

Entente Chorale

St Thomas' Church

26th October 2013

Chorale Atout Choeurs

Dindirindin
Quand l'ennui fâcheux vous prend
Puce j'ai dedans l'oreille
Nocturne no 1 KV 346
Ce mois de mai
Automne
Le percheron
Petite berceuse de début de la colonie
La complainte du phoque en Alaska
Je reviendrai à Montréal
I'm so glad
El condor pasa
Chanter
Erlé

directed by Catherine Guibert

anon Spanish 15th C
Guillaume Costeley
Claude le Jeune
W A Mozart
Clément Jenequin
Francine Cockenpot
Fabienne Thibeault
Gilles Vigneault
Beau Dommage
Robert Charlebois
Negro spiritual
traditional Peruvian
Claude Lemesle
traditional South African

ooo Interval (wine & soft drinks served in the Canterbury Room) ooo

Piano solos

Arabesque no. 1
Lullaby
Toccata

Janet Pound

Claude Debussy
Edward Elgar
Francis Poulenc

Goring Chamber Choir

A Ceremony of Carols
1 Procession
2 Wolcum Yole!
3 There is no rose
4a That yonge child
4b Balulalow
5 As dew in Aprille
6 This little babe
7 In freezing winter night
9 Spring Carol
10 Deo gratias
11 Recession

directed by Frances Brewitt-Taylor

Benjamin Britten

solists: 4a Lesley Lambert, 4b Suzanne Smith, 7 Andy Button, 9 Audrey Rogers & Christine Richardson

Both Choirs

A New Year Carol

Benjamin Britten

Accompanist for both choirs: Janet Pound

Benjamin Britten was one of the foremost British composers of the 20th century and this year we celebrate the anniversary of his birth in 1913. The '**Ceremony of Carols**' was completed in 1943 and was originally written for boys' voices and harp or piano. The great popularity of this work led to an SATB arrangement, made by the composer Julius Harrison, some ten years later. The work was started on a voyage back to the UK from America on the MS Axel Johnson, a Swedish cargo boat on which Britten and his friend Peter Pears has obtained passage. By Pears' account, the conditions were most uncomfortable and crossing the U-boat ridden Atlantic in wartime (1942) must have been a frightening experience.

The opening and closing numbers are set to plainsong. The anonymous poems Britten chose to set mostly date from the 14th and 15th centuries. William Cornish's Spring Carol, Robert Southwell's This little babe and In freezing winter night date from the early and mid 16th century respectively. The 'marvellous homeliness' (Julian of Norwich) of these touching devotional lyrics seems to have struck a chord in Britten, inspiring him to compose some of his most accessible music, fresh, tuneful, haunting and varied in mood and colour. We make no apology for singing these carols in October rather than at Christmas - they speak with a direct tenderness and dignity that is appropriate at any time of year.

The choral group '**Atout choeurs**' brings together singers from three choral societies in the Orne département directed by Catherine Guibert, a music teacher. Founded in 2009 to do an exchange with the Quebec troupe 'V'la l'bon vent', its range has diversified since: a joint concert with the Hamburg Franco-German Choir, the show "Il était un jardin" performed in, amongst other locations, the magnificent garden of Roselyne and Jean-Pierre Jacob. Our intention is to take part in the life of villages and to promote the local heritage without losing our curiosity about what is going on further afield. When Christiane Dumans offered us this joint concert in Goring, we had no hesitation in accepting with enthusiasm.

Goring Chamber Choir was founded in 1951 and enjoyed celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2011. The choir has a busy schedule, ranging from events like tonight to performances of major works with professional orchestra. A regular feature is a visit to a Cathedral to sing the services; in August we spent a long weekend in Liverpool and we sang for five days in St Davids in Wales last summer. We have shared concerts with local school choirs to encourage children, and we have joined with the Goring Gap Players on two specially devised programmes combining music and drama. In June '12 we took part in an open-air concert here for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. We travel abroad - to France, Spain, Belgium, Poland, and in April we went to sing in Oporto in Portugal. Frances has been musical director of the choir for over 20 years.

Janet Pound studied the recitalist's course at the Royal Academy of Music for three years, gaining her performer's LRAM at the end of the first year. Janet has had many varied musical experiences throughout her life, teaching the piano and theory, accompanying many choirs and choral societies and giving classical piano recitals regularly. Her love of accompanying began at the age of twelve years when she became accompanist to the school choir. This love continued at the Royal Academy where she was in great demand as accompanist to young singers, string players and wind and brass instrumentalists. Half a century later, Janet delights in playing the superb new piano in St Thomas' Church.

Our **Christmas concert** is scheduled for 3pm on Sunday 15th December in St Thomas' Church and will be on the theme of "Christmas in Oporto". There'll be audience carols for you to join in with and we'll be serving wine and mince pies afterwards.