

Christmas Concert

Seasonal music
and readings

Whitehall Choir

Conductor: **Paul Spicer**
Accompanist: **Ian Tindale**
Reader: **Lois Butlin**



Monday 14 December 2015, 7.30pm
St Peter's Eaton Square, SW1W 9AL

Admission £15 from 7pm on the door, including a £3 donation to the Samaritans, and refreshments afterwards

**The Choir is delighted to welcome you to our
Christmas celebration.**

**Please do join in with the carols where audience participation
is indicated.**

**It would be appreciated if you could reserve applause
until the end of the concert.**

WELCOME:

Revd Ralph Williamson

CHOIR:

The angel Gabriel

arr. Edgar Pettman

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame:
'All hail', said he, 'thou lovely maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady!
Gloria!
2. 'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be;
All generations laud and honour thee:
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.
Most highly favoured lady!
Gloria!
3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
'To me be as it pleaseth God!' she said.
'My soul shall laud and magnify
his holy Name.'
Most highly favoured lady!
Gloria!
4. Of her Emmanuel, the Christ, was born,
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn;
And Christian folk throughout the world
will ever say:
Most highly favoured lady!
Gloria!

CHOIR:

Bethlehem Down

Peter Warlock

1. 'When he is King we will give him the
King's gifts,
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
Beautiful robes,' said the young girl to Joseph,
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.
2. Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight,
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.
3. When he is King they will clothe him
in gravesheets,
Myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary,
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.
4. Here he has peace and a short while
for dreaming,
Close-huddled oxen to keep him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

READING:

Lois Butlin

St Luke 2, vv. 1-20

AUDIENCE CAROL:

O come, all ye faithful

arr. David Willcocks

1. **O come, all ye faithful,**
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels;
O come, let us adore him, (3 times)
Christ the Lord!
2. **God of God,**
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him, (3 times)
Christ the Lord!

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God
In the highest:
O come, let us adore him, (3 times)
Christ the Lord!

CHOIR: **There is no rose** *John Joubert*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu:
<i>Alleluia.</i></p> <p>2. For in this rose containèd was
Heav'n and earth in little space:
<i>Res miranda</i></p> | <p>3. By that rose we may well see
There be one God in Persons Three:
<i>Pares forma.</i></p> <p>4. Then leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyous birth:
<i>Transeamus.</i></p> |
|---|--|

CHOIR: **This child of God** *Paul Spicer*

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| <p>1. This child of God, who's born on Christmas day,
whom shepherds view, to whom kings
 homage pay,
is called to be a shepherd and a king.
Sing alleluias, praise this wondrous thing.</p> <p>2. This child of God is shepherd, born to lead
through pastures green, by banks of golden reed;
nor left, nor right, but ever on the way,
which leads to Calvary and endless day.</p> <p>3. This child of God, this Son of David's line,
is root of tree, a shoot, a fruitful vine,
it shelter gives to all who see the way
which leads them to the cross and Easter day.</p> | <p>4. This child of God, this many-spangled star,
is light'ning flash which dazzles near and far;
bright light to guide our feet along the way,
that leads to Calvary and endless day.</p> <p>5. This child of God is called to save mankind,
to open eye and ear, the heart and mind;
to heal, and make the lame man leap and play
along the road that leads to Easter Day.</p> <p>6. This child of God, let angel voices praise.
Give God the glory, live his loving ways.
Let peace on earth o'ercome our worldly strife
through all who walk his road throughout
their life.</p> |
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words by Tony Barnard

READING:
John Betjeman

Lois Butlin
"Christmas"

AUDIENCE CAROL: Lo! he comes with clouds descending *18th cent. melody; verse 4 arr. Paul Spicer*

1. Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
God appears, on earth to reign.
2. Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing,
Deeply wailing,
Deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.
3. Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture,
With what rapture,
With what rapture,
Gaze we on those glorious scars!
4. Yea, amen! Let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly!
O come quickly!
O come quickly!
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

CHOIR: O magnum mysterium *Tomás Luis de Victoria*

O magnum mysterium et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum jacentem in præsepio: O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Jesum Christum. Alleluia.

CHOIR: Angelus ad Virginem *arr. David Willcocks*

1. Angelus ad virginem
Subintrans in conclave,
Virginis formidinem
Demulcens, inquit, 'Ave!
Ave, regina virginum;
Cœli terræque Dominum
Concipies et paries
Intacta salutem hominum;
Tu porta cœli facta,
Medela criminum.'
2. 'Quomodo conciperem
quæ virum non cognovi?
Qualiter infringerem
Quod firma mente vovi?'
'Spiritus Sancti gratia
Perficiet hæc omnia;
Ne timeas, sed gaudeas,
Secura quod castimonia
Manebit in te pura
Dei potentia.'
3. Ad hæc virgo nobilis
Respondens inquit ei:
'Ancilla sum humilis
Omnipotentis Dei.
Tibi cœlesti nuntio,
Tanti secreti conscio,
Consentiens, et cupiens videre
Factum quod audio;
Parata sum parere,
Dei consilio.'
4. Eia mater Domini,
Quæ pacem reddidisti
Angelis et homini,
Cum Christum genuisti;
Tuum exora filium
Ut se nobis propitium
Exhibeat, et deleat
Peccata: præstans auxilium
Vita frui beata
Post hoc exilium.

AUDIENCE CAROL: It came upon the midnight clear *arr. Arthur Sullivan and (v 4) David Willcocks*

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on earth, goodwill to men,
From heav'n's all-gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.
2. Still though the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lonely plains
They bend on hov'ring wing;
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.
3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!
4. For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet-bards foretold,
When, with the ever circling years
Come round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

READING:
Laurie Lee

Lois Butlin
Cider with Rosie (extract)

CHOIR: Jesus Christ the apple tree *Elizabeth Poston*

1. The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.
2. His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.
3. For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.
4. I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.
5. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

CHOIR: Blessed be that maid Marie *Gareth Treseder*

1. Blessed be that Maid Marie;
Born he was of her body;
Very God ere time began,
Born in time the Son of Man.
Eya! Jhesus hodie
Natus est de Virgine.
2. In a manger of an ass
Jesu lay and lullèd was;
Born to die upon the Tree
Pro peccante homine.
Eya! Jhesus hodie
Natus est de Virgine.

3. Sweet and blissful was the song
Chanted of the Angel throng,
"Peace on earth, Alleluya!
In excelsis gloria!"
Eya! Jhesus hodie
Natus est de Virgine.

4. Fare three kings from far-off land,
Incense, gold and myrrh in hand;
In Bethlem the Babe they see,
Stelle ducti lumine.
Eya! Jhesus hodie
Natus est de Virgine.

5. Make we merry on this fest,
In quo Christus natus est.
On this Child I pray you call,
To assoil and save us all.
Eya! Jhesus hodie
Natus est de Virgine.

READING:
Longfellow

Lois Butlin
"Christmas Bells"

AUDIENCE CAROL: God rest you merry, gentlemen *arr. David Willcocks*

1. **God rest you merry, gentlemen,**
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

3. **The shepherds at those tidings**
Rejoicèd much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding
In tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway
The blessèd babe to find:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

2. **From God our heav'nly Father**
A blessèd angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

4. **But when to Bethlehem they came,**
Whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling,
Unto the Lord did pray:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

5. **Now to the Lord sing praises,**
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy.

CHOIR:

O mortal man

arr. Herbert Howells

1. O mortal man, remember well
When Christ our Lord was born.
He was crucified between two thieves,
And crownèd with the thorn.

2. God bless the master of this house,
With happiness beside;
Where e'er his body rides or walks,
Lord Jesus be his guide.

CHOIR:**A babe is born***William Mathias*

1. A babe is born all of a may,
To bring salvation unto us.
To him we sing both night and day.
Veni Creator Spiritus.
2. At Bethlehem, the blessed place,
The child of bliss now born he was;
And him to serve God give us grace,
O lux beata Trinitas.
3. There came three kings out of the East,
To worship the King that is so free,
With gold and myrrh and frankincense,
A solis ortu cardine.
4. The angels came down with one cry,
A fair song that night sung they
In worship of that child:
Gloria tibi Domine.
5. A babe is born all of a may,
To bring salvation unto us.
To him we sing both night and day.
Veni Creator Spiritus.
O lux beata Trinitas.
A solis ortu cardine.
Gloria tibi Domine.

READING:

H H Munro ('Saki')

Paul Spicer

"Bertie's Christmas Eve"

AUDIENCE CAROL: Hark! the herald angels sing *Mendelssohn; last verse arr. Paul Spicer*

1. Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*
2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

CHOIR: I saw three ships arr. Richard Lloyd

1. I saw three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas Day in the morning.
2. And what was in those ships all three,
On Christmas Day in the morning?
3. Our Saviour Christ and his lady,
On Christmas Day in the morning.
4. Pray whither sail'd those ships all three,
On Christmas Day in the morning?
5. O, they sail'd into Bethlehem,
On Christmas Day in the morning.
6. And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day in the morning.
7. And all the angels in heav'n shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.
8. And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.
9. Then let us all rejoice amain,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Paul Spicer



Paul Spicer, musical director of the Whitehall Choir, began his musical training as a chorister at New College, Oxford. He studied with Herbert Howells and Richard Popplewell (organ) at the Royal College of Music in London, winning the top organ award (the Walford Davies Prize) in his final year. Paul is best known as a choral conductor, partly through the many CDs he made with the Finzi Singers for Chandos Records. He conducted Bach Choirs in Chester and Leicester before moving to conduct the Bach Choir in Birmingham in 1992. He taught at the Royal College of Music between 1995 and 2008, and now teaches choral conducting at the Birmingham Conservatoire, where he also directs the chamber choir, and at Oxford and Durham Universities. Until July 2001 Paul Spicer was Artistic Director of the Lichfield Festival and the Abbotsholme Arts Society. He was Senior Producer for BBC Radio 3 in the Midlands until 1990, and today is in considerable demand as a composer and as a recording producer. The first complete recording of Paul Spicer's large-scale *Easter Oratorio* was released in 2005 to critical acclaim, the work being recognized by *Gramophone* magazine as "the best of its kind to have appeared ... since Howells's *Hymnus Paradisi*". *The Deciduous Cross*, which is based on poems by R S Thomas and was premiered in 2003, was commissioned for Paul's tenth anniversary as conductor of the Birmingham Bach Choir, and was recorded by the Whitehall Choir. His *Advent Oratorio*, setting a libretto by the New Testament scholar Dr. Tom Wright, formerly Bishop of Durham, who had also written the text for the *Easter Oratorio*, was first performed in Lichfield Cathedral in December 2009. Robert Sharpe recorded his complete works for organ, and the choir of Selwyn College, Cambridge recorded his shorter choral works in 2008. Paul Spicer's biography of his composition teacher, Herbert Howells, was published in August 1998, reprinted twice and has now been republished in 2014. He contributed a chapter to the new volume of Howells studies published by Boydell & Brewer in 2013, and his latest book, *Sir George Dyson – His Life and Music*, was published by Boydell & Brewer in May 2014. He is now working on a biography of Sir Arthur Bliss to be published by Jonathan Hope (London) in 2018. He conducted the première of his most recent work, *Unfinished Remembering*, a choral symphony commemorating the centenary of the First World War, at Birmingham Symphony Hall in September 2014. Paul has written articles for many periodicals and is a contributor to the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. He is in great demand for his choral workshops, which take him all over the world and he runs various annual choral courses under the umbrella of his foundation, The English Choral Experience (www.englishchoralexperience.co.uk/). He is a broadcaster, lecturer and popular speaker. Paul Spicer is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, an Honorary Research Fellow of Birmingham University, an Honorary Fellow of University College, Durham, an Honorary Fellow of Birmingham Conservatoire, a Trustee of the Finzi Trust, Chairman of the Finzi Friends, Vice-President of the Herbert Howells Society, and Chairman of the Sir George Dyson Trust.

Ian Tindale



Ian Tindale graduated with Distinction from the Master of Performance course in Piano Accompaniment at the Royal College of Music (RCM) in 2013, where he was then Junior Fellow in Piano Accompaniment. Ian has won Accompanist's Prizes in the Kathleen Ferrier Awards, the Royal Overseas League Competition and the Maggie Teyte Competition. Ian is also a Samling Artist. As a répétiteur Ian has worked previously with British Youth Opera, Cambridge Handel Opera and Ryedale Festival Opera. He has also performed with the BBC Symphony and London Philharmonic Orchestras. Ian joined the Whitehall Choir as its accompanist in January 2013.

Lois Butlin



During her acting career Lois Butlin has played many leading roles in repertory theatres, on tour and at the Old Vic in London. These included Lady Teazle (*School for Scandal*), Sheila (*Day in the Death of Joe Egg*), Celimene (*Misanthrope*), Beatrice (*Much Ado about Nothing*) Dr Scott (*Whose Life is it Anyway*) Nerissa (*Merchant of Venice*), Imogen Parrott (*Trewlawny of the Wells*) and Joanna (*Present Laughter*). She also worked in television including *The Collectors*, *Me and My Girl*, *Grange Hill* and radio (*A Dry White Season*). Lois is a Trustee and Listening Volunteer of the Central London Samaritans.



An appeal

One of the members of the Whitehall Choir is a volunteer with Central London Samaritans. The Whitehall Choir is donating £3 of the price of each programme this evening to Central London Samaritans.

Central London Samaritans is the founding branch of the national, volunteer-led helpline charity. Located in the heart of Soho, volunteers have been offering emotional support to anyone in need for over 60 years.

Samaritans was started in 1953 by the Reverend Chad Varah with the aim "to befriend the suicidal and despairing". Despite the name, the organization is not associated with any religious doctrine or beliefs system and today its mission remains close to Chad's initial vision.

Since then Central London Samaritans has been providing emotional support to the people of London 24/7, every single day of the year, including Christmas Day, and now at no cost following the launch of their Freecall number 116123 in September 2015.

Every year, their 450 well trained volunteers receive over 100,000 calls for help. People call them to be heard, to work through their problems and find solutions that are right for them. Support is also provided by email, text and face to face. Between the hours of 9am and 9pm the branch is a drop in centre where visitors can arrive without an appointment and are guaranteed to be seen by one of the volunteers.

But Central London Samaritans is more than just a helpline. Volunteers also provide emotional support across Central London to vulnerable individuals at highest risk of suicide, including homeless people, men and women in custody and people bereaved by suicide. They also work with London schools, colleges & universities to raise awareness of emotional health and wellbeing.

They couldn't do any of this without donations from people like you. The volunteers may be ordinary people, but they do an extraordinary thing. Please help them to be there around the clock for people who are struggling to cope. Thank you.

WHITEHALL CHOIR - FORTHCOMING EVENTS
(For further details visit www.whitehallchoir.org.uk.)

Thursday 21 April 2016
Four centuries of English song
Holy Trinity, Sloane Square, London SW1X 9BZ

Thursday 28 April - Monday 2 May 2016
Vienna tour

Thursday 14 July 2016
Bastille Day concert
St James's, Piccadilly, London W1J 9LL

*Please join us for mince pies, wine and soft drinks
at the back of the church.*

*The Whitehall Choir wishes you a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.*

THE WHITEHALL CHOIR

PRESIDENT: Martin Donnelly CMG

Conductor Paul Spicer

Accompanist Ian Tindale

The Whitehall Choir achieves singing of a high quality in a wide range of repertoire, and we are looking to recruit in all voices. Amongst our current members we count civil servants, lawyers, teachers, consultants, engineers and many others, with an age range of fifty years between youngest and oldest members. The choir meets every Tuesday evening for a two-and-a-half-hour rehearsal. We are conducted by Paul Spicer – a conductor, composer and academic of international repute – and perform four concerts a year in a range of settings across London. Our concert locations in recent years have included St Margaret’s Westminster Abbey; St John’s Smith Square; the Banqueting House in Whitehall; St Alban’s Church, Holborn; Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square; and tonight’s venue, St Peter’s, Eaton Square. Our programmes cater for a broad spectrum of musical tastes, and we feel privileged to be able to give concerts in such great venues. Members’ commitment to music-making is such that the weekly rehearsals go well with the busy day-jobs that many of us have, and provide a clear and friendly space in the middle of the week. We would love to hear from any singers who are interested in joining us. Short, informal auditions take place after a few weeks of singing with us on a trial basis. Some details of forthcoming events can be found in this programme. For more information, please visit the Choir’s website www.whitehallchoir.org.uk (Charity no. 280478).

Sopranos

Gill Carruthers
Hilary Davies
Imogen Davies
Ruth Eastman
Jacky Erwtaman
Kate Goulden
Fiona Graph
Kate Hand
Katherine Herzberg
Claire Johnston
Lesley Kirby
Beth Organ
Margaret Perkins
Lucilla Poston
Lesley Raymond
Katherine Rowley-Conwy
Joanna Tomlinson
Alice Turner
Janet Winstanley

Altos

Helen Audaer
Rose Chandler
Jackie Cheng
Monica Darnbrough
Miranda Douce
Julie Dyg
Samantha Foley
Polly Fortune
Katherine Howes
Jane Mackay
Penny Prior
Jean Robinson
Liz Walton
Helen Ward

Tenors

Patrick Haighton
Graham Hand
Ken Holmes
Philip Pratley
Barry Sterndale-Bennett
Alastair Tolley
Jonathan Williams
Philip Worley

Basses

James Gourlay
Laurence Grace
Richard Grafen
Mark Graver
Martin Humphreys
Jack Joseph
Daniel Lambauer
William Longland
Brendan O’Keeffe
Malcolm Todd
Ian Williamson

WHITEHALL CHOIR COMMITTEE 2015–2016

JONATHAN WILLIAMS, Chairman; JOANNA TOMLINSON, Secretary;
PATRICK HAIGHTON, Treasurer; MARTIN HUMPHREYS, Publicity Manager;
PENNY PRIOR, Business Manager; MARK GRAVER, Librarian;
KATE GOULDEN, Soprano rep.; JULIE DYG, Alto rep.;
ALASTAIR TOLLEY, Tenor rep.; DANIEL LAMBAUER, Bass rep.;
RICHARD GRAFEN, Webmaster

PATRONS AND FRIENDS OF WHITEHALL CHOIR

Friends and Patrons of the Choir are a vital part of our future. They help fund not only our regular concerts but also additional activities such as workshops, sing-through days, and tours. For an up-front payment at the start of the season, Friends receive one top-price ticket for all Whitehall-Choir-promoted concerts, plus 10% discount on any further tickets they require. Also included is advance notification of all concerts/events and a free programme - perfect for regular concert attenders, who will save overall on the whole season. For further details about how to become a Patron or Friend please see the Support Us page of the website www.whitehallchoir.org.uk.

Patrons and Friends:

Lady Teresa Carter; Mr Michael Growcott; Ms Frances Morris-Jones; Mr John Purkiss;
Captain B V Woodford CBE, RN; and others who wish to remain anonymous

Friends:

Miss Elsie Broadbent; Mrs E Gotto; Mrs Gillian Holmes; Mr John Warren; Mrs Lis Warren; and others who wish to remain anonymous



To stay up to date with the Choir's latest news, why not follow us on Facebook? Just search for 'Whitehall Choir' and click 'Become a Fan'. Or follow @whitehallchoir on Twitter.

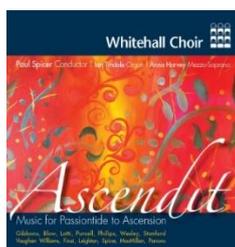
If you're ordering anything from Amazon.co.uk, why not click on the Amazon link on the Choir's website, www.whitehallchoir.org.uk? For every sale, a contribution goes to Choir funds.

WANT TO JOIN OUR DATABASE?

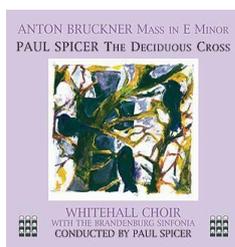
If you want to be kept informed of Whitehall Choir performances and initiatives by e-mail, please sign up for e-alerts via our website, www.whitehallchoir.org.uk.

Ascendit – Music for Passiontide to Ascension

The pieces for Whitehall Choir's most recent CD, *Ascendit*, its third, recorded in 2014, were chosen to trace the period of the church's year between Passiontide and Ascension. In selecting them, we wanted to present a wide variety of styles and periods, including a substantial amount of recent music. A key element was the winning entry of Whitehall Choir's 70th anniversary Young Composer Competition, which stipulated that the piece had to set words which related to the programme. Samuel Parsons' work movingly sets the words from the Latin *Stabat Mater* alongside those of Elizabeth Jennings. We also sing pieces by James MacMillan, one of the greatest choral composers of the present day, and his teacher Kenneth Leighton. Balancing all this modern music are classics from earlier periods including Purcell's near-perfect *Remember not, Lord, our offences*, Lotti's extraordinary *Crucifixus* and Gibbons's precocious doctoral exercise for Oxford University, *O Clap your Hands*, one of the truly virtuoso compositions of the Tudor period. There really should be something for everyone on this CD.



In 2007 the Whitehall Choir's first CD featured the first recorded performance of Paul Spicer's *The Deciduous Cross*, together with Bruckner's Mass in E minor. The second CD, recorded in 2009 at St Alban's Church, Holborn, is a selection of music for the Christmas season.



All our CDs are on sale at this evening's concert, or they may be purchased via the Choir's website www.whitehallchoir.org.uk.