



Billericay Choral Society

Stainer's Crucifixion

and other choral works including
Ralph Vaughan Williams *Let All the World*
to celebrate his 150th anniversary.

Saturday, 19th March,
7:30pm

Billericay Methodist Church,
Western Road

Conductor **Ailsa Campbell**
Tenor Soloist **Jack Harberd**
Accompanist **Thomas Rodgers**

How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place - Johannes Brahms
O Quam Gloriosum - Tomas Luis da Victoria
April Is In My Mistress' Face - Thomas Morley

Stainer's Crucifixion

Movements 1-4

5. *Hymn: The Mystery of the Divine Humiliation*

Movements 6-9

Interval

10. *Hymn: Litany of the Passion*

Movements 11 & 12

13. *Hymn: The Mystery of the Intercession*

Movement 14

15. *Hymn: The Adoration of the Crucified*

Movements 16-19

20. *Hymn: For the Love of Jesus*

Peace I Leave With You - Amy Beach

Let All The World - Ralph Vaughan-Williams

(to celebrate his 150th anniversary of birth)

Programme Note

We started the term by looking at Stainer's Crucifixion and other works appropriate for Easter-time that I felt would allow the choir to get to know each other and rediscover their group sound as we emerge from the pandemic. The programme has now ended up having a new meaning in the light of current events. Even with all its dramatic romanticism, the Crucifixion has many poignant moments of reflection. It tells the Easter story in a way more accessible for us now than perhaps any of Bach's settings that it mirrors, as that was its intended purpose. The tenor and bass soloists are the primary storytellers, and the choir dramatizes acting as the crowds and mobs and also singing the work's centerpiece and one of Stainer's most famous anthems, 'God so loved the world'. What I notice most in the five hymns (which require audience participation!) is the emphasis on Jesus's selflessness and sacrifice. I hope we can use this performance as an opportunity to remind us of and reflect on the struggles all across the world.

Billericay March 2022

Ailsa Campbell is from Northumberland and began her singing career in Hexham Abbey Girls' choir at the age of 9. She completed her undergraduate degree in Music and the University of Bristol; During her undergraduate, she was appointed as the first female Choral Scholar at Bristol Cathedral and conducted the University Chamber Choir in her final year. Ailsa then went on to study for a masters in Solo Voice Ensemble Singing at the University of York with Robert Hollingworth (director of I Fagiolini) and graduated with Distinction. Alongside the Masters, she was a member of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain Fellowship Programme and held the Leeds Festival Chorus Chorus Master Scholarship. Ailsa then moved to London to pursue a freelance singing and conducting career. She is a current Sing For Pleasure Young Conducting Scholar and sings as a regular soprano at the Tower of London.



Jack Harberd, Tenor

Jack was raised in Norwich and Oxford and read a music degree at the University of York, graduating in 2018. He is an alumnus of Genesis Sixteen and the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain Fellowship, and is currently a VOCES8 Scholar. Jack deputises regularly around the London church circuit and often records film and video game soundtracks with London Voices. After a period of work



in music television production, including coverage of the BBC Proms 2021, he is now focusing on a career in singing, and is taking lessons with Gary Coward.

Thomas Niesser

Recent graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with honours, Welsh-German baritone Thomas Niesser is making a name for himself both in the UK and on the continent. As a soloist he has sung in performances of Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* with the Vivace Chorus and Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem* with the Bristol University Choral Society. Recent operatic roles include Dr Falke at the Schlossfestspiele Ettlingen and the title character in *Don Giovanni* with the Berlin Opera Academy. In 2022 he will perform Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* with the Vasari Singers and tour London with a new opera commissioned by Fuller's Pubs.



Billericay Choral Society

Chairman

Anne Fryer

Membership Secretary

Lorraine Douglas

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Would you like to join us?

We always welcome new signers, no audition is required.

We practise on Tuesday evenings from 8pm until 10pm in the Methodist Church, Billericay.

Phone or e-mail Lorraine Douglas for details or come to a rehearsal.

The date for our next concert is yet to be fixed - if you would like to go on our email list, please let Anne or Lorraine know.

~~We commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower when we respire The Mayflower Pilgrims by Clive Jenkins.~~