

“FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA”

A celebration of Americana!



Music from America's religious heartland

The Cherwell Singers

Magdalen College Auditorium

December 1st 2007

Three Old American songs - Aaron Copland (1950-2)

1. **Zion's Walls** (Revivalist song) - original words and music by John G. McCurry, choral arrangement by Glenn Koponen
2. **Simple Gifts** (Shaker song) - choral arrangement by Irving Fine
3. **At the river** (Hymn tune) - original words and music by Rev. Robert Lowry

Deep River - spiritual arr. Roy Ringwald

Three Early American hymn tunes - arr. Bob Burroughs

1. **Holy Manna** - words by George Atkins (adapted), tune by William Moore
2. **Come, thou fount** - words by Rev. Robert Robinson, tune "Nettleton" (composer unknown)
3. **When I can read my title clear** - words by Issac Watts (adapted), tune "Pisgah" (composer unknown)

The Battle of Jericho - spiritual arr. Moses Hogan

Marching to Zion - arr. Jeffrey Howard (words Issac Watts 1707, refrain and music Robert Lowry 1867) Felix Higginbottom (percussion)

INTERVAL (20 min)

American wines and soft drinks available in the foyer

Two extracts from "Mass" - Leonard Bernstein (1971)

Chorale - Almighty father

Solo - A Simple song

Steal away - spiritual arr. Michael Tippett

Ye followers of the lamb - (Shaker song) arr. Edwin Earle Ferguson

Crossin' Ovah - Richard Jackson

From Sea to Shining Sea - A fantasy based on "America the beautiful" - music by Samuel A. Ward, words by Katherine Lee Bates.

God's Country - arr. Mark A. Brymer words and music by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg

Conductor's note

Welcome to our concert. Tonight we attempt to provide a glimpse of some uniquely American religious sentiments in words and music. These range from the spiritual to hymns and songs that were part of the great religious revivals which spread through parts of North America in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. We also include works from the twentieth century, which saw America finding not only a distinctive musical voice through composers such as Copland and Bernstein, but also a sense of national pride while still invoking God to bless the country. The recurrent appearance of the spiritual reflects its importance in the history of American song and the way it has been explored and developed anew in the twentieth century, making it one of America's most famous musical exports.

Lianne-Marie Skrinjar (soprano)

Lianne-Marie studied voice and piano at Trinity College of Music. She has performed numerous operatic roles under conductors including Nicholas Kok, Charles Farncombe and Christopher Field. In 2001 she won the Second Prize and the Song Prize in the Kathleen Ferrier Competition.

Luke Bond (piano)

Luke has been Organist of Clifton College since 2006. Previously he held appointments as Assistant Director of Music at St Mary's Church, Warwick and as organ scholar of Gloucester and Truro Cathedrals. He is a graduate of Bristol University.

James Brown (director)

This is James's first concert as director of The Cherwell Singers. He is Organist of the University Church, Oxford and a lay clerk in the choir of New College. A former organ scholar of Girton College, Cambridge he spent two years as Guest Artist in Residence at First United Methodist Church, Lubbock, Texas, USA which formed the inspiration for tonight's programme.

The Cherwell Singers

Soprano

Claire Appleton
Abigail Bradfield
Kipper Chipperfield
Sarah Franks
Mary Lord
Eleanor Parker
Beatrix Stewart
Joanna Tucker
Lucy Watson

Tenor

Paul King
Tim Nixon
Guy Peskett
David Sutton
John Tucker

Alto

Virginia Allport
Katherine Butler
Caroline Higginbottom
Stella Holman
Jo McLean
Lizzy Newton
Sally Prime

Bass

Christopher Franks
Neil Herington
Paul Hodges
Simon Jones
Simeon Mitchell
Iain McLean

Next Concert

Our concert next March (date to be confirmed) will include *Stabat Mater* by **Giuseppe Verdi** and *The Seven Last Words of Christ*, composed in 1867 by Parisian organist and composer **Théodore Dubois**.

Please visit our web site to learn more about the choir, and listen to some of our recordings online. Use the web form to register yourself on our email list, to ensure you receive notification and full details of future concerts.

www.cherwellsingers.org