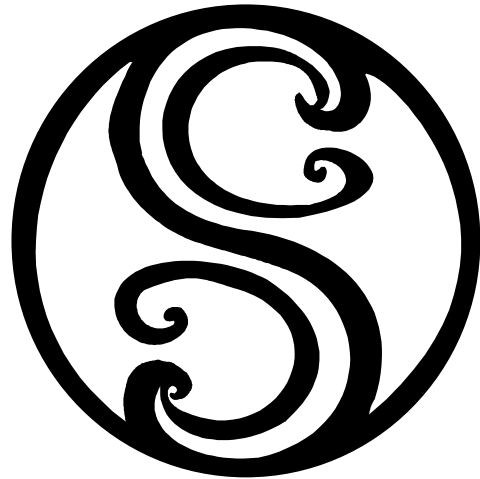


# The Scottish Chamber Choir

Directed by Michael Harris



## CHAPEL ROYAL TO CORONATION

Saturday 16th November 2002

St Giles' Cathedral  
High Street  
Edinburgh

# The Scottish Chamber Choir

Director: Michael Harris

Organist: John Kitchen

JOHN BLOW  
(1649–1708)

I BEHELD, AND, LO, A GREAT MULTITUDE

VERSE: HEATHER MACLEOD, ANDREW MORLEY  
HAMISH MARTIN, FRANK LUCAS

MAURICE GREENE  
(1696–1755)

O GOD OF MY RIGHTEOUSNESS

VERSE: ALISON BISHOP, ANDREW MORLEY

BLESSED ARE THOSE THAT ARE UNDEFILED IN THE WAY

VERSE: ADRIANA SKARAAS, ANNE McALISTER

LET MY COMPLAINT COME BEFORE THEE, O LORD

HENRY PURCELL  
(1659–1695)

BEHOLD NOW, PRAISE THE LORD

VERSE: MYRA BROWN, JAMES VERGE, FRANK LUCAS

MY BELOVED SPAKE

VERSE: DEIRDRE MARTIN, ANDREW MORLEY  
HAMISH MARTIN, RODDY BRYCE

I WILL GIVE THANKS UNTO THEE, O LORD

VERSE: MILDA ZINKUS, PAULINE McCLELLAN  
MYRA BROWN, ANDREW POLSON  
RODDY BRYCE

INTERVAL  
of 15 minutes



## TEXTS

### Charles Villiers Stanford

#### *Gloria in Excelsis*

Born in Dublin, Stanford's career was marked by a meteoric rise as a student and his appointment as a Professor of Composition at the newly founded Royal College of Music in 1883, followed by his election as Professor of Music at Cambridge in 1887 at the age of only 35. He enjoyed a wide influence as a teacher of composition, but posterity has not been so kind, particularly to the neglected instrumental music; there are, for instance, seven symphonies and four concertos, not to mention six organ sonatas and eight string quartets.

His *Gloria in Excelsis* is a setting written for the 1911 Coronation of George V, which was heard again at the Coronation of George VI and Queen Elizabeth in 1937. It is a setting of considerable grandeur, with many choral fanfare effects in the opening and closing sections; the central passage is more reflective with the choral parts accompanying a soprano solo voice.

### Hugh Blair

#### *Short Sonata in G*

Hugh Blair is known primarily as the composer of the evening canticles, Blair in B minor. In the 1890s he was assistant organist at Worcester Cathedral to the aging William Done, then in his mid-70s; in fact, Blair was Cathedral Organist in all but title. He is also remembered, rather unjustly, for having "made a terrible mess" of the first performance of Elgar's Organ Sonata in 1895 in Worcester Cathedral. The fault was in fact Elgar's, who had finished composing this virtuoso piece in a highly orchestral idiom just a few days before the performance, leaving Blair no time adequately to prepare. Blair's own *Short Sonata in G major* was published a few years later in 1899, when it appeared in volume 18 of *The Anglican Organist*. Its debt to Elgar is apparent, but Blair has mastered the idiom most impressively; if anything, his musical ideas demand greater development than the scope of this piece permits. The slow movement is particularly fine; its broad melody returns, *fff*, as a thrilling peroration at the conclusion of the sonata.

### William Walton

#### *Coronation Te Deum*

Walton's setting of the Te Deum for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 belongs to the tradition of grand choral works such as Parry's *I was glad* and Stanford's *Gloria*. The period was a relatively prolific one for Walton, the Coronation also producing the commission for *Orb and Sceptre* and with work in progress on his opera *Troilus and Cressida*.

There is a symphonic structure to the Te Deum, with the opening material being recapitulated at *O Lord save thy people*. The writing is full of antiphonal double choir writing, and is marked by some colourful word setting at such moments as *The glorious company of the apostles praise thee*, with the rising paens of praise from the divisi sopranos and altos.

Programme notes by Michael Harris and John Kitchen

### BLOW: I BEHELD, AND, LO, A GREAT MULTITUDE

I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindred, and people, who stood before the throne, clothed with white robes, and palms were in their hands.

And they cried with a loud voice, saying, Hallelujah. Salvation to our God which sitteth on the throne, and unto the Lamb.

And I heard a voice saying, What are these that are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple.

And all the angels who stood round the throne, and the elders with the four beasts fell down before the throne, and worshipped God, saying, Hallelujah. Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. Hallelujah.

*verses from Revelation 7*

### GREENE: O GOD OF MY RIGHTEOUSNESS

O God of my righteousness, hear me when I call. Thou hast set me at liberty when I was in trouble, have mercy upon me, and hearken unto my prayer.

O ye sons of men, how long will ye blaspheme mine honour, and have pleasure in vanity? Know this; the Lord hath chosen to himself the man that is godly.

I will lay me down in peace and take my rest: for it is thou, O Lord, that mak'st me to dwell in safety.

Offer the sacrifice of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord. Stand in awe, and sin not, and put your trust in the Lord.

*verses from Psalm 4*

### GREENE: BLESSED ARE THOSE THAT ARE UNDEFILED IN THE WAY

Blessed are those that are undefiled in the way, and walk in the law of the Lord; blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and seek him with their whole heart.

Thou hast charged that we shall diligently keep thy commandments. O that my ways were made so direct, that I might keep thy statutes. Open thou mine eyes, that I may see the wondrous things of thy law.

Then will I talk of thy commandments and have respect unto thy ways. My delight shall be in thy statutes, and I will not forget thy word. Then will I talk of thy commandments and have respect unto thy ways. My delight shall be in thy statutes, and I will not forget thy word.

My lips shall speak of thy praise when thou hast taught me thy statutes. Yea, my tongue shall sing of thy word; for all thy commandments are righteous.

*verses from Psalm 119*

**GREENE: LET MY COMPLAINT COME BEFORE THEE, O LORD**

Let my complaint come before thee, O Lord; give me understanding according to thy word; let my supplication come before thee; deliver me according to thy word.

My lips shall speak of thy praise when thou hast taught me thy statutes; yea, my tongue shall sing of thy word; for all thy commandments are righteous.

*words from Psalm 119*

**PURCELL: BEHOLD NOW, PRAISE THE LORD**

Behold now, praise the Lord, all the servants of the Lord; ye that by night stand in the house of the Lord, ev'n in the courts of the house of the Lord our God.

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and praise the Lord. The Lord that hath made heav'n and earth, give thee blessing out of Sion.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*Psalm 134: 1–4*

**PURCELL: MY BELOVED SPAKE**

My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flow'rs appear upon the earth; and the time of the singing of birds is come. Hallelujah! And the voice of the turtle is heard in our land.

The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Rise, rise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

My beloved is mine, and I am his. Hallelujah!

*Song of Solomon 2: 10–13, 16*

**PURCELL: I WILL GIVE THANKS UNTO THEE, O LORD**

I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, with my whole heart: ev'n before the gods will I sing praises unto thee.

I will worship tow'rds thy holy temple, and praise thy name, because of thy loving-kindness and truth; for thou hast magnified thy name and thy word above all things. When I called upon thee, thou heard'st me, and endu'dst my soul with much strength.

I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, with my whole heart: ev'n before the gods will I sing praises unto thee.

All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O Lord: for they have heard the words of thy mouth. Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.

For though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: as for the proud, he beholdeth them afar off. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, yet shalt thou refresh me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand upon the furiousness of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

The Lord shall make good his loving-kindness tow'rds me: yea, thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever.

*Psalm 138: 1–8a*

**STANFORD: GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**WALTON: CORONATION TE DEUM**

We praise thee, O God: we acknowledge thee to be the Lord. All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting. To thee all angels cry aloud; the heavens and all the powers therein. To thee cherubin and seraphin do cry, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.

The glorious company of the apostles praise thee. The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee. The noble army of martyrs praise thee. The holy church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee. The Father of an infinite majesty; thine honourable, true and only Son; also the Holy Ghost, the comforter.

Thou art the King of glory, O Christ. Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father. When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man, thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb. When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father. We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge. We therefore pray thee, help thy servants, whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood. Make them to be numbered with thy saints, in glory everlasting.

O Lord, save thy people, and bless thine heritage. Govern them and lift them up for ever. Day by day we magnify thee, and we worship thy name, ever world without end.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us. O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee. O Lord, in thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded.

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**The Scottish Chamber Choir**

Since its formation in 1968, the **Scottish Chamber Choir** has performed throughout Scotland and Northern England to great acclaim. Each season the choir presents four concerts in Edinburgh, climaxing with an appearance at the Festival Fringe. These are usually supplemented by a Christmas concert and guest appearances at local Music Societies and Festivals throughout the year, keeping members quite busy!

The choir sings both shorter items from the chamber choir repertoire and more extended works, such as the Bach B minor Mass at our Festival Fringe concert in 2001. Whilst some concerts are given *a cappella*, at others we are joined by a variety of instrumental forces, making possible an exceptional freedom of programming and great interest for both participants and audience.

## The Scottish Chamber Choir

Sopranos	Alison Bishop	Pauline McC
	Beth Cavanagh	Rebecca No
	Susie Flett	Sasha Salina
	Lorraine Fraser	Erica Schwa
	Jenny Mackenzie	Adriana Ska
	Anne McAlister	Milda Zinku
Contraltos	Fiona Akers	Heather Ma
	Jean Brodie	Deirdre Mar
	Myra Brown	Susan Oliver
	Zoe Chamberlin	Sheila Rober
Tenors	Michael Lucas	James Verge
	Andrew Morley	Bill Wood
	Andrew Polson	
Basses	Roddy Bryce	Hamish Mar
	Frank Lucas	Adam Sadov Martin Tarr

## The St Giles' Chamber Ensemble

Violin	Lawrence Dunn Fiona Coutts
Viola	Alison Lucas
Cello	Malcolm Garden

Leader: Lawrence Dunn

Continuo: John Kitchen

The choir's hallmark has always been its breadth of repertoire, encompassing a wide range of music from the 16th century to the present day, with music by living composers featuring in programmes during most seasons. Often there is a thread linking a series of concerts, encouraging regular attendance. The highly successful and critically praised Silver Jubilee season, for example, concentrated on 20th century British music, and was recognised by an Enterprise Award from the Performing Rights Society – one of only three such awards in Scotland.

From time to time, vacancies occur in all sections of the choir, and any singer interested in obtaining further details should contact Bill Wood, the President, on 0131 339 7663. Rehearsals are held on Monday evenings in the Ian Tomlin School of Music at Napier University's Craighouse campus.

**Michael Harris** received his earliest musical education as a chorister of Gloucester Cathedral. He was Organ Scholar of St Peter's College, Oxford, and continued his studies at the Royal College of Music. He studied organ with Nicholas Danby, and has taken part in Masterclasses given by, among others, Nicolas Kynaston, Daniel Roth and Piet Kee.

He has been Organist and Master of the Music of St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, since November 1996; he is also a Lecturer at the Ian Tomlin School of Music in Napier University, Edinburgh. Prior to moving to Edinburgh he held posts as Sub-Organist of Leeds Parish Church and, from 1986, Assistant Organist of Canterbury Cathedral.

His work has involved him in numerous recordings and broadcasts, for both television and radio. As Organist of St Giles' Cathedral he hosts many organ concerts on the famous Rieger organ (built 1992) and has made a number of CD recordings with the instrument.

Elsewhere he has given recitals at St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Canterbury Cathedral, Winchester Cathedral, Ripon Cathedral and Leeds Town Hall. He has given many recitals in Germany, including on the historic Silbermann organs in Freiberg (Dom) and Dresden (Hofkirche), and in 1999 was a member of the Jury for the International Gottfried Silbermann Organ Competition in Freiberg.

Since 1998 he has been Musical Director of the Scottish Chamber Choir. He is also much involved in the work of organ education in Scotland and is Director of the Edinburgh Organ Academy, an annual springtime course founded in 1998.

**John Kitchen** was educated in the Universities of Glasgow and Cambridge, and was organ scholar of Clare College. From 1976–88 he was Lecturer in Music and Organist in the University of St Andrews; since 1988 he has been a Senior Lecturer in Music and University Organist in the University of Edinburgh. He also directs the Edinburgh University Singers, and is organist of Old St Paul's Episcopal Church.

For many years he played regularly with the Scottish Early Music Consort as harpsichordist, organist and fortepianist, and he plays regularly with several other ensembles, covering a wide range of musical styles. He gives many solo recitals both in the UK and further afield, and is much in demand as a continuo player, accompanist, lecturer, writer and reviewer.

Edinburgh Bach Choir  
2002–2003 Season  
Conductor: Neil Mantle

**7:30pm Saturday 7th December 2002**

Greyfriars Kirk, Greyfriars Place

Handel *Zadok the Priest*

Mozart *Coronation Mass*

Haydn *Nelson Mass*

**7:30pm Sunday 23rd March 2003**

Greyfriars Kirk, Greyfriars Place

Lambert *Rio Grande*

Stravinsky *Symphony of Psalms*

Elgar *Music Makers*

**7:30pm Saturday 31st May 2003**

Greyfriars Kirk, Greyfriars Place

J.S. Bach *St John Passion*

Information from:

Hon Secretary – Jack Inglis, 4 Sycamore Gardens, Edinburgh EH12 7JJ

Tel: 0131 334 8882 Email: jack@inglis22.freereserve.co.uk

These concerts are subsidised by  
Making Music, the National Federation  
of Music Societies, with funds  
provided by the Scottish Arts Council



We hope that you have enjoyed the concert and will wish to  
hear the choir in future Edinburgh concerts

**Saturday 15th March 2003  
St Giles' Cathedral**

**'Romantic Paris'**

A programme including two glorious Mass  
settings by Louis Vierne and Jean Langlais

**Saturday 7th June 2003  
St Giles' Cathedral**

**'An American Tour'**

20th-century music from North and South America,  
including Morten Lauridsen's moving *Lux Aeterna*

**Sunday 10th August 2003  
St Mary's Cathedral**

**Festival Concert**

*Bach Missa Brevis in F*

*Haydn Missa Sancti Nicolai*

*Zelenka Mass in D*

All concerts start at 8:00pm

Details from choir members or from the President,  
Bill Wood, on 0131 339 7663