



Opera, Jazz and More!

Portishead Choral Society

Conductor: Jonathan Palmer

Soprano: Katherine Everett

Piano: Richard Lennox

Saturday 11th June 2022 at 7.30

Gordano School Hall

PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME

Danny Boy

arr. Jonathan Palmer

Irish Blessing

Bob Chilcott

Jazz Piano Solo

Piano Solo by Richard Lennox

Mood Indigo

Duke Ellington (1930)

The Glory of Love

Billy Hill (1936)

Opera Medley

Piano Solo by Richard Lennox

Chorus of Enchanted Islanders (from 'Alcina')

Handel

The title character is an enchantress who entices heroes to her domain to become her lovers, then transforms them into rocks, trees, streams or wild beasts. This chorus comes at the beginning of the opera and is sung by her captives after Alcina's palace has dramatically appeared from the middle of a mountain.

Villagers Chorus (from 'William Tell')

Rossini

The famous overture is immediately followed by this chorus of Swiss peasants going about their daily tasks and preparing for a wedding celebration.

Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves (from 'Nabucco')

Verdi

At the time of writing this opera, Verdi was mourning the untimely death of his first wife and two young children, and in Act III he poured his sense of longing and pain into the chorus of the exiled Israelites. This chorus not only became an instant sensation, but also became the "theme song" for the 'Risorgimento' - the uprising for the unification of Italy.

VERDI Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves

O t'i - spi - ri'il Si-gno-re'un con - cen - to Che ne'in - fon - da'al pa-ti re__ vir - tu, Che ne'in-fon-da'al pa
ti - re vir - tu, Che ne'in-fon-da'al pa - ti - re__ vir - tu, al pa-ti - re vir - tu!

INTERVAL

Dido's Lament and Final Chorus (from 'Dido and Aeneas')

Purcell

Katherine Everett (soprano)

This is arguably the saddest piece of music ever written. Listen for the five-bar ground-bass against a nine-bar melody, the yearning 'Remember Me', and the falling phrases depicting despair.

Chorus of Wedding Guests (from 'Lucia di Lammermoor')

Donizetti

The story concerns the emotionally fragile Lucy Ashton (Lucia) who is caught in a feud between her own family and that of the Ravenswoods. The setting is the Lammermuir Hills of Scotland (Lammermoor) in the 17th century, and this lively music is from Act II.

'Porgi, amor' (from 'The Marriage of Figaro')

Mozart

Soprano Solo Katherine Everett

This aria is undoubtedly one of the highlights of the opera, and is one of the most beautiful lyrical pieces written for soprano. The countess has been married to the Conte di Almaviva for several years. He is unfaithful to her and chases after the employee Susanna.

'Musetta's Waltz' (from 'La Bohème')

Puccini

Soprano Solo Katherine Everett

This Aria/Waltz is sung by Musetta, in the presence of her bohemian friends, hoping to reclaim the attention of her occasional boyfriend Marcello.

Voyagers Chorus (from 'Idomeneo')

Mozart

The story concerns the plight of Idomeneo (King of Crete) when storms delay his return home following the Trojan War. He vows that if Neptune grants his safe return, he will sacrifice the first person he meets. Unfortunately that turns out to be his son, Idamante. The king tries to cheat Neptune by sending Idamante away, and "Placido è il mar" is sung as Idamante is about to depart with the Greek princess Electra. Another storm forces the issue, and Neptune grants Idomeneo a conditional reprieve; he must abdicate his throne in favour of Idamante and his true love, Ilia.

Humming Chorus (from 'Madame Butterfly')

Puccini

It is one thing to hear the haunting music of "The Humming Chorus," but to understand the full emotional weight of the piece, it must be seen live in its proper context.

Bridal Chorus (from 'Lohengrin')

Wagner

The 'Bridal Chorus' from Wagner's 1850 opera Lohengrin has endured as a march that is played for the bride's entrance at many weddings throughout the Western world. In English-speaking countries, it is generally known as 'Here Comes the Bride' and is one of the most recognisable musical phrases.

Pilgrims' Chorus (from Tannhäuser)

Wagner

The 'Pilgrims' Chorus' represents the penitential journey of pilgrims as they travel to and from Rome to receive absolution. The noble aspirations of the penitents are embodied in this song, (one of Wagner's most famous melodies) as they sing the praises of God's mercy and the peace obtained by those who remit the debt of their sins.

Der Gna - de Heil ist dem Bös-ser be - schie - den, er geht einst ein in der Se - li - gen Frie - den; vor - Holl' und

10 Tod ist ihm nicht bang', drum preis' ich Gott mein Le - be - lang! Hal - le - lu -

18 ja! Hal - le - lu - ja! in E - wig keit, in E - - - wig - keit!

Anvil Chorus (from Il Trovatore)

Verdi

The complicated plot of Il Trovatore, full of duels, battles and deceptions, is set in 15th century Spain near the Bay of Biscay. The invigorating Anvil Chorus is heard at the opening of the second act, as a band of Spanish gypsies strike their anvils at dawn and sing the praises of hard work, good wine and gypsy women.

E **f** **MEN** **LADIES**

Chi del gi - ta - no i gior - ni ab - bel - la chi?

Chi del gi - ta - no i gior - ni ab - be - la? Chi del gi - ta - no i gior - ni ab - bel - la chi?

9 chi? i gior ni/ab bel - la?

chi? i gior ni/ab bel - la? La zin - ga -

12 *tutta forza*

La zin - ga - rel - la!

rel - la, La zin - ga - rel - la, La zin - ga - rel - la!

Soprano soloist: Katherine Everett



Katherine Everett MMus achieved her Bachelor of Music at the University of Huddersfield and went on to gain her Postgraduate Diploma and Masters of Music at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, specialising in concert singing. After graduating she started building her career in opera and concert singing. Notable companies she has sung with are Opera Holland Park, Grange Park Opera, Pimlico Opera, Buxton G&S Opera Company, Surrey Opera and Lakeland Opera. Now based in Portishead, Katherine enjoys singing in the 40s trio, The Cat's Pyjamas, and with Portishead Choral Society, as both a chorister and soloist. She has given solo recitals and sung leading roles with local operatic societies.

Katherine is an enthusiastic choir leader and singing teacher, teaching both from home and in local schools. She is the musical director of the community group Posset Opera, and is looking forward to launching her new ensemble later this year, the Portishead Youth Chamber Choir.

Conductor: Jonathan Palmer



After a distinguished teaching career in a variety of schools, Jonathan decided to retire in 2007 in order to concentrate on his composition, and for eight years was a part-time research student at the University of Bristol. In August 2010 he was awarded the Raymond Warren Prize for Composition. Having studied under Professor Geoff Poole and Professor John Pickard, he completed his PhD in Composition in January 2015, and became a Fellow of Trinity College, London, in Composition.

Over the years he has conducted numerous choral societies and orchestras. His choice of repertoire is varied, from Handel, Haydn, Mozart and Schubert to Vaughan Williams, Bernstein, Gershwin, and Rutter. In 1984, he directed performances of Olivier Messiaen's *Trois Petites Liturgies* at Sherborne Abbey and Clifton Cathedral, and in 2007, conducted a large-scale performance of Orff's *Carmina Burana* with massed choirs at the Colston Hall, Bristol.

Jonathan was appointed Musical Director of Portishead Choral Society in September 2013. During the 2013-14 season, he directed the choir in Handel's *Messiah*, Gounod's *Messe Solennelle de Sainte-Cécile* and Edward German's *Merrie England*. In the spring of 2014, he composed a special new cantata for the choir to coincide with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. *Awake the Voice*, a thirty minute work in six movements for chorus, soloists, audience and orchestra, received its first performance in Gordano

School, Portishead in December 2014. It was subsequently performed again in December 2018 in Clifton Cathedral in a collaborative Christmas-themed concert with Nailsea Choral Society and Chew Valley Choral Society. He enjoys the challenge of devising imaginative programmes for the concerts, and always tries to combine sacred and secular, familiar and the less-known, old and new, while seizing any opportunity for the audience to participate! In June 2019, the finale of the concert 'From Russia with Love' even required the audience to sing in Russian!

In 2009, he was appointed as a Choral Director for 'Choirs at Sea', and for a time, enjoyed numerous voyages on cruise ships forming choirs from the passengers. However, with the pandemic, he has withdrawn from that activity, and is delighted to be directing the choral society once again. He plays the cello and particularly enjoys playing chamber music. In his spare time he enjoys maintaining his classic cars, instrument restoration, cooking and travelling.

Accompanist: Richard Lennox



Richard Lennox became our accompanist in September 2016. He is a highly versatile musician, happy to play everything from Bach to the Beatles, Musical Theatre to Rock and Roll and just about everything else in between. He enjoys the challenge of bridging the gap between different genres of music, whether it is a rousing pop song or traditional classical arrangements, or whether he is playing piano, organ, or keyboards. So, the diverse choice of music in this evening's programme that juxtaposes Early Baroque with light modern arrangements suits him well.

Primarily a self-taught musician, Richard has worked in most genres of the music industry, from accompanying choirs, singers and instrumentalists to composing and arranging. Working extensively in Theatre, Cabaret and major concert venues across the UK and Europe (including the world famous Royal Albert Hall) he is no stranger to guest spots in the UK's Cathedrals.

Richard has also had various radio airplay guest spots including Saturday Surgery with TV's Doctor Phil Hammond and Live wire Radio, as well as being invited as guest artist to the Charity event held in memory of the late Sir Norman Wisdom at De Montfort Hall, Leicester. Recently he performed a 'Double Concerto' at the Royal Albert Hall, playing Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue and Léon Boëllmann's *Organ Toccata* all in the same evening!

Portishead Choral Society

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If you would like to become a patron, please contact the our Chair, Alex Cottrell. Contact details can be found on our website.

Future Concerts

The next Portishead Choral Society concert will be in December – the programme will be advised in due course on our website.

New members are always welcome. Rehearsals are at Portishead Methodist Church on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm.

Members of the choir are available to sing at weddings, funerals, and other events. Please contact a committee member or see our website for further details.

Clevedon Choral Society

Please watch for announcements on their website: www.clevedonchoralsociety.org.uk

Nailsea Choral Society

Bach Christmas Oratorio

10 December 2022 at 7pm,

Nailsea Methodist Church Worship Hall, 74 Silver Street, Nailsea

Acknowledgements

The society is affiliated to Making Music, the charity that represents and support amateur choirs, orchestras, and music promoters throughout the United Kingdom.

www.portisheadchoral.co.uk

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