games where they played alongside Coldplay and gave a rendition of the Paralympic anthem in front of an audience of 86,000 people and half a billion worldwide viewers.

His concert performances, recordings and media features have gained critical acclaim. However, his ongoing commitment to encourage new audiences to enjoy classical music along with his work with young people through music education is ever present in his schedule.

Motivational speaking engagements have seen Nicholas speak for a wide range of schools, businesses and institutions. One of the most enjoyable of these was his TED Talk at The Royal Albert Hall.

Nicholas is Patron & Ambassador for Nordoff Robbins, The One-Handed Musicians Trust (OHMI) and Create charities.



Programme

Gloria

Carole Stephens

Carole Stephens is a prolific composer of music. It is believed that she writes under two names: Teena Chinn is her professional name in the pop choral field. Her abilities as a keyboardist and her music theory background from Indiana University have added to her rapid growth as a pop music arranger. She has worked as a full-time Director of Music at Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church, Ashland, Virginia, but is currently working full-time at Fenton United Methodist Church in Fenton Michigan.

She uses the name Carole Stephens for her sacred music and writes mainly for the church. Her arrangements have strong rhythmic themes.

The American sheet music retailer JW Pepper and Sons' review of *Gloria* states that 'the driving rhythmic and dynamic contrasts of the choral lines help to make this festive original a distinctive choice for concert programmes'.

The Lord Bless You and Keep You Philip Stopford (b.1977)

Philip Stopford began his musical career as a chorister at Westminster Abbey. He became an Organ Scholar at Truro Cathedral, Keble College Oxford, where he studied music, and Canterbury Cathedral. He then moved to Chester Cathedral as assistant organist and, in January 2003, was appointed Director of Music at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, taking charge of the recruitment and training and directing the choir at cathedral services. In 2007, the choir was pivotal in celebrating the consecration of the newly erected Spire of Hope. For five years, from 2010–2015, Philip pursued a career as choral composer and conductor, where he was able to draw on his experience as an all round cathedral musician and choir trainer, and build on his ideas and experience in creating new and performable music for choirs across the globe. In January 2016, following a four month period as composer-in-residence, Philip was appointed Director of Music at Christchurch Bronxville USA. He is responsible for the semi-professional church choir and 'Young at Arts' Children's choir programme. His contract allows him time to continue composing and promoting his own choral music.

The Lord Bless You and Keep You was commissioned in 2007 by the Cantabile Ensemble, a mixed choir of 16-24 voices based in Jersey. The choir was formed at the end of 2004 specifically to sing church music. It has been described as

'an absolutely stunning setting of the familiar blessing!' The text is gentle and reflective and the sonorous melodies and harmonies pass seamlessly through several key changes, building to a soaring high point, before receding to the quiet and peaceful 'Amen'.

Nicholas McCarthy - Piano Solo

The Seal Lullaby

Eric Whitacre (b.1970)

Eric Whitacre was born in Reno, Nevada. He studied piano intermittently as a child and began singing with his college choir at the age of 18. He states that the first work he sang, Mozart's *Requiem*, changed his life forever. At 21 he wrote his setting of *Go, Lovely Rose* for his college choir. After graduating from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas he gained a Master's degree in composition at the Juilliard School. Since then he has received numerous commissioning awards and honours. Whitacre now divides his time between conducting and teaching throughout the world. He has written for the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Julian Lloyd Webber and the Philharmonia Orchestra, the Tallis Scholars and the Kings Singers among others. He is also known for his 'Virtual Choir' projects, bringing individual voices from around the globe together into an online choir. In 2016 Whitacre was appointed the first artist in residence with the Los Angeles Master Chorale at the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

The Seal Lullaby, with words by Rudyard Kipling, was originally commissioned in 2004 by a major film studio that planned to make a classic animated film based on Kipling's poem. Whitacre writes 'I was struck so deeply by those first beautiful words... a song just came gushing out of me'. Unfortunately, the film studio decided to make a different film, so an arrangement of this gentle lullaby then became part of Whitacre's first album as both composer and conductor. Entitled *Light and Gold*, and released in 2010, it won the Grammy for Best Choral Performance in 2012 and became the no.1 Classical Album in the US and UK charts within a week of release.

Performances of his work number in the thousands. A true innovator, he writes music that incorporates contemporary sounds while demanding the highest standards of precision and intonation.

Even when He is silent

Kim André Arnesen (b. 1980)

Kim André Arnesen is a Norwegian composer. He is mostly known for his choral compositions, both a cappella, accompanied by piano or organ, or large-scale works for chorus and orchestra.

He grew up in Trondheim, where he was a chorister in the Nidaros Cathedral Boys' Choir. He was educated at the Music Conservatory in Trondheim. With a big interest in Baroque music, contemporary classical music and pop music, Arnesen could have taken many roads, but choral music became his greatest passion. As a composer he had his first performance at the age of 18 in 1999 with Nidaros Cathedral Boys' Choir. In 2010, his first large-scale work, a Magnificat, commissioned by the Nidaros Cathedral's Girls' Choir, was performed in the cathedral at Trondheim. This performance received overwhelming feedback and was nominated for a Grammy award in 2016. Since then Arnesen has written music that has been performed by choirs all over the world.

Even When He is Silent was commissioned by the St. Olav Festival in Trondheim in 2011, and was performed by an all male choir, during an event with the Bishop of Trondheim and the internationally acclaimed Norwegian actress Liv Ullman. The mixed voice setting we are singing tonight had its premiere at Trondheim Cathedral, performed by the Boys' Choir in November 2011. The music is written in an accessible, melodic style and demonstrates a richly expressive vein. *Even when He is silent* is a work about hope in the darkest time of life. The text was found on a wall at a concentration camp after the Second World War and was written by a prisoner. The writer remains anonymous, but the meaning is universal - even if your freedom and the people you love are taken away from you, no-one can take away your faith or hope.

INTERVAL

Sure on this Shining Night

Morten Lauridsen (b.1943)

Morten Johannes Lauridsen is an American composer of Danish descent. A native of the Pacific Northwest, Lauridsen worked as a Forest Service fire-fighter and lookout before travelling south to study composition at the University of Southern California. He began teaching there in 1967 and has been on their faculty ever since.

A recipient of numerous grants, prizes and commissions, Lauridsen received

the National Medal of Arts in 2007 from President George W. Bush in a White House Ceremony, ' for his compositions of radiant choral works combining musical beauty, power and spiritual depth that have thrilled audiences worldwide'.

He now divides his time between Los Angeles and his home in the San Juan Archipelago off the northern coast of Washington State.

Few composers working today share such a deep and ongoing relationship with literature as Lauridsen. The composer has testified that his 'passion, second to music, is poetry'. In 2005 he composed an integrated choral cycle entitled *Nocturnes*. It can be performed as a whole, yet allows for each piece to stand alone. It consists of the work of three twentieth century poets, each of a different nationality and poetically diverse, but linked by the common themes of night, romantic love and rapture at the beauties of the natural world.

Sure on this Shining Night is the third piece in this cycle. It is a heartrendingly lovely interpretation of the poem by the American poet James Agee (1909-1955). The luminous sonorities of the piano surround the intertwining voices with a mellow resonance. It is deeply emotional and quietly evocative of a summer night.

God so loved the world

John Stainer (1840 -1901)

Stainer was one of the most distinguished musicians of his generation. As organist, conductor, composer, teacher and author, the immense contribution that Stainer made to the music of his time can scarcely be overestimated. In 1888 he was knighted by Queen Victoria for his services to music. As is so often the case, however, all this worthy enterprise has long been forgotten, and today Stainer is remembered simply for *The Crucifixion* and a few rather fine anthems and hymn tunes.

In composing *The Crucifixion*, Stainer's intention was to provide a Passiontide cantata written in a musical language and on a scale that would put it within the scope of most parish choirs. In this respect, he was undoubtedly successful, although, over the years, *The Crucifixion* has attracted criticism for the Victorian sentimentality of both Stainer's music and the W.J. Sparrow-Simpson's libretto. On the other hand there are many who would agree with the eminent musician Barry Rose that Stainer shows 'a rare sense of understanding in painting the text with music that is both thoughtful and dramatic, whilst giving us the sublime and unsurpassed unaccompanied setting of *God so loved the world*'.

Nicholas McCarthy - Piano Solo

Live With Me and Be my Love

Nigel Hess (b. 1953)

For choir and piano

First Performance

Nigel Hess works extensively as a composer for television, theatre, film and the concert hall. He has scored over twenty Royal Shakespeare Company productions and received the New York Drama Desk Award for *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Cyrano de Bergerac* on Broadway, while scores for Shakespeare's Globe have included *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Henry VIII* and *Nell Gwynn*.

Television scores include *A Woman of Substance*, *Vanity Fair*, *Campion*, *Maigret*, *Dangerfield*, *Just William* and *Wycliffe*. Nigel has received the Ivor Novello award twice for Best TV Theme (*Hetty Wainthropp Investigates* and *Testament*), and is well-known to Classic FM listeners for his film soundtrack to *Ladies in Lavender* played by violinist Joshua Bell and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Nigel's music for the concert hall includes the *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra*, commissioned by HRH The Prince of Wales and recorded by Lang Lang; *A Christmas Overture* commissioned by John Rutter and premièred by the RPO at the Royal Albert Hall; *Jubilate Deo* commissioned by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and *A Celebration Overture* commissioned by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. His music for symphonic wind band is played worldwide, and includes commissions from the Royal Air Force and the Band of the Coldstream Guards.

Nigel was honoured to be asked to arrange and direct the music for Her Majesty the Queen's private 90th birthday celebration at Windsor Castle and for Prince Charles's 70th birthday dinner at Buckingham Palace. He has recently received an Honorary Fellowship from St Catharine's College, Cambridge.

Of the music commissioned by ACS Nigel Hess writes; - 'I was delighted when Steven Roberts asked me to write a piece for the Altrincham Choral Society to help celebrate his 25-year association with the choir, and, after looking at several possible texts, we decided on Christopher Marlowe's poem, *The Passionate Shepherd to His Love*, (*Live With Me and Be My Love*), published in 1599 and arguably one of the best-known love poems in the English language.

I am also thrilled to be reunited with the wonderful pianist Nicholas McCarthy who, in 2015, commissioned me to write a piece for his debut album *Solo*. I hope you enjoy this new piece as much as I have enjoyed creating it'.

From 'The Passionate Shepherd to his Love' - Christopher Marlowe

*Come live with me and be my love
And we will all the pleasures prove,
The valleys, groves, hills and fields,
Woods or steepy mountain yields.
O come and be my love,
Come live with me and be my love.
And I will make thee beds of roses
And a thousand fragrant posies.
Fair lined slippers for the cold
With buckles of the purest gold.
A belt of straw and ivy buds,
With coral clasps and amber studs.
Come live and be my love
And we will all the pleasures prove
That valleys, groves, hills and fields, woods or steepy mountain yields.
O come and be my love,
Come live with me and be my love.
The shepherd swains shall dance and sing for thy delight,
For thy delight each Mayday morning.
And if these pleasures thy mind may move,
Then live with me and we will all the pleasures prove!
Come live with me and be my love,
And we will all the pleasures prove,
That valleys, groves, hills and fields,
Woods or steepy mountain yields.
O come and be my love, come live with me and be my love.
And if these pleasures may thee move
Come live with me and be my love.*

Soloists: Melanie Jose and Andrew Wragg

Across the Vast, Eternal Sky

Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Ola Gjeilo is a Norwegian composer and pianist currently residing in the United States. He grew up in Skui, near Oslo, in Norway. He began playing piano and composing when he was five years old, learning to read music by the age of seven. He studied classical composition at the Norwegian Academy of Music from 1999 – 2001. Between 2002 and 2004, he studied at the Royal College of Music, London where he received a Bachelor's degree in composition. He continued his studies at the Juilliard School in New York City, where he received a master's degree, also in composition in 2006. From 2009-10, Gjeilo was composer-in-residence for Phoenix Chorale. He now lives in Manhattan, working as a freelance composer and is a composer-in-residence with DCINY, (Distinguished Concerts International New York), a musical entertainment production company founded in 2007. The composer-in-residence programme has commissioned and staged world premieres and is responsible for bringing significant international choral works to the US market.

Across the Vast Eternal Sky is a dynamic collaboration between Ola Gjeilo and the writer, Charles Anthony Silvestri (1965). The text was commissioned by the composer for the Salt Lake Vocal Artists and their conductor. Gjeilo asked Silvestri for poems relating to the theme of rebirth, with the legend of the firebird offering creative opportunities to explore spiritual growth and renewal. His text begins with the last words of Gjeilo's 2011 work entitled '*Tundra*', but painting a world of light. The finished choral piece draws from the complete text. As Silvestri remarked, '– this shaping and reshaping of a work is an exciting and vital part of the collaborative process. Perhaps, like the phoenix, that material (the first two stanzas of the poem cut from the final version) will be reborn as part of another work'.

We are the Music-Makers

Patti Drennan (b.1952)

Patti Drennan taught choral music in Oklahoma schools for twenty-eight years, retiring in 2004. She was Minister of Music and Worship Arts for almost ten years and is now writing and leading choral workshops and reading sessions full time. An active composer, she has achieved sales of over two million copies, and has had a composition performed at Carnegie Hall. Patti Drennan also spends her time performing and recording with her daughter, Emily, with RoxSteady Music and taking part in numerous symphonic performances.

We are the Music-Makers, was commissioned by a choral colleague for a High School in Lawton Oklahoma. It was published in 2003. Patti uses the first stanza of the poem written in 1873 by Arthur O'Shaughnessy, a British poet of Irish descent, and writes, 'The text was meaningful to the director and she specifically requested that I incorporate it within a song honoring (sic) her choir. I chose to add additional words to further state the beauty and importance of music and how it fulfils our lives. Music is never-ending and impacts every emotion within one's life'.

Sources: Nigel Hess; The Oxford Companion to Music - Scholes; The Oxford Companion to English Literature – Drabble; previous ACS Programme Notes; Wikipedia and the internet.

Programme Notes: Elizabeth Jones

Programme Editors: Liz Foy

Julia Williamson



ALTRINCHAM
CHORAL SOCIETY



Trafford Mencap is a local, independent charity that promotes equality for people with a learning disability – helping them to discover new opportunities, make new friends, and to feel valued and safe in their community.

www.traffordmencap.org.uk

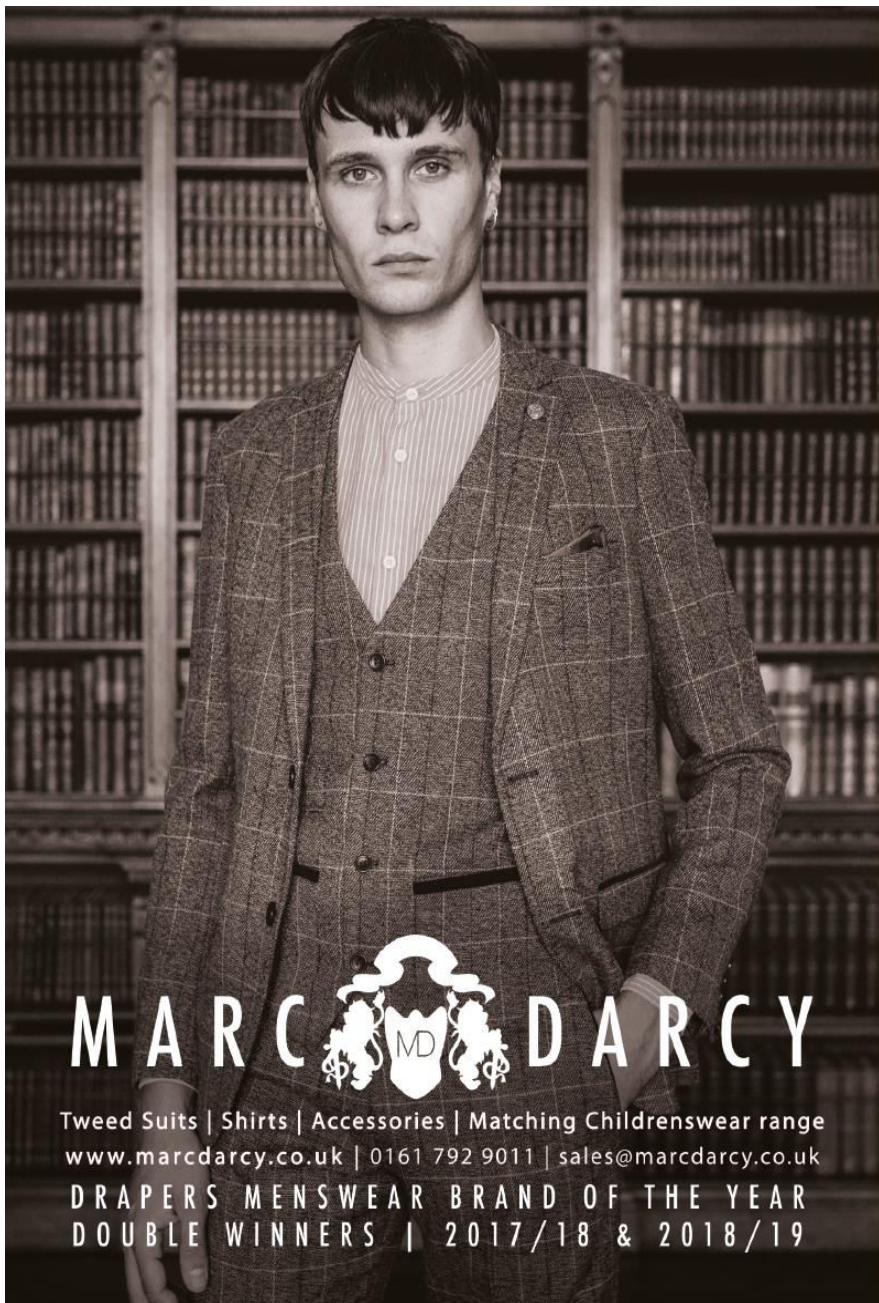
ACS is particularly delighted to announce that their chosen charity for the forthcoming season is Trafford Mencap, one of the chosen charities of Trafford Mayor, Councillor Tom Ross, for his term of office.


Trafford Mayor, Councillor Tom Ross, said: "I am really grateful to the choir for choosing to support one of my chosen charities. I have had the pleasure of working with people with a learning disability in the past and wanted more people to benefit from the support Trafford Mencap provides".

Diane Crichton, a Trustee at Trafford Mencap, has welcomed the news: "We are honoured to have been chosen by the Mayor as one of his charities, and by the Altrincham Choral Society. Fundraising has never been harder and as a small charity we find it a challenge. The money that is donated will allow us to support the people we all live amongst, and offer information and support to those who need it".

Steven Roberts, Music Director of Altrincham Choral Society, said: "Raising money for a local charity is a fantastic way for us to offer something back to the local community. We have been very privileged to receive the Mayor at many of our concerts and as such, it seemed a natural choice to offer our support to one of his chosen charities. We're looking forward to raising not only funds, but also awareness and support for this extremely worthwhile charity."

If you would like to make a contribution to the Mayor's charity please send a cheque made payable to 'Mayor of Trafford's Charity Fund' and send it to Mayor's Office, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford, Manchester, M32 0TH.



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**DRAPERS MENSWEAR BRAND OF THE YEAR
DOUBLE WINNERS | 2017/18 & 2018/19**

Altrincham Choral Society is most grateful to Marc Darcy for supplying the men's accessories for our concerts.

ALTRINCHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Future Concerts:

Sunday 7 July 7.30pm **Royal Northern College of Music**
The Past and the Present Music from the 17th century to the present
day
Featuring members of the Carlton Main Frickley Band and
Jonathan Scott – Organ

Saturday 27 July 1.10pm **Lincoln Cathedral**
Recital to include some of the music from the above concert
Lydia Bryan – Piano

Saturday 16 November 2019 7.30pm **St Peter's Church, Hale**
Rossini – Petite Messe Solennelle
With soloists and Lydia Bryan - Piano and Jonathan Scott - Harmonium

**The 2019 – 2020 season will mark
Altrincham Choral Society's
75th Anniversary.**