



Cardiff Metropolitan Cathedral Choir

Handel Messiah

St David's Hall

Tuesday 21 March 2017, 1.00pm

George Frederick Handel composed the sacred oratorio *Messiah* during the course of only twenty-four days during the summer of 1741, using texts compiled by Charles Jennens (1700 - 73). Unlike most of Handel's oratorios, the words are taken exclusively from the Bible: Part I relates to the coming of the *Messiah*, and today we hear Part II which is devoted to the sufferings and death of Christ, and Part III, devoted to the Resurrection.

The first performance of this much loved oratorio was given during Handel's visit to Ireland, premièred in Dublin in April 1742 by a chorus of sixteen men and sixteen boys drawn from the choirs of St Patrick's Cathedral and Christ Church. In that same month, Faulkner's Dublin Journal printed the following notice:

"On Tuesday last Mr Handel's Sacred Grand Oratorio, the MESSIAH, was performed at the New Musick-Hall in Fishamble Street; Words are wanting to express the exquisite Delight it afforded to the admiring crowded Audience. The Sublime, the Grand and the Tender; adapted to the most elevated, majestic and moving Words, conspired to transport and charm the ravished Heart and Ear."

King George II attended at least one of the fifty-six performances of *Messiah* given in England between 1743 and Handel's death in 1759, and he was so moved by the fervour of the Hallelujah Chorus that he rose to his feet, and you are warmly invited to continue this tradition today.

Christ's Passion

22. Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. (John 1: 29)

23. He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He gave His back to the smiters, and His cheeks to them that plucked off His hair: He hid not His face from shame and spitting. (Isaiah 53)

24. Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows! He was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him. (Isaiah 53: 4-5)

25. And with his stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53: 5)

26. All we, like sheep, have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way. And the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53: 6)

27. All they that see him laugh him to scorn; they shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying:

28. He trusted in God that he would deliver him; let Him deliver Him, if He delight in Him." (Psalm 22: 7 - 8)

29. Thy rebuke hath broken his heart: He is full of heaviness. He looked for some to have pity on Him, but there was no man, neither found He any to comfort him. (Psalm 69: 20)

30. Behold and see if there be any sorrow (Lamentations 1: 12)

Christ's Death and Resurrection

31. He was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgressions of Thy people was He stricken. (Isaiah 53: 8)

32. But thou didst not leave his soul in hell; nor didst Thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption. (Psalm 16: 10)

38. How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things. (Isaiah 52: 7; Romans 10: 15)

The world's rejection of the Gospel

40. Why do the nations so furiously rage together, and why do the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and against His anointed.

41. Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their yokes from us.

42. He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn; The Lord shall have them in derision. (Psalm 2)

God's ultimate victory

43. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron, thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. (Psalm 2: 9)

44. Hallelujah for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. (Revelation 19: 6)

The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever. (Revelation 11: 15)

King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. (Revelation 19: 16)

The promise of eternal life

45. I know that my Redeemer liveth I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. (Job 19: 25-26)
For now is Christ risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.

46. Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. (I Corinthians 15)

The Day of Judgment

47. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

48. The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (I Corinthians 15)

The final conquest of sin

49. Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

50. O death, where is thy sting ? O grave, where is thy victory?

The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. (I Corinthians 15)

51. But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The acclamation of the Messiah

53. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His blood, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. Blessing and honour, glory and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 5)

St John's College and Cardiff Metropolitan Cathedral Choir

Next month marks the first anniversary of the passing of Dr David Neville, honorary Director of Music at Cardiff Metropolitan Cathedral and founder Principal of St John's College. He dedicated his life's work to the creation of the school and the development of the Cathedral Choir, and under his leadership, **St John's College** grew from a pupil base of 85 pupils in seven modest classrooms to this magnificent school of 525 pupils aged 3 to 18, with an established reputation as one of Wales' leading independent schools. St John's College is frequently listed as the top performing school in Wales in *The Sunday Times* 'Parent Power' based on combined GCSE and A-level performance, and has been rated 'Excellent' by Her Majesty's Inspectorate. The school has achieved the highest ranking A-level record of all schools in Wales over seventeen years, and the school has achieved sector-leading excellence in choral, orchestral and academic music.

The **Choir** sings the weekly services at the Metropolitan Cathedral alongside an exciting programme of concerts, broadcasts and tours. Under the leadership of Dominic Neville since 2005, it has developed from 14 boys and 12 adult voices to the choir of girls, boys and adults before us today. The choir has performed in the cathedrals of Ghent and Bruges (Belgium), Madrid and the basilica of El



St John's College Concert Orchestra performing Rachmaninov Second Piano Concerto at Christ Church Cathedral Oxford,



Our Concert Orchestra at the Dora Stoutzker Concert Hall



Our choristers singing at Merton College, Oxford

Escorial (Spain), St Bavo's in Haarlem (Netherlands), and at Nôtre Dame Cathedral and the Madeleine (Paris), and alongside the choir's two annual concerts at St David's Hall, gives two performances each year at the Dora Stoutzker Concert Hall at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

The choir has performed across the UK, at Bath Abbey, Christ Church Cathedral Oxford, Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral London, and has collaborated with ensembles such as The Tallis Scholars, Philadelphia Boys Choir (USA), Chamber Strings of Melbourne (Australia), BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales, Uppingham Choir, The Schola of Brompton Oratory, Llandaff Cathedral Choral Society and the choir of Gonville and Caius College Cambridge. We regularly lead outreach projects and perform with local schools, as well as the annual Choir Schools Association Evensong and Sports days with cathedral choirs from across England and Wales. The choir now gives frequent broadcasts live on BBC Radio 4 before an audience of 1.6 million and will be releasing a CD of choral music later this year. In recent years, our choristers have sung as soloists in the critically acclaimed production *The Hollow Crown*, and in productions given by the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and Welsh National Opera. The choir has also featured in the Christmas Special of BBC *Doctor Who* and in a major Hollywood feature film. In December, our Choristers sang for His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales from the David Neville Gallery at the Cornerstone.

For thirty-five years David Neville held the honorary position of Director of Music and Organist at the Metropolitan Cathedral, and upon his appointment as a Papal Knight in 2015, Canon Peter Collins, Dean of the Metropolitan Cathedral, wrote:



Our Concert Orchestra and choristers at Sint Walburgakerk, Bruges



Our choristers singing at St Paul's Cathedral



Singing for Prince Charles from the David Neville Gallery

“On behalf of the Cathedral Community I extend our warmest congratulations to Dr David Neville KSG upon receiving a Papal Knighthood within the Order of St Gregory from His Holiness Pope Francis. The honour has been bestowed in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the life of the Archdiocese over the past thirty-five years through his role as Director of Music and Organist at this Metropolitan Cathedral Church of Saint David. As founder Principal of St John’s College, designated as the Cathedral Choir School, Dr David Neville has created a structure of musical provision for the Cathedral that is the envy of my fellow Cathedral Deans.”

An address given by His Grace the Archbishop George Stack on BBC Radio 4 in May 2016:

"Earlier this month I was privileged to conduct the funeral of an extraordinary man. For 27 years Dr David Neville was the hugely inspiring and well-loved head teacher of St John's College in Cardiff. He was also a gifted organist - music was his first love - and he naturally imbued the school with the same love of music and also provided a first rate Cathedral choir of pupils and adults. Whilst considering the theme of our Daily Services this week on Loyalty, and in particular today on 'Covenant and Grief', I thought of David and the many mourners at his funeral who spoke of and who had been inspired by his vision and dedication, by his love and loyalty, not just for his family, but also his school, his Church and his Catholic faith."

"Loyalty is a value we recognise almost instinctively. And it is one of the qualities so highly valued by the people who knew, and who were taught and inspired by David Neville. To be able to depend on other people, knowing that no matter what difficulties or challenges we face, no matter what mistakes we make; knowing that we can rely on someone to affirm and support us, to love and forgive is something very precious."

We extend a very warm welcome to Mr Gareth Lloyd who will be the school’s new Headmaster following Mrs Rosemary Hart who has been Headmistress since April 2016.



In collaboration with BBC National Orchestra of Wales



Singing for the Prince of Wales from the David Neville Gallery



Singing at Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris



Our choristers singing music by Mendelssohn, David Neville and Gibbons at Westminster Abbey

Cardiff Metropolitan Cathedral Choir

Directed by Dominic Neville and James Neville

Trebles: Ben Jones, Ashmit Saha, Alfie Jones, Kritthik Baranidharan, Dylan Samra, Rajeeth Luxman, Thomas Cheung, Anish Choudhury, Pablo Luengo-Martinez-Sainz, Frank Mitchell, Aryan Sakhuja, Luke Samra, Adi Bhat, Oliver Spear, Ashok Abeysinghege, Vlad Tucker, Luke Vincent, Aryan Chaudhry.

Sopranos: Namita Chandra, Sofia Aldridge, Hiya Ray, Shreeya Mungur-Bundhoo, Ansha Khurana, Anna Lugsdin, Jemima Beere, Daniela Mahoney, Isabelle O'Sullivan, Soraya Williams, Srinetra Banerjee, Emily Cridland, Lily Downie, Thamizhni Eswarathasan, Namitha Pasunuru, Ella Searle, Keya Gandhi.

GCSE & A-level choral scholars: Jack Aldridge, Aviral Batra, Christian John, Dominic Omidvar, Dylan Oshnoei, Jacob Vincent, Aidan Balaratnam, Finn Mitchell, Joseff Morris, Marco Aldridge, Aron Amal Calist, Rowan Downie, Idris Kriker, Benedict Dimond.

GCSE & A-level choral scholars: Lara Amjad, Madeline Constable, Catrin Dimond, Sophie Hale, Nadiyah Hancock, Sadie-Jane Nader-Humphries, Olivia Prosser, Eleanor South, Alessia Mahoney, Stephanie Monti, Isabelle Lugsdin, Niamh Field, Georgia Wink, Purva Chandratreya, Emily Harris, Lily Beere, Mischa Balaratnam, Morgan Gould, Gabrielle O'Sullivan.

Adult Singers: James Neville, Amy Campbell, Francis Taylor, Rhys Batt, Joseph Cavalli Price, Owain Browne, Nick Cooper, Alan Thomas.

Chamber Orchestra

Leader Lydia Marshall, Marisa Wall, Elizabeth French, Kyle Patterson, Hannah Grimley, Samuel Baxter, Benjamin Day, Stanley Kaye-Smith, Robert Court.



Holy Week Services at the Metropolitan Cathedral



Our GCSE and Sixth Form choristers at El Escorial in Spain



The Archdiocesan Festival of Music, led by St John's College

Director of Music **Dominic Neville** began his musical training aged six as a boy chorister of Cardiff Metropolitan Cathedral Choir and St John's College. His studies continued at Cambridge University where he was a Choral Scholar in the world famous choir of King's College and took up invitations to conduct the highly acclaimed choir of Clare College Chapel and King's Voices. Dominic sang in the famous Christmas broadcasts, at the memorial service for Princess Margaret HRH at Westminster Abbey, in Grammy-nominated recordings for EMI, and as a soloist in the choir's sell-out Christmas concert at the Royal Albert Hall.

Dominic is Director of Music at Cardiff Metropolitan Cathedral, and Head of Upper Sixth, Admissions Tutor and Director of Music at St John's College. Dominic has been an Academic Lecturer at the Royal Welsh College since 2006, and in recent weeks Llandaff Cathedral Choral Society celebrated his ten year anniversary as Principal Conductor. The choristers of the Metropolitan Cathedral frequently collaborate with LCCS and a schola of choristers will be joining Llandaff Cathedral Choral Society in Bach *St Matthew Passion* at Llandaff Cathedral on Saturday 8 April.

Master of the Choristers, **James Neville**, began his musical training as a chorister of Cardiff Metropolitan Cathedral and he was educated at the choir school, St John's College. His studies continued at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he sang as an Academical Clerk and graduated in Modern History. He went on to study further at the University of Cambridge, completing an MPhil at King's College where he was a Choral Scholar in the world-famous chapel choir and studied conducting with Stephen Layton. James is Assistant Head, Head of Humanities and Head of History at the choir school, St John's College. He is a Foundation Governor of St Joseph's RC Primary School and is a visiting lecturer at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama.

Alongside his teaching career, James performs as a professional countertenor soloist. Recent and forthcoming solo engagements include Bach *B Minor Mass* (Gloucester and Llandaff cathedrals), Bach *St John Passion* (Chester, Hereford, Norwich and Ripon cathedrals), Bach *St Matthew Passion* (Colston Hall and Hereford and Llandaff cathedrals), Handel *Israel in Egypt* (St Albans Cathedral and St Martin-in-the-Fields), Handel *Messiah* (Chelmsford, Chester, Hereford, Llandaff and Wells cathedrals, Colston Hall and York Minster) and Purcell *Come, Ye Sons of Art* (Leith Hill Music Festival).

Soprano **Ellen Williams** graduated with a Masters in Performance from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in 2015, and continues to study on the Opera Course with Suzanne Murphy and Michael Pollock, gratefully supported by the Arts Council of Wales. Ellen has been awarded the Leverhulme scholarship and is a recipient of the Aneurin Davies Award and Elias Singing Prize for Soprano.

In the world of opera, Ellen's previous roles have included Semele (*Semele*), Nannetta (*Falstaff*), Barbarina and cover Susanna (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Cinderella (Massenet's *Cendrillon*), Emmie (*Albert Herring*). In scenes Ellen has played Sophie (*Der Rosenkavalier*), Lakmé (*Lakmé*), Gretel (*Hänsel und Gretel*), Ariel (*The Tempest*), Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*) and Ellen was delighted to perform the final fugue in Verdi's *Falstaff* as Nannetta in a celebratory concert for the RWCMD to HRH the Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace in 2016. Ellen looks forward this summer to playing the role of Zerlina in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at the Centre for Opera Studies in Italy.

Bass **Alan Thomas** was educated at Llanelli Boys Grammar School and graduated in music from the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama where he studied voice with John Mitchinson and flute with Douglas Townshend. After completing post graduate studies at Cardiff University he spent 25 working in music education as teacher, Head of Department, Associate Music Advisor and Assistant Headteacher. He combined this work with his work for the WJEC as an examiner and member of the music syllabus development team. Alan has performed at some of the most prestigious concert halls and cathedrals in Europe including the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Musikverein Vienna, Royal Albert Hall, Notre Dame, La Madeleine, Salzburg, St Paul's and Westminster Abbey.

In 2012, after beating cancer for the third time, Alan retired from education to focus on singing and composition. He specialises in short choral works and 2016 saw the premiere of his extended *Kyrie* for SSAA & piano at St David's Cathedral (Pembrokeshire) and his setting of *Ubi Caritas*, composed for the Metropolitan Cathedral Choir Cardiff, was premiered in the presence of HRH the Prince of Wales last December and will feature on a CD of Christmas music to be released by the choir at the end of 2017. His latest work entitled *Remember Friend* will premiere at this year's St David's Festival of music. Alan Thomas is also the West Wales Ambassador for Tenovus Cancer Care.

Tenor **Rhys Batt** was educated at St John's College and obtained a vocal scholarship at Cardiff University, where he studied for both his Undergraduate and Postgraduate degrees in Musicology. Rhys was awarded the David Lloyd Prize for Vocal Performance at Cardiff University and studied with Pierre-Maurice Barlier. Rhys has performed as a soloist with a number of prominent orchestras, including the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and the Southbank Sinfonia. Rhys' solo repertoire encompasses a wide range of genres and periods, from performing in the premiere recording of Lully's final work, *Il faut mourir; pêcheur*, for BBC Radio 3, to the world premiere of Paul Mealor's *Celtic Prayers*. Recent performance highlights include Finzi's *Dies Natalis* with the Gwent Music String Ensemble and performing in the presence of HM Queen Elizabeth II at the state opening of Fifth Assembly at the Senedd. In September, Rhys will take up a place with scholarship on the Master of Performance course at the Royal College of Music.

Baritone **Owain Browne** is a graduate of Magdalene College Cambridge and trained at the Alexander Gibson Opera school in the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and at the Flanders Opera Studio in Gent. As an operatic baritone he has appeared on stage in roles for the Flemish Opera in Gent and Antwerp, for Scottish Opera, for Alden Biesen Zomeropera, and further afield for Gertrude Opera in Melbourne. As a concert soloist he has performed Vaughan Williams' *Sea Symphony* at Snape Maltings, Haydn's *Creation* at Llandaff Cathedral and Vaughan Williams *Serenade to Music* as a soloist at the BBC proms to name a few. He will soon be singing the role of Christ for Llandaff Cathedral Choral Society's performance of the *St Matthew Passion* on Saturday 8 April.

We extend our thanks to Ben Tomlin, Samantha Dimond and James Campbell for their photography in this programme.

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 8 April, 7.30pm

A schola of our choristers will be singing with Llandaff Cathedral Choral Society in
Bach *St Matthew Passion* at Llandaff Cathedral

Holy Week Services at Cardiff Metropolitan Cathedral

Sunday 9 April, Palm Sunday at 11am

Plainsong mass, *Hosanna to the Son of David* (Weelkes), *Ave Verum* (Byrd), *Civitas Sancti tui* (Byrd)

Wednesday 12 April, Mass of the Chrism at 11.30am

Kleine Orgel Messe (Haydn), *Beati Quorum Via* (Stanford), *The Lord bless you and keep you* (Rutter),
Greater Love (Ireland)

Thursday 13 April, Mass of the Lord's Supper at 6.30pm

Mass for Three Voices (Byrd), *Lamentations* (Tallis), *Ubi Caritas* (Durufé),
Seniores Populi from the *Tenebrae Responsories* (Victoria)

Friday 14 April, Good Friday at 3.00pm

Music from the *Tenebrae Responsories* (Victoria), *Lamentations* (Tallis), *Hear my prayer* (Purcell),
Crucifixus (Lotti), *Miserere* (Allegrì), *Ave Verum* (Byrd), *God so loved the world* (Stainer),
Stabat Mater (Palestrina), the 16 stave *Crucifixus* (Caldara)

Saturday 15 April, Easter Vigil at 8.30pm

Sicut Cervus (Palestrina), *Terra Tremuit* (Byrd), *As one who has slept* (Tavener)

Sunday 16 April, Easter Sunday at 11am

Mass in G (Schubert), *Haec Dies* (Byrd), *This joyful Eastertide* (Wood), *Victimae Paschali Laudes*

Friday 5 May, Evening

St John's College Spring Concert at the Cathedral and Cornerstone

Sunday 18 June, Morning BBC Radio 4 Broadcast

Thursday 6 July, Late afternoon

Evensong at Gonville and Caius Chapel, Cambridge

Tuesday 11 July TBC, Evening

Summer Concert at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama

Saturday 15 July, Early Evening

Mass at Westminster Cathedral