

Cantabile

CHAMBER CHOIR – LEEDS

PRESENTS

‘NORTHERN LIGHTS’

With special guests:

CHLOE LATCHMORE (Soprano)

DARIA BITSUUK (Piano)

PHIL GREEN (Trumpet)

'NORTHERN LIGHTS'

A CONCERT OF MUSIC INSPIRED BY AND ASSOCIATED WITH
NORTHERN CLIMES AND INCLUDING WORKS BY:

James MacMillan, Ola Gjeilo, Edvard Grieg and Veljo Tormis

Music, and perhaps choral music in particular, has an uncanny knack of staying rooted to its place of origin, whether through the use of folk melodies and idioms or in the way the sense of a particular landscape is conveyed in its sounds and forms.

The music that we have chosen this evening is infused with a sense of place and reflects the lives, hardships, rituals and passions of the people who inhabit these Northern regions.

Musical Director

Ian Akroyd



'O Radiant Dawn.....'

James MacMillan's musical influences are wide-ranging, from hard-edged modernism to experimental mysticism, from Bach to Wagner. However, all is infused with a sense of his Celtic musical heritage.

Ola Gjeilo is a contemporary Norwegian composer, now living and working in the United States. His influences include Jazz and Film music as well as a choral tradition stretching back to the renaissance and in this, the first of two pieces this evening by the composer, Gregorian Chant and the beginnings of Western church music.

O Radiant Dawn James MacMillan (born 1959)

Ubi Caritas Ola Gjeilo (born 1978)

*Where charity and love are, God is there.
The love of Christ has gathered us together.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Let us revere and love the living God.
And from a sincere heart let us love one another.
Amen'*

'Long will this winter be.....'

The true character of a place and its people can often be found reflected in its folkmusic. The simple forms and melodies of this tradition can express the deepest of emotions and provide us with a glimpse into the lives of the people who first sang them.

Two traditional Scottish melodies are set alongside two folksongs from the New World. The musical language is undeniably similar but the Canadian pieces tell of a different landscape and a harsher and less hospitable world.

She's like a swallow trad. Arranged Stephen Chatman

Frobisher Bay trad. Arranged Diane Loomer

Eriskay Love-lilt trad. Arranged Ian Akroyd

Mairi's Wedding trad. Arranged Jane Edwardson

Chloe Latchmore and Daria Bitsiuk

Cantabile is delighted to welcome Chloe and Daria. Their repertoire includes works by Brahms, Mozart and Massenet, taking us on a musical journey to warmer and sunnier climes.

Oeuvre Tes Yeux Bleus	Jules Massenet	(1842 – 1912)
Il Padre Adorato	Wolfgang Mozart	(1756 – 1791)
Von Ewiger Liebe	Johannes Brahms	(1833 – 1897)
In The Silence Of The Night	Sergei Rachmaninov	(1873 – 1843)
It Was A Lover	Madeleine Dring	(1923 – 1977)

INTERVAL

‘A Winter Ceremony’

MacMillan’s works often draw on Catholic liturgy and chant for their basic formal and melodic material. In his setting of ‘In Splendoribus Sanctorum’, a Communion motet for Nativity Midnight Mass, he creates a work that is both ceremonial and meditative. The piece was first ‘performed’ on 24 December 2006 at St Columba’s Church, Maryhill, Glasgow and it is easy to imagine the hauntingly beautiful sounds of choir and trumpet floating above the wintery rooftops of the city as it waits, hushed, for Christmas morn.

In Splendoribus Sanctorum	James MacMillan	(born 1959)
<i>In the splendor of holiness, from the womb, before the daystar I have begotten you.</i>		

‘Bright Star...’

Edvard Hagerup Grieg, one of the leading composers of the Romantic era, used and developed Norwegian folk music and traditions in his own compositions throughout his life.

His setting of the Latin text ‘Ave Maris Stella’ and his ‘Fire Salmer’ (*Four Psalms*) are based on traditional Norwegian hymn-tunes. These simple, folk-like melodies are transformed by Grieg’s complex and rich harmonies without ever losing a sense of their native roots.

Ave Maris Stella	Edvard Grieg	(1843 – 1907)
<i>Hail, bright star of ocean, God’s own Mother blest,</i>		

*Ever sinless Virgin,
Gate of heavenly rest.
Break the captives' fetters,
Light on blindness pour,
All our ills expelling,
Every bliss implore.*

*Keep our life all spotless,
Make our way secure,
Till we find in Jesus,
Joy forevermore.
Through the highest heaven
To the Almighty Three,
Father, Son and Spirit,
One same glory be. Amen*

Jesus Kristus er opfaren

Edvard Grieg

(1843 – 1907)

Jesus Christ our Lord is risen

I Himmelen

Edvard Grieg

(1843 – 1907)

In Heaven Above

‘Hushaby, Lullaby....’

Veljo Tormis is an Estonian composer much of whose music is derived from Estonian folk song. Tormis famously said of his settings of traditional melodies and verse:
‘It is not I who makes use of folk music, it is folk music that makes use of me.’

In these re-interpretations of traditional Estonian lullabies Tormis manages, within the briefest and simplest of musical forms, to convey a world of sacrifice, hardship and uncertainty.

Four Estonian Lullabies

Veljo Tormis

(born 1930)

No. 1 Laulan Lapsele

*I sing for My Child
Hushaby, lullaby!
I sing for my child
like a duck for her duckling,
a heath hen for her darling,
a crane for her deary.*

No. 2 Marjal Aega Magada

It's Time for the Little Berry to Sleep

*Sleep, sleep, little berry,
doze, doze, deary!
When will the cock come home,
when will the chick go to work,
when will the little berry go to sleep,
when will deary doze off?
Time for the little berry to sleep,
time for my deary to doze.*

No. 3 Lase Kiik Kaia

Let the Cradle Swing

*Hushaby, lullaby, let the cradle swing!
Let sleep come!
Doggy came to meet us,
a stick in his paw, a sack on his back,
large boots on.*

No. 4 Aitutis

Lulling

Lullaby, lullaby, lullaby, lullaby!

'A Terrible Beauty'

We finish our programme with Ola Gjeilo's setting of words 'Pulchra es amica mea' from the Song of Solomon. The music is inspired by Gjeilo's sighting of the aurora borealis in his native Norway. He writes of this experience:

Looking out from the attic window that Christmas in Oslo, over a wintery lake under the stars, I was thinking about how this 'terrible' beauty is so profoundly reflected in the northern lights which, having grown up in the southern part of the country, I have only seen once or twice in my life. It is one of the most beautiful natural phenomena I've ever witnessed, and has such a powerful, electric quality..... both mesmerizing and terrifying....'

Northern Lights

Ola Gjeilo

(born 1978)

*Thou art beautiful, O my love,
sweet and comely as Jerusalem,
terrible as an army set in array.
Turn away thy eyes from me,
for they have made me flee away.*

Cantabile is a chamber choir based in Chapel Allerton, Leeds. We're a small group of experienced and enthusiastic singers who enjoy the challenge of performing a varied repertoire spanning six centuries and including works by contemporary composers. We're dedicated to making a beautiful sound together in a choir where every voice counts.



For more information about Cantabile and details of future performances please visit our website: www.cantabile-choir-leeds.org.uk

