

Ardingly Choral Society & New Sussex Singers with Linden Baroque Orchestra

Conducted by
Robert Hammersley & Sebastian Charlesworth

6:30 pm Sunday 14th April, 2024 Ardingly College Chapel

Retiring collection in aid of Time 4 Children

Performers

Conductor of Part 1	Robert Hammersley, Musical Director, Ardingly Choral Society
Conductor of Part 2	Sebastian Charlesworth, Musical Director, New Sussex Singers
Chorus 1	Ardingly Choral Society
Chorus 2	New Sussex Singers
Orchestra	Linden Baroque Catherine Martin: Leader Christine Draycott: 'Cello continuo Peter Wendland: Viola da Gamba
Organ Continuo	David Moore

Principal Soloists:

Evangelist	Richard Robbins
Jesus	Stephen Charlesworth
Soprano	Olivia Bell
Alto	Lauren Easton
Tenor	Edward Woodhouse
Bass	Matthew Duncan

Biographies are shown on pages 14-19. See next page for details of other minor solo parts.

Other solo parts are performed by the following individuals:

Pilate	Orlando Milford (NSS)
Peter	Matthew Duncan (soloist)
Judas	Stephen Cotton (ACS)
Pilate's wife	Kirsten Lloyd-Leach (NSS)
High Priest	Simon Austin (NSS)
1 st False Witness	Kathryn James (ACS)
2 nd False Witness	James Collings (ACS)
1 st Maid	Emily Lomax (ACS)
2 nd Maid	Sally Donegani (NSS)
Priest 1	John Baker (NSS)
Priest 2	Roger Floyd (NSS)

See pages 21-22 for choir and orchestra performers.

Notes: The Ensembles

Ardingly Choral Society

The choral society was formed in 1917 and was led by Ardingly College's directors of music between 1923 and 2007. Robert Hammersley has conducted the chorus since 1996. The society performs three major concerts each year: A Remembrance Concert in aid of The Royal British Legion, an Advent Carol Concert by Candlelight in Ardingly College Chapel in aid of a chosen charity and a Spring Concert. It is registered as a charity and affiliated to "Making Music" (the national federation of music societies) which supports and champions voluntary music making.

New Sussex Singers

New Sussex Singers are a versatile auditioned chamber choir, performing innovative programmes around the county. The group was originally formed as an octet in 1982 by members of New Sussex Opera (hence the name). Now a choir of 24 singers, Sebastian Charlesworth became Musical Director in 2018 and has led the group through a wide-ranging repertoire that has excited, challenged and entertained the choir and audiences alike. It is a registered charity and affiliated to "Making Music".

Linden Baroque

Formed in late 1984 by a group of early music enthusiasts in a house in Linden Gardens, Chiswick, it combined the talents of advanced music students, young professionals and talented amateurs. Many of the original members now have prominent careers in the early music field and some are still playing with the band. It was the only 'original instrument' orchestra at that time in Europe to offer the opportunity of amateurs and professionals playing together in the Early Music revival.

The instruments used are either 18th century originals or modern copies - some made by the players themselves. We play at "baroque pitch" of 415Hz. The instruments are at a lower tension than modern concert pitch and their design and set-up means they sound much softer and more subtle than today's successors, allowing the music to be heard closer to the way it was when it was composed.

Biographies: Conductors

Robert Hammersley (Part 1)

Robert won a choristership at the world-famous Kings College Choir, Cambridge where he sang the solo 'Once in Royal David's City' in 1955. There, he also started conducting the boys' voice services. At Guildford Cathedral, he was the tenor soloist for the Treasury of English Church Music and the Guildford Christmas Carol recording which, selling 2 million copies,



received a platinum disc. At Oxford he conducted the leading mixed voice choir, Schola Cantorum (SCO) and conducted the Mozart Players and English Chamber Orchestra in BBC broadcasts.

In 1996, he was appointed Director of Music at Ardingly College. He has arranged many works and composed the environmental oratorio 'Fragile Earth' (2010) and 40-part motet 'Children and Peace' (2017) among many other pieces. He continues to teach singing and to conduct, imparting the joy of music making to young and old alike!

Sebastian Charlesworth (Part 2)

Sebastian is a freelance singer, conductor and teacher. After having graduated as a bassoon player from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, he primarily focused his career on singing. As a singer he has toured both nationally and internationally with opera companies and choirs and has sung on many blockbuster movie soundtracks, video games, albums and



adverts with London Voices, Metro Voices, Dynamic Vocals and others.

As a conductor, he holds the position of Music Director for both New Sussex Singers and Heathfield Choral Society and is invited to conduct other ensembles on a regular basis. On top of his performing work, Sebastian delivers programmes globally that utilise music in various forms in the corporate leadership development field.

Biographies: Soloists

Richard Robbins (Evangelist)

Richard Robbins is an acclaimed tenor and conductor renowned for his interpretations of Bach and praised for his role as the Madwoman in Britten's Curlew River. He trained at the Royal Academy of Music under Philip Doghan and Joseph Middleton, winning the Rhonda Jones Scholarship.

Robbins, a First Class honours graduate from Royal Holloway, is a former Choral Scholar with extensive performance experience, including international tours and broadcasts. He studies with Ed Lyon and has upcoming engagements such as Handel's Samson and Vaughan Williams' On Wenlock Edge. Robbins frequently collaborates with leading baroque ensembles and is the Head of Choral Music at Shrewsbury School.



Stephen Charlesworth (Jesus)

Stephen, known by all his friends as Larry, attended the Royal College of Music back in the dim and distant 1970s. He has always had a real interest in choral music and over the years has appeared as a soloist and on recordings with many of the UK's leading professional choirs and, having been a member for over 33 years, recently retired from the BBC Singers.

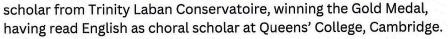


Biographies: Soloists (continued)

Olivia Bell (Soprano)

Olivia is a junior fellow at the Guildhall School of Music, having graduated with distinction from their Opera Makers MA as a librettist in collaboration with the Royal Opera House. Recent commissions include for the ROH and Carnegie Hall.

She previously completed her performance master's with distinction as Kathleen Roberts



Opera credits include Gretel/Griselda (*The Hive*, Hoxton Hall); First Witch (*Dido and Aeneas*, Hurn Court Opera); Mother Goose (*The Rake's Progress*, Aylesbury Opera); King Harald's Saga (*Kings Place*); Haitch (*Syllable*, Theatre O).

Lauren Easton (Alto)

Lauren Easton is an Australian/Mauritian, mezzosoprano based in Brighton.

In 2011 she made her Glyndebourne Festival debut with 15 minutes notice as Magdalena in Sir David McVicar's production of *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. Further roles with the company included Amarella (*The Yellow Sofa*, Julian



Phillips), Sandman (*Hansel and Gretel*), Bat / Chair (*L'enfant et les Sortilèges*), Dryade (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), Flora (*La Traviata*), Spirit (*Cendrillon*), and Lucretia (*Rape of Lucretia*).

Other roles include Dalila (Samson et Dalila) for Bury Port Opera, Lehrbuber (Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg) at Glyndebourne and Siegrune (Die Walküre) for Grange Park Opera, Maddalena for Opera North's Rigoletto and Juliana Bordereau in The Aspern Papers for Pegasus Opera Company. In 2023 she was also a winner of the Robert Presley Professional Development Award at the Everybody Can competition in London.

Biographies: Soloists (continued)

Edward Woodhouse (Tenor)

Edward is in regular demand as a soloist, and has worked with Irish Baroque Orchestra, Bampton Classical Opera and the Baroquestock Festival, as well as with some of the foremost ensembles on the continent, including: The Tallis Scholars, Alamire, Dunedin Consort and Tenebrae. He is a member of Chamber Choir Ireland and performs regularly with The Marian Consort.



Edward has sung in numerous CD recordings, including substantial solo contributions in the Eton Choirbook series while at Christ Church, Oxford. He also has much experience of singing in commercial recordings for use in film, television and audio.

Edward has worked in church and cathedral choirs for much of his life. As a chorister, Edward sang in the choir of St. Peter's Church, Brighton, then a choral scholar at Portsmouth Cathedral, and subsequently a choral scholar, then lay vicar, at Exeter Cathedral. These roles were combined with his undergraduate and postgraduate studies in History.

Matthew Duncan (Bass)

Matthew trained at the Royal Northern College of Music and has sung with a number of highly acclaimed opera companies in the UK including Opera Holland Park, Opera Rara, Grange Park Opera, Northern Ireland Opera, Buxton Festival Opera, Aldeburgh Festival Opera and Bury Court Opera.

Recent opera recordings with Opera Rara, the
London Philharmonic Orchestra and the Britten Sinfonia have
included Le Villi, Il Paria (conducted by Sir Mark Elder) Zingari, La
Princesse de Trebizonde & L'esule di Roma (conducted by Carlo Rizzi).

Biographies: Instrumentalists

Catherine Martin (Leader, Linden Baroque)

Catherine read music at St Anne's College,
Oxford University, completing her postgraduate
at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama,
London. Now specialising in performance on
period instruments, Catherine has led the
orchestra of the Early Opera Company since its
inception in 1994, been leader of the Gabrieli
Consort & Players since 2005 and also a member
of the Salomon String Quartet since 2003,
exploring music of the Classical period from
Haydn to Mendelssohn. She teaches at the Royal
College of Music in London.



Cristine Draycott ('Cello continuo)

Christine discovered the cello aged 9 and began playing Ancient Music and learning the art of Basso Continuo at age 12. She studied cello in Germany and spent 11 years playing professionally, 9 of those with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

Now, she regularly performs recitals on both modern and baroque cello and concerts with the Consort of 12 as well as Linden Baroque Orchestra.



Biographies: Instrumentalists (continued)

Peter Wendland (Viola da Gamba)

Peter is an early music specialist, an accomplished, versatile and sensitive performer on all instruments of the viol family both as a soloist and a consort player. He is a long-standing member of the Rose Consort of Viols and a regular collaborator with the Koelner Violen Consort in Germany.

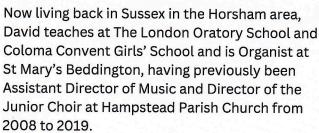


He teaches as a visiting artist at Trinity College of Music in London and at summer schools and workshops throughout Europe.

He currently teaches viola da gamba at Birmingham Conservatoire and recorder at Morley College London.

David Moore (Organ Continuo)

David hails from Sussex and was educated at Warden Park School and Ardingly College. He read music at Oxford as organ scholar of Corpus Christi College and has also held organ scholarships at Sherborne Abbey and Truro Cathedral. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists.



In addition to being accompanist to Arun Choral Society, David is also accompanist to the West Sussex Philharmonic Choir.



Choir Performers

Ardingly Choral Society

Soprano	Anna Ashworth, Fiona Awang, Nic Bellfrage, Heather Bigg, Lorraine Doron, Julia Douglass, Maddy Hammersley, Kate Kent, Sylvia Limerick, Emily Lomax, Jacqueline Maher, Katy Norris, Angela O'Hara, Margaret Seymour, Katie Spetch, Juliet Stanyer, Bobby Torry, Margie Wilson-Smith
Alto	Vari Cameron, Anne Chapman, Christine Colbourne, Jo Cotton, Janet Hilton, Sheila Illsley, Kathryn James, Jean Jeffery, Elizabeth Lim, Judy Lomax, Sue Mummery, Debbie Nisbett, Ann Ruffer, Hilary Smith, Kate Thompson, Heather Wilkin, Christine Wilson
Tenor	David Cocks, Bill Colbourne, James Collings, Michael Kershaw, Peter Parr, Chris Senior, Michael West-Eacott, Peter Wemyss-Gordon
Bass	Paul Bridge, Peter Bovey, Jeremy Burrows, John Cope, Martin Corfe, Stephen Cotton, Jonathan Fenton-Vince, David Foster, Andrew Fox, Mark Lee, John Moore, John Mummery, David Murdoch, Jonathan Ockenden, John Radley, Albert Ratcliff, Mick Venables
Accom- panist	Fearghus Beauchamp

New Sussex Singers

Soprano	Kirsten Lloyd-Leach, Margaret Law-Sampson, Liz Maddock, Lynn Weaver, Marion Umney, Sally Donegani, Caroline Parish, Lucy Morgan-Jones
Alto	Lizzie Dandridge, Paula Bird, Melinda Stone, Jackie Wood, Lisa Quilter, Stella Beddoe
Tenor	Simon Austin, John Baker, Fearghus Beauchamp, Neil Tory
Bass	John Hayllar, Orlando Milford, Roger Floyd, Philip White- Jones, Dominic Hammond

Orchestra Performers

Linden Baroque

Leader Catherine Martin

Anthony Constantine

Jocelyn Slocombe

First violin Judy Taylor

Alan Selwyn Michael Jenner

Gillian Taylor
Second violin Linda McDonald

Nick Hardisty Alex Ait Mansour

Deborah Miles-Johnson

Viola Liz Hart

Wendy Talbot

Viola da gamba Peter Wendland

'Cello continuo Christine Draycott

'Cello David Winfield

Paul Woodmasterne

Bass John Mears

Flutes & Richard Austen Alto recorders Aimee Taylor

Oboe da caccia & Lysander Tennant
Oboe d'amore Angelika Stangl

Bassoon Matthew Dart