

LUX AURUMQUE

Sergei Rachmaninov:
Bogoroditsye Dyevo

William Byrd:
Ave Verum Corpus

Philip Stopford:
The Lord Bless You and Keep You

John Brunning:
Amazing Day

Interval

Patti Drennan:
We are the music makers

Stanley M. Hoffman:
Psalm 84

Edward Bairstow:
I sat down under His shadow

Paul Mealor:
She walks in beauty

Arvo Pärt:
Für Alina
Variationen zur Gesundung von Arinuschka

Eric Whitacre:
Lux Aurumque

Morten Lauridsen:
Ave Maria

Carole Stephens:
Gloria!

ALTRINCHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 500729

www.altrincham-choral.co.uk

President: Roger Shelmerdine

Honorary Life Member: Steven Roberts

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 5 minutes walk from the train/metro/bus station.

Rehearsals are from 7.45 to 10.00 pm

For more information contact us

E-mail: info@altrincham-choral.co.uk

Tweet us @acs1945 Like us on Facebook

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 2014 Exceptional Service Award has been awarded to the following members -

John Greenan

Andrew Wragg

Joyce Venables

ALTRINCHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 500729

www.altrincham-choral.co.uk

President: Roger Shelmerdine

Honorary Life Member: Steven Roberts

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 web-site.

E Lawrence is our Patrons Secretary. She is looking forward to
hearing from you and can answer your enquiries about the
scheme. Contact her on 01925 861862 or ellaw@talktalk.net

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

Platinum Patrons

Anonymous

Bernard Lawrence

Gold Patrons

Barrie and Maureen Netting

John Kennedy

Lee Bakirgian Family Trust

Sponsors

Faddies Dry Cleaners of Hale

Flowers by Remember Me of Hale

Forsyth

Est 1857

**Proud to support
ALTRINCHAM CHORAL
SOCIETY** by providing the
Schimmel K213T piano
used in tonight's
performance



*World renowned music department store with
5 floors of products and services*

Tel 0161 834 3281 www.forsyths.co.uk

Forsyth Bros Ltd, 126 Deansgate, Manchester M3 2GR





ALTRINCHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Come and Sing

John Rutter

Feel The Spirit

Steven Roberts

Lydia Bryan

Musical Director

Accompanist

Saturday 12th September 2015

Registration 10.00 Rehearsal 10.30

Free Performance 17.30

Cost £15 (£10 ACS, £7 students)

(including music hire)

St Mary's Church,

Stamford Road, Bowdon,

WA14 2TR

Contact Kate Barlow 0161 980 4342

katebarlow35@btinternet.com

www.altrincham-choral.co.uk

Altrincham Choral Society Singing Day Saturday 12th September 2015

This page may be cut from your programme and returned to us to book your place.

Following on from our very successful Come & Sing in 2014, Altrincham Choral Society is delighted to invite you to join us to explore John Rutter's Feel The Spirit. Whether you are an experienced singer or last sang in a school choir, you will be most welcome – all you need is a love of music!

Name

E mail address

(please note that we will communicate wherever possible by e mail).

Address

.....

Telephone

Voice part

I have my own score of Feel the Spirit Yes/No*

Your entrance fee includes a cup of tea/coffee upon arrival and at the afternoon interval. Once again Bowdon Church Choir will be providing further drinks and cakes in the Parish Centre, in order to raise money to buy new music for the Choir. The Parish Centre will also be available for those participants who wish to bring their own lunch. Alternatively, immediately opposite the church is a public house which serves food.

I enclose a cheque made payable to Altrincham Choral Society as follows:

Fee for the Come & Sing Day (£15 Full, £10 ACS, £7 Students)

Total

Please send your completed form to Kate Barlow at 35 Bower Road, Hale, Altrincham, WA15 9DU and enclose an SAE if you do not have an email address.

Please enclose an additional sheet for multiple applicants.

Steven Roberts

Steven Roberts is Conductor and Musical Director of Altrincham Choral Society, Chesterfield Philharmonic Choir, Honley Male Voice Choir and UnLimited Voices. He has recently become Chairman of The British and International Federation of Festivals and regularly adjudicates throughout the United Kingdom.

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 the Dodworth and Skelmanthorpe Male Voice Choirs, the Allendale Chamber Orchestra, the Liverpool Welsh Choral Union, Sing Live UK and with 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.

He has conducted the Manchester Philharmonic, Derbyshire Sinfonia, and the National Festival Orchestra as well as the Yorkshire Wind Orchestra, Black Dyke Band and a variety of other bands and ensembles.

He has also conducted at the Royal Albert Hall and prepared choruses for performances at the Odyssey Arena, Belfast as well as the FM Hallam Arena in Sheffield. He has been privileged to conduct in The College Gardens of Westminster Abbey for The Lady Taverners, in St Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, St Mark's Basilica, Venice, as well as in Florence, Sorrento, Amalfi, Milan, Austria, on the Rhine, Bavaria, Montecassino and Barcelona.

Steven is proud to be a member of The Lord's Taverners – the cricketing charity that raises money to give 'young people, particularly with special needs, a sporting chance'.

In November 2013 he became a Life Member of the Royal Philharmonic Society.

David Lloyd-Mostyn

David Lloyd-Mostyn enjoys a varied musical life as a composer, arranger, teacher and conductor. David studied for a BA(Hons) in Music and an MMus Composition at the University of Leeds. Whilst at Leeds, he was twice winner of the University's Composition Competition. He has also been the recipient of other national prizes: the Schouller Organ Composition Prize and the Wallace Ensemble Prize.

He has since enjoyed a number of commissions from a variety of bodies, from small chamber ensembles through to large-scale choruses and symphony orchestras. These have led to performances across Europe and America.

David has also written much music for tv and theatre. Some highlights in 2012 included Primal Fire for massed children's choir to celebrate the relay of the Olympic Torch through Runcorn and The Fate of Chattox, written for Clarinet and Piano Aquilon to mark the 400-year anniversary of the Pendle Witch trials. The Fate of Chattox was featured in a BBC Radio 4 documentary about the Pendle Witches.

Having spent seven years as Head of Music at Cronton Sixth Form College in Widnes, where he was instrumental in the college being designated as a Centre of Excellence for Performing Arts, he now oversees Music at Loreto College in Manchester. He has developed a new type of musical analysis designed to deepen the understanding and enjoyment of classical music, and is much in demand as a music consultant in other schools and colleges.

As a conductor, David holds positions with Altrincham Choral Society and the Oberon Festival Orchestra.

Lydia Bryan

Lydia Bryan is a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music where she studied piano, harpsichord, violin and singing. She specialised in piano accompaniment at postgraduate level.

Her professional concert career started as a 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 has accompanied regularly for master lessons with John Cameron and Peter Pears, and has performed in master classes for Bernard Roberts and Vlado Perlemuter at The Dartington International Summer School.

She has performed many times at the Royal Exchange Theatre for the Manchester Midday Concerts and also at the Purcell Room, and 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 Denmark, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy and throughout the British Isles.

Her concert repertoire is wide-ranging; she has worked with many eminent contemporary composers and has performed works by Alexander Goehr and David Gow at the Society for the Promotion of New Music. She was also the accompanist for the 'Art of Song' courses at Higham Hall and has been official accompanist and adjudicator for music festivals in both the UK and abroad.

Lydia teaches at Manchester Grammar School and Loreto School in Altrincham and has been resident accompanist to Altrincham Choral Society since December 1996. She has many successful professional musicians amongst her past pupils.

Altrincham Choral Society

Brenda Adams	Caroline Harris	Christine Pidcock
Joy Anderson	Dudley Harrop *	Frances Provost
Sara Apps	Liz Harwood	Ian Provost
Pat Arnold #	Gill Hayes	Eleanor Reeves
Ann Ashby	John Hayes	Linley Roach *
Kate Barlow	Bill Hetherington	Doris Robinson #
Matthew Barr	Jane Hollinshead	Kate Robinson
Janet Bedell *	Catherine Horrocks *	Tony Robinson
Frances Broad #	Valerie Hotter *	Hannah Rodriguez
Rachel Brougham	Gail Hunt *	Wendy Rodriguez
Patricia Brown	Rosemary Hurley	Rachel Sadler
Anne Bullock *	Karen Jarmany	Stephen Secretan
Stephen Campbell	Roy Jervis	Anja Schiebeck
Anthony Campion	Alan Johnston	Tobias Schiebeck
Helen Cash	Arnold Jones	Fiona Simpson
John Charlton #	Clare Jones	Susan Sinagola
Barbara Clift *	Elizabeth Jones #	Colin Skelton *
Sara Cornes	Gillian Jones	Audrey Smallridge #
Michael Cummings	Melanie-Anne Jose *	Cathy Stubbs
Adrienne Davies	Sarah Keith	David Swindlehurst
Jacqueline Davies	George Kistruck *	Brian Taylor *
Marie Dixon *	Elisabeth Lawrence	Elizabeth Taylor
Jean Drape *	Keith Lewis	John Taylor
Kathy Duffy	Annie Lloyd-Walker	Thomas Taylor
Richard Dyson	Emma Loat	Malcolm Thomson
Frank Estcourt	Rosie Lucas *	Pamela Thomson
Wendy Estcourt	Sarah Lucas	Jean Tragen
Rik Evans	Gavin McBride	Gill Turner
Heather Falconer	Helen McBride	Elaine Van Der Zeil
Alison Farshi	Norma McRae	Joyce Venables ++
Liz Foy	Hazel Meakin	Catherine Verdin
Joyce Fuller	Cathy Merrell	Christine Weekes
Rima Gasperas	Heather Morrey	Geryl Whitaker
Trevor Gilmore	Catherine Mottram	Helen Whitehouse *
Estelle Goodwin	Pamela Moulton *	Kath Whyte *
Bryan Goude *	John Mulholland	Yvette Willey #
Ann Grainger	Jessica Murrills ++	Julia Williamson *
John Grainger	Julian Mustoe	Brenda Wood
Margaret Greaves #	Norma Nock	Andrew Wragg #
Helen Greig	Julie Noonan	Cecilia Wright
Pauline Griffiths	Debbie O'Driscoll	John Yates
	Terence Oddy	

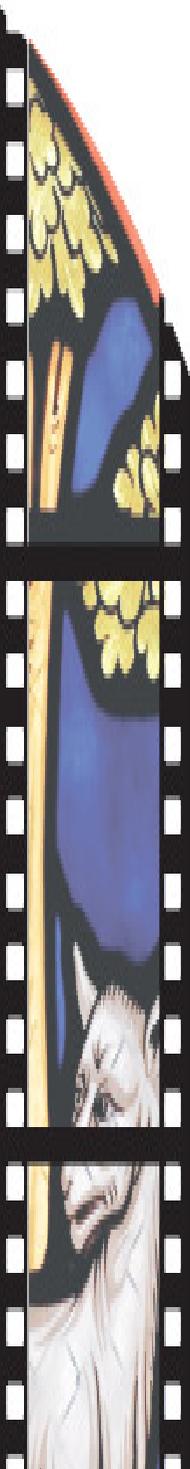
Semi - chorus

Estelle Goodwin Anne Grainger Jane Hollinshead Jean Tragen

*Denotes 20 years

#Denotes 30 years

++Denotes 40 years



*Featuring over an hour of some of the most
glorious contemporary choral works,
this CD includes music from
Schindler's List, Les Choristes,
Lorenzo's Oil, The Peacemaker,
Sense and Sensibility
and the theme from
The Vicar of Dibley.*

Religion and Reel

is available to buy here tonight

Price £5

£2 from each sale goes towards

**Alzheimer's
Society**

Leading the
fight against
dementia

Tonight we explore the wonderful world of choral music, wherein lie many hidden treasures. We bring you three composers from earlier centuries – Byrd, Rachmaninov and the lesser-known Edward Bairstow, but mostly, our programme is a celebration of contemporary choral music by living composers, born in the second half of the twentieth century.

Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943)

Bogoroditsye Dyevo

Sergei Rachmaninov is one of the most popular and performed composers of the 20th century. Born near Novgorod, Russia, he became a virtuoso pianist, conductor and composer, influenced and encouraged by Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov and Scriabin. He left Russia in 1917, toured extensively as a pianist, then settled in Switzerland in 1934. His music is characterised by memorable soaring melodies, chromatic harmonies and has a distinctive Russian flavour. As he said himself, 'My music is the product of my temperament, and so it is Russian music'.

Bogoroditsye Dyevo is the setting of a text from the All-Night Vigil Ceremony. It was written and premièred in 1915 and was one of Rachmaninov's favourite compositions. Its graceful simplicity and pious reverence build to a mighty exclamation on the word 'raduysya' (rejoice!). The climax is moving and soul-stirring for audience and performers alike. It is possibly the most popular and widely performed piece of Russian Orthodox sacred music.

*Bogoroditsye Dyevo,
raduysya, blagodatnaya Mariye,
Gospod's toboyu:
Blagoslovenna Ty v zhenakh,
i blagosloven plod chreva Tvoyego,
Yako Spasa rodila yesi dush nashikh.*

*Virgin mother of God,
hail, Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee:
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.
For thou hast brought forth the
Saviour who redeemed our souls.*

William Byrd (c.1539-1623)

Ave Verum Corpus

William Byrd was the leading English composer of his generation, and together with his continental colleagues, Giovanni Palestrina (c.1525 - 1594) and Orlando de Lassus (1532 -1594), one of the acknowledged great masters of the late Renaissance.

Byrd was a Catholic in Protestant England and though this position demanded a certain amount of discretion, his loyalty to the Crown was never in doubt. Indeed Byrd continued to enjoy the favour of the Queen as well as the continuation of his privilege as sole holder of the publishing monopoly which had been awarded jointly to Byrd and Thomas Tallis (his teacher), before the latter's death. In this highly oppressive atmosphere Byrd played a dangerous game. He composed and published music for use in Catholic services (held secretly in private residences), or for use in homes, much like madrigals.

Byrd's Latin motets, such as *Ave Verum Corpus*, composed for the Feast of Corpus Christi and published in 1605, were well known during his lifetime and continue to be the most widely performed of his compositions.

*Ave, verum corpus
natum de Maria Virgine,
Vere passum immolatum
in Cruce pro homine,
Cujus latus perforatum
unda fluxit sanguine,
Esto nobis
praegustatum
in mortis examine.*

*Hail, true Body,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
who having truly suffered,
was sacrificed on the cross for mankind,
whose pierced side
flowed with water and blood:
May it be for us a foretaste
[of the Heavenly banquet]
in the trial of death.*

Philip Stopford (b.1977)

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

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. Philip now lives back in Chester, and is a full time choral composer and conductor.

The Lord Bless You and Keep You was commissioned by the Cantabile Ensemble, a mixed choir of 16 -24 voices based in Jersey, and formed at the end of 2004 specifically to sing church music. Stopford has written, 'This setting, with its gentle, reflective text and sonorous melodies and harmonies, makes an ideal anthem for use at the close of worship'.

John Brunning (b.1954)

Amazing Day

John Brunning is an English musician, born in Essex, radio presenter and composer, probably best known as a voice on Classic FM. As a youngster, his heroes were Chuck Berry, Joe Brown and Hank Marvin. He taught himself to play guitar, going on to perform in the rock groups *Crow* and *Mungo Jerry*. He began broadcasting on local radio and joined Classic FM at around the time it began broadcasting in 1992.

Amazing Day is an oratorio in seven movements for soprano and baritone solos, SATB choir and accompaniment. It was written in 2006 and the Pie Jesu, recorded by the vocal group *All Angels*, is probably the best known of his works to date. Brunning comments, 'While my activities as a performer in rock bands were gradually overtaken by my developing career as a radio presenter, my love of composing has remained a constant. Nowadays I write mostly in a classical idiom, but music and melody will always be indivisible for me...'

1) Amazing Day

2) The Lord's Prayer

3) Pie Jesu

*Pie Jesu Domine,
Dona eis requiem.*

*Pie Jesu Domine,
Dona eis requiem sempiternam.*

*Pious Lord Jesus,
Give them rest.
Pious Lord Jesus
Grant them eternal rest.*

4) Introit/Kyrie/Sanctus

*Kyrie eleison;
Christe eleison;
Kyrie eleison
et lux perpetua
luceat eis.
Sanctus
Benedictus
Amen*

*Lord have mercy;
Christ have mercy;
Lord have mercy
and let perpetual light shine
upon them.
Holy
Blessed
Amen*

5) Ave Maria

Ave Maria – Gloria!

Hail, Mary – Glory!

6) The Lord is My Shepherd

7) Hallelujah

Patti Drennan (b. 1952)

We are the music makers

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'.

ACS appreciate the good wishes sent to us by the composer for this concert.

Stanley M. Hoffman (b.1959)

Psalm 84

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Stanley M. Hoffman has lived in the greater Boston area since 1977. He studied in this area and received his PhD in composition in 1993. Much of his work has been for chorus, but he has written in a variety of other genres, including music for voice, chamber ensembles and wind ensemble.

He has received several awards for his work, including one from the Waging Peace Through Singing Programme, for his choral composition *Grant Us Peace*, in honour of the victims of the terrorist attacks of 9/11 in 2001. He has served as the Chief Editor of ECS Publishing in Boston since 1998. He is also active as a conductor, lecturer and vocalist in the Boston area. He is currently Director of The Temple Israel of Natick Singers and has made a major contribution to Jewish choral music,

Hoffman composed *Psalm 84* in 2002, translating the words himself from the original Hebrew. It was written expressly for the ECS Publishing *Psalm Songs* series. It is a favourite of the composer, because it 'contains some of the most vivid imagery of any of the psalms which is what made it a perfect candidate for musical setting'.

Edward Bairstow (1874 – 1946)

I sat down under His shadow

Edward Cuthbert Bairstow was an English organist and composer in the Anglican tradition. He was born in Huddersfield where his grandfather was founder of a clothing firm. He studied the organ, first at Oxford and Westminster Abbey and then at Durham, receiving a Bachelor of Music degree in 1894 and a Doctorate in 1901. After holding posts in London, Wigan and Leeds, he served as organist of York Minster from 1913 to his death. During this time, he refused an offer to become the organist at Westminster Abbey, preferring to reside in Yorkshire. He was a Professor of Music at Durham University from 1929 and was knighted in 1932.

Bairstow was notorious for his bluntness. His terse manner meant that he did not always endear himself to others.

Active as an instrumental composer, mainly for organ, Bairstow composed service music, psalms, chant, hymns, cantatas for choir and chamber orchestra, and anthems ranging from large scale works for choir and organ to elegant miniatures such as *I sat down under His shadow*. This piece was first published in 1925 and the Old Testament text is from the Song of Solomon (Song of Songs, Chapter ii, (verses 3 and 4) .

Paul Mealor (b.1975)

She walks in beauty

Paul Mealor composes primarily for the voice and has written songs and choral works for many leading singers and choirs in the UK and USA. He was born in St Asaph, North Wales, and since 2003, he has been teaching at the University of Aberdeen, where he is currently Professor of Composition.

In April 2011, Paul Mealor gained international fame when his setting of the motet *Ubi Caritas et Amor* was premièred at the wedding of HRH Prince William and Catherine Middleton before 2.5 billion people – the largest audience in broadcasting history. Later that year he was commissioned to write a song for the Military Wives Choir, created by Gareth Malone, as part of the BBC Two series *The Choir*. The song, *Wherever You Are*, went on to become the 2011 Christmas no. 1 in the UK Singles Chart and in the same year he released his first album, a collection of sacred choral anthems entitled *A Tender Light*.

She Walks in Beauty, one of the anthems from this album, was written in 2010 for Octavoce, the eight voice choir. The words, written in 1814 by Lord Byron, were inspired by his meeting with Mrs Anne Beatrix Wilmot, the wife of his cousin, whom he considered to be the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Byron was inspired by her appearance and describes her calm inner beauty by contrasting light with darkness. This is echoed in Mealor's serene music.

Arvo Pärt (b.1935)

Für Alina

Variationen zur Gesundung von Arinuschkka

Arvo Pärt is an Estonian composer of classical and sacred music. His musical education began at the age of seven and by the time he reached his early teenage years Pärt was writing his own compositions. While studying at the Tallin Conservatory in 1957, it was said of him that he just seemed to shake his sleeves and the notes would fall out.

Since the late 1970's Pärt has worked in a minimalist style that employs his self-invented compositional technique, *tintinnabuli*. This is inspired by the sound of bells, first the strike, then the retreating overtones. He is also inspired by his study of early European polyphony, plainsong and Gregorian chant. As a result, his music appears to be both ancient and modern.

Für Alina, a beautiful piano miniature, composed in 1976, was dedicated to a family friend's eighteen year old daughter who had just gone to study in London. Its introspection calls to mind a vivid image of youth off to explore the world. It showcases the composer's use of bell-like sounds. The listener perceives two musical lines, which, while engaged in a slow progression never quite embrace each other. The result is a changing landscape that travels through time.

The *Variationen zur Gesundung von Arinuschkka* (Variations for the Healing of Arinushka) were written in 1977 and have the same spacious feeling. The open structure in which this piece is built creates an almost healing and spiritual atmosphere.

Arvo Pärt's current standing rests almost exclusively on the works he has composed since the unveiling of the *tintinnabuli* style in 1976. He has become one of the most distinctive voices in contemporary music and also among the most performed and recorded.

Eric Whitacre (b.1970)

Lux Aurumque

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.

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, and today, is one of the bright stars of concert music.

Lux Aurumque was commissioned in 2000 by the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay. Whitacre's inspiration for the work was a short poem entitled, *Light and Gold*, by Edward Esch (b.1970).

*Lux,
Calida gravisque pura velut aurum
Et canunt angeli molliter
modo natum.*

*Light, warm and heavy
as pure gold,
and the angels sing softly
to the new born baby.*

Whitacre remarks, 'I was immediately struck by its genuine, elegant simplicity'. He asked the celebrated American poet Charles Anthony Sylvestri to translate the poem into Latin. This Sylvestri did, making the words 'as singably and as sonically beautiful' as he could.

Whitacre divides his time between conducting and teaching throughout the world. 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.

Morten Lauridsen (b.1943)

Ave Maria

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'.

Lauridsen's musical approaches are very diverse and his Latin sacred settings often reference Gregorian chant within a freshly contemporary sound. Ave Maria is one of a series of a cappella motets which Lauridsen wrote in 1997 for the 70th birthday of Paul Salamunovich, Music Director Emeritus of the Los Angeles Master Chorale and widely recognised as one of America's most influential choral conductors.

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

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

Carole Stephens

Gloria!

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 an arranger of popular music. Currently she is a full-time Director of Music at Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church, Ashland, Virginia.

She uses the name Carole Stephens for her sacred works 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'.

Programme notes Elizabeth Jones.

Sources: The Oxford Companion to Music – Scholes, Wikipedia and the internet Acknowledgements: Patti Drennan, Chesterfield Philharmonic Choir programme notes and ACS Librarian Kath Whyte.