

The Hills Singers

In celebration of coming of age, today's programme consists of a selection from the current choir members' favourite repertoire. As such, it may be considered a rather heterogeneous selection of songs which crosses the centuries and a wide variety of musical styles, both sacred and secular. We make no apology for that as we believe it will make for a very enjoyable evening of listening. The variety of songs represents the breadth of repertoire we have sung which in turn is symbolic of the varied types of events at which we have performed over the years. We include of course our 'title tune' Ireland's 'The Hills' and had to include part, the 'Agnus Dei', of Martin's Mass for double choir, which is probably the hardest project we have undertaken, but one of the most satisfying.

The reason for the grouping of songs in many cases will be self evident such as the pairs of madrigals, part songs and spirituals. There are some interesting juxtapositions in the programme such as the celebration of the birth of Jesus in Lauridsen's 'O Magnum Mysterium' to Holst's 'Nunc Dimittis' whose text is a song by the aged Simeon ready to die happy having seen the infant Christ. A far less likely coupling is Thomas Arne's catch 'Which is the properest day to drink?' and Brewer's arrangement of the Sotho children's song 'Mangwani m'pulele', yet both of these are sung socially if in rather different circumstances.

I claimed the right to one choice and this is Britten's 'Hymn to St Cecilia' set to the text of Auden. Apart from being a wonderfully crafted composition (if highly challenging for the singers) my reasons for this choice were threefold. Firstly, by the act of singing we are celebrating music, of which Cecilia is the patron saint. Secondly, we should remedy our failure to pay proper tribute to Britten's own special birthday last year, and thirdly, as we come of age, we hope to improve on our one previous performance of it, many years ago; you will be the judges of our success in that.

Thank you to all the singers and audiences over the years. We continue to enjoy our concerts and we hope we share that with our audiences.

Carol Green

Anyone interested in either promoting a musical event or joining the choir should contact **Carol Green** on **01684 577033**. For more information, see

www.hillssingers.com

**All proceeds from this Concert will be shared between
Christ Church and The Hills Singers**



THE HILLS SINGERS

21st Anniversary Concert

A Celebration of 21 Years of
Music-Making

Musical Director - Carol Green

Saturday 7th June 2014

7:30 pm

Christ Church

Avenue Road, Malvern

PROGRAMME

Sing We and Chant It *Thomas Morley (1557 – 1602)*

**All Creatures Now
are Merry Minded** *John Bennet (1575 – 1614)*

Come Live With Me *William S Bennett (1816 – 1875)*

The Hills *John Ireland (1879 – 1962)*

Graduale – Locus Iste *Anton Bruckner (1824 – 1896)*

Beati Quorum Via *Charles Villiers Stanford (1852 – 1924)*

READINGS

If Music be the Food of Love *William Shakespeare (1564 – 1616)*

Everyone Sang *Siegfried Sassoon (1886 – 1967)*

O Magnum Mysterium *Morten Lauridsen (1943 –)*

Nunc Dimittis *Gustav Holst (1874 – 1934)*

Hymn to Saint Cecilia *Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976)*

INTERVAL

Crucifixus *Antonio Lotti (1667 – 1740)*

The Shower *Edward Elgar (1857 – 1934)*

My Spirit Sang All Day *Gerald Finzi (1901 – 1956)*

Agnus Dei *Frank Martin (1890 – 1974)*

READING

Fern Hill *Dylan Thomas (1914 – 1953)*

**Which is the Properest Day
to Drink?** *Thomas Arne (1710 – 1778)*

Mangwani M’pulele *arr. Mike Brewer (1945 –)*

Steal Away *arr. Michael Tippett (1905 – 1998)*

Didn’t It Rain *arr. Bob Chilcott (1955 –)*

Blue Moon *Richard Rodgers (1902 – 1979)
arr. David Blackwell*

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot *arr. Jonathan Rathbone (1957 –)*

**Come to the Great World
from ‘I Share Creation’** *Bob Chilcott (1955 –)*