

The Cherwell Singers

Director: John Padley

with

Oxford Sinfonia

Leader Olivier Bonnicci

Soprano Lisa Wilson,

Eileen Pinkarchevski

Alto Daniel Collins

Tenor Daniel Turner

Bass Michael Holliday

Continuo Christian Wilson,

David Bednall

Saturday 26 Nov 2005, 8.00pm

University Church of

St Mary the Virgin, Oxford

The King Shall Rejoice**George Frideric Handel**

Written for the coronation of George 1 in 1714 *The King Shall Rejoice* displays clearly all the pomp and circumstance of a royal occasion. Split into five homophonic and contrapuntal movements, the exuberant orchestral writing makes this a delight for both listener and performers.

Beatus vir**Claudio Monteverdi**

Monteverdi is regarded as one of the foremost Italian renaissance composers. He revolutionised music for both church and theatre by his dramatic and imaginative use of instrumentation, voices and harmonies. *Beatus vir* dates from around 1630. It is a setting of Psalm 112, and contrasts pairs or small groups of voices with the weight of the full chorus. The piece is scored for six-part chorus and soloists, with organ continuo and two obbligato violin parts.

Dixit Dominus**Antonio Vivaldi**

Dixit Dominus is probably one of Vivaldi's grandest concertato works. It is divided into several movements employing double choir and orchestra. The text is taken from the psalms sung at Vespers. Vivaldi employs all manner of antiphonal effects, word-painting, triple counterpoint and fugue to illustrate the text. The vitality and exuberance of both choral and instrumental writing make this one of the major works of Italian sacred vocal music.

— THERE WILL BE A SHORT INTERVAL —

Magnificat**Giovanni Battista Pergolesi**

There is some debate as to the authorship of this work and it is thought that Pergolesi did not actually compose it! Nevertheless, the work is a delightful setting of the words of the *Magnificat* employing use of *cantus firmus* themes, contrapuntal sections and homophonic chorus and solo work.

An Ode for St. Cecilia's Day**George Frideric Handel**

An Ode for St. Cecilia's Day was composed over a twelve-day period in 1739. The text by Dryden allows Handel to explore numerous harmonic, choral and instrumental effects. The work opens with a splendid overture which Handel later converted into his *Grand Concerto* in D major. The movements that follow describe the attributes of various musical instruments and the beauty of harmony. This is clearly shown by Handel's skillful word-painting which illustrates the text beautifully and absolutely displays his mastery of this art.

The Cherwell Singers was founded in 1978 by a group of singers who wished to perform the vocal chamber music repertoire, and several of the original singers are still part of the choir. Our repertoire covers sacred and secular music from the late Medieval period to 20th-century works (some written especially for the choir), and includes not only central compositions of the choral repertoire but many lesser-known pieces. The choir accepts bookings for weddings, dinners and other events, formal and informal, and we welcome enquiries from prospective new members.

Sopranos - Claire Appleton, Sue Bignal, Kipper Chipperfield, Sarah Franks, Claire Gill, Lucy Goodwin, Louise Locock, Nathalie Rowell, Beatrix Stewart, Joanna Tucker

Altos - Virginia Allport, Julia Aston-Smith, Chris Herbert, Caroline Higginbottom, Stella Holman, Helen Maidlow, Sally Prime

Tenors - Philip Endean, Tim Nixon, Christopher Palmer, Guy Peskett, David Sutton, John Tucker

Basses - Richard Coleridge, Christopher Franks, Neil Herington, Paul Hodges, Simon Jones

Forthcoming concerts:

17 March 2006, Exeter College Chapel

French 19th and 20th Century Church Music (Langlais, Widor, Duruflé)

15 July 2006, University Church of St Mary the Virgin

Rossini *Petite Messe Solennelle*; Brahms *Liebesslieder Waltzes*

Contact the choir: www.cherwellsingers.org or 01865 723056

The Oxford Sinfonia, founded in 1984, is an amateur chamber orchestra of a high standard. We give four orchestral concerts each year in and around Oxford. Repertoire ranges from baroque to 21st century. Conductors of national and international status in previous seasons have included Ian Brown, Daniel Harding, Andrea Quinn, Stefan Asbury, Anthony Halstead, Robin O'Neill and Michael Lloyd. Players come from a pool of local keen amateur musicians. We also specialise in accompanying choral societies.

Forthcoming concerts at St Mary's, Oxford:

21 January 2006 - Robin O'Neill conductor

Mahler *Symphony No 4*, Haydn *Cello Concerto in D* soloist David Cohen

20 May 2006 - chamber concert

Strauss *Metamorphosen for strings*, Mozart *Wind Decets*, Enescu *Dixtuor*, Malcolm Arnold *Quintet for Brass*

Visit our website at www.oxfordsinfonia.co.uk or 07775 904626