



JERSEY FESTIVAL CHOIR

The Creation

by Joseph Haydn

Saturday 22nd October 7.30pm
St. Helier Methodist Centre

with
St Cecilia Orchestra
conducted by **James Southall**

Tickets on the door
Free programme

www.festivalchoir.org.je
Facebook- Jersey Festival Choir

The Story of Haydn's "The Creation"

At the 1791 Handel Festival in Westminster Abbey Haydn was overwhelmed by the monumental sublimity of the choruses in Handel's "The Messiah", performed by a gargantuan array of over 1000 players and singers. He wished to compose a work on a similarly exalted biblical theme that would appeal to a broad public.

For the time being nothing came of the idea. But just before he left England for the last time, in the summer of 1795, the impresario and violinist Johann Peter Salomon handed him an anonymous English libretto on the subject of *The Creation* which had allegedly been intended for Handel half a century earlier.

Haydn immediately saw the musical potential in *The Creation* text, whose main sources were the book of *Genesis*, Milton's *Paradise Lost* (especially for the animal descriptions in Part Two, and the hymn and love duet in Part Three) and, for several of the choruses of praise, the book of *Psalms*.

Towards the end of 1796, a libretto had been translated and adapted by the Imperial Court Librarian, the formidable Baron Gottfried van Swieten. By the same time Haydn had already begun to sketch the visionary 'Representation of Chaos'. Never one to hold back, Swieten annotated the manuscript he prepared for Haydn with suggestions for musical setting - a fugue here, descriptive tone-painting there - some of which were adopted, others rejected by the composer. He was, though, adamant that the words 'Let there be Light' - 'And there was Light' should only be said once, thereby claiming a small share in one of the most elemental inspirations in all music.

In composing the work Haydn felt he was performing an act of religious devotion, however the Catholic church was quick to take offence at its non-moralistic tone and alleged "secularity" of expression, banning it from places of worship. But the church could not hinder the work's immediate success. "The Creation" received immediate acclaim when it was performed before a packed aristocratic audience in the Schwarzenberg Palace in Vienna, first at an open rehearsal on 29 April 1798 and then at its official premiere the following day.

On 19 March 1799, in the Imperial Burgtheatre, and with anticipation at fever-pitch, the non-aristocratic Viennese public were able to hear Haydn's great oratorio for themselves.

The end result was the greatest triumph of Haydn's career.

(Source: www.classical-music.com)



Programme

JERSEY FESTIVAL CHOIR

St Cecilia Orchestra

James Southall – Conductor

Karla Grant – Soprano

Seumas Begg – Tenor

Robert Rice - Baritone



“The Creation”

PART ONE

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|
| 1 | Intro | The Representation of Chaos |
| 1a | Recitative & Chorus | In the beginning |
| 2 | Aria & Chorus | Now vanish before the holy beams |
| 3 | Recitative | And God made the firmament |
| 4 | Chorus with Solo | The marv'lous work beholds amaz'd |
| 5 | Recitative | And God said: Let the waters |
| 6 | Aria | Rolling in foaming billows |
| 7 | Recitative | And God said: Let the earth bring forth grass |
| 8 | Aria | With verdure clad |
| 9 | Recitative | And the heavenly host |
| 10 | Chorus | Awake the harp |
| 11 | Recitative | And God said: Let there be lights |
| 12 | Recitative | In splendour bright |
| 13 | Chorus with Solos | The heavens are telling |

PART TWO

- | | | |
|----|------------|--|
| 14 | Recitative | And God said: Let the waters |
| 15 | Aria | On mighty pens |
| 16 | Recitative | And God created great whales |
| 17 | Recitative | And the Angels struck their immortal harps |
| 18 | Trio | Most beautiful appear |

“The Creation”

PART TWO (continued)

18	Trio	Most beautiful appear
18a	Chorus with Solos	The Lord is great and great his might
19	Recitative	And God said: Let the earth bring forth
20	Recitative	Strait opening her fertile womb
21	Aria	Now heav'n in fullest glory shone
22	Recitative	And God created man in his own image
23	Aria	In native worth and honour clad
24	Recitative	And God saw ev'rything that he had made
25	Chorus	Achieved is thy glorious work
25a	Trio	On thee each living soul wants
25b	Chorus	Achieved is thy glorious work

INTERVAL

PART THREE

26	Recitative	In rosy mantle appears
27	Duet and chorus	By thee with bliss
28	Recitative	Our duty we performed now
29	Duet	Graceful consort
30	Recitative	O happy pair
31	Chorus with Solos	Sing the Lord, ye voices all

James Southall (Conductor)

James Southall is a conductor, pianist and coach and is currently Music Director of the Opera School at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. He was previously on the staff at Welsh National Opera where he conducted *Madam Butterfly*, *La Traviata*, *Roberto Devereux*, *Carmen*, *Don Giovanni*, *The Magic Flute*, *Così fan tutte*, *Die Fledermaus*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Sweeney Todd* and Frank Martin's *Le Vin Herbé*, amongst others.

James has conducted several leading opera companies and orchestras including English Touring Opera, Sinfonia Cymru, L'orchestra Haydn di Bolzano e Trento, Camerata Nordica and Opéra de Baugé.

James was Organ Scholar at Queens' Cambridge and is an alumnus of the RCM. He is an accomplished pianist and has performed recitals at numerous venues including Wigmore Hall and Cadogan Hall. He is a former winner of the Accompanist's Prize at the Kathleen Ferrier Awards and the Maggie Teyte Competition.

James is delighted to return to the island to work with the Jersey Festival Choir and the St Cecilia Orchestra.



Karla Grant

Karla Grant is a Scottish soprano with a Masters in Vocal Performance and a First-Class Honours Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the RCS while under the tutelage of Wilma MacDougall. Karla is currently based in London and continues her vocal development with Susan Waters.

Most recently, Karla performed the role of *Pamina* in Weimar, Germany at the Lyric Opera Studio in July 2022 and the role of *Sandman* in the Alexander Gibson Opera School's production of *Hänsel und Gretel* in January 2022. In August 2022, Karla performed in the chorus of Beethoven's *Fidelio* with Philharmonia Voices, conducted by Donald Runnicles alongside renowned artist Sir Willard White. Opera scene roles include *Gretel* (*Hänsel und Gretel*, Humperdinck) at a short course with the National Opera Studio, and *Vixen* (*The Cunning Little Vixen*, Janáček), *Giulietta* (*I Capuleti e i Montecchi*,

Bellini), Susanna (Le Nozze di Figaro, Mozart), and Calisto (La Calisto, Cavalli) at the RCS.

Karla was recently awarded First Prize in the Governor's Recital Prize for Singing, and Highly Commended in the Elgar Spedding Memorial Prize for Lieder at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. This year, Karla is an Oxford Lieder Young Artist 2022/23 and Leeds Lieder Festival Young Artist 2022. Karla has had the wonderful opportunity to perform in masterclasses with renowned artists Dame Janet Baker, Dorothea Röschmann, Graham Johnson OBE and Malcolm Martineau.

Karla is proud to work with Live Music Now Scotland as part of 'Vox Duo', a vocal ensemble which she established in 2018. In December of 2021, Vox Duo released a recording of a new composition with Earthtones Trio, which has been broadcast on BBC Radio 4 Woman's Hour.



Seumas Begg

Born in Scotland, tenor Seumas Begg is a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. A versatile performer who has covered a broad range of repertory working for companies in the UK and around Europe.

He has just made his Royal Opera House debut in the world premier of Oliver Leith's opera, Last Days. His further credits include John Yoo The New Prince (Dutch National Opera); Gherardo Gianni Schicchi (Teatro Comunale Triviso); Pony Express Rider La Fanciulla del West and Mendel Fiddler on the Roof (Grange Park Opera); Max Fantasio, Ein Tierhaendler and Kellner 1 Der Rosenkavalier (Garsington Opera); Raoul de St. Brioche The Merry Widow, Goro Madama Butterfly and Fenton Falstaff (Opera Bohemia); and Elijah in the world premiere of Navigate the Blood (NOISE). He also recently made his west end debut as Gloucester, Jamy and Grey in the Donmar Warehouse production of Henry V which was broadcast internationally as part of National Theatre live.

Subsequent roles in his repertoire include Spoletta Tosca; Lippo Fiorentino Street Scene; Brighella Ariadne auf Naxos, Gastone La Traviata, Sailor Dido

and Aeneas; M. Lacouf Mamelles des Tireseas; Monostatos Die Zauberflöte, Ein Soldat Kaiser von Atlantis.



Robert Rice

One of the UK's most versatile baritones, Robert Rice was a choral scholar at King's College, Cambridge before gaining a DipRAM under Mark Wildman. His concert repertoire is extensive and varied: in recent years he has performed Humperdinck at the Berlin Konzerthaus, Bach's St John Passion at the Southern Cathedrals Festival and Howard Goodall at St Paul's Cathedral in London. His main specialism is in works of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries and he has been involved in premières of diverse new pieces throughout his career, those by Jacques Cohen, Paul Drayton, Errolyn Wallen and Hayley Jenkins being notable recent examples. His experience in performing contemporary music led to the creation of roles in stage works by Paul Clark, Judith Bingham and Nigel Osborne. He made his debut at London's South Bank in a staging of Maxwell Davies' Eight Songs for a Mad King. Robert's most recent collaboration, with pianist Elizabeth Mucha, began with the staged recital Art Sung: Alma Mahler (Wilton's Music Hall), and continued in April 2019 with a 20th- and 21st-century English Song recital for York's Late Music series. He also collaborates with guitarist Erich Schachtner in Germany and the UK on programmes of lieder and lute songs.

Robert's solo recordings include Judas in Elgar's The Apostles with Canterbury Choral Society and the Philharmonia Orchestra, and his version of Cornelius' Die Drei Könige (The Three Kings), with the choir Polyphony, is a Christmas radio favourite. His CD of 29 Songs by David Power with Pianist William Vann is shortly to be released. When not performing or recording, he leads workshops, adjudicates, and teaches widely, including for the National Youth Choir, Rodolfus Foundation Choral Courses, King's, Clare and Jesus College Choirs in Cambridge, the choir of King's College, London, and the London Symphony Chorus. Novello have published many of his vocal arrangements, while others are sung worldwide, and have been recorded, by the King's Singers. His nickname, Berty, has confused countless acquaintances, and he often tries to arrange his singing engagements around skiing trips to the Alps, while well aware that it should be the other way around.

Members of the Jersey Festival Choir

Conductor: William Millow

Accompanist: Grace Garnier

Honorary

Mary Devenport
Sue de Gruchy
Rowland Heaven
Pauline de Ste Croix

Elizabeth Farnon
John Le Riche
Bob Barnsley
Audrey Lobb

Cyril Luce
Rose Millow
Roy Picot
Jill Sear

Gentlemen

John Farnon
Bob Godel
Rowland Heaven
Stephen Higginson
Andrew Jelley
Lance Kiddie
Philip Le Brocq

Reg Le Sueur
Terry Le Sueur
William Millow
Nick O'Hare
Hilton Packies
Andrew Picot

Roy Picot
Barry Roche
Ian Simpson
Ric Taylor
Duncan Wilson
Peter Woodall

Ladies

Rachel Andrews
Lesley Aubert
Lana Bang
Ruth Baier-Rolls
Jill Bartholomew
Elizabeth Bayley
Scilla Beck
Alison Bishop
Cinzia Bonardo
Lottee Bonner
Christine Charman
Jeanette Collins
Christine Davies
Chantelle de Gruchy
Sue de Gruchy
Oonagh de Ste Croix
Jean Drydale
Rosemary Fairhurst

Elizabeth Farnon
Cathy Fricker
Iris Fritz
Grace Garnier
Fiona Godel
Janine Graham
Jeane Gruchy
Pam Hainsworth
Kath Hairon
Anne Hamilton
Setara Hamoud
Sue Jones
Rosemarie Langlois
Sally Le Brocq
Catherine Leeson-Payne
Angela Le Sueur
Liz Lister
Lyn Longmuir

Jenny Lort-Phillips
Anne Lucas
Rachel Lucas
Jo Maclachlan
Margaret Marquis
Helen Miles
Ruth Pilkington
Laura Pittman
Sheila Renault
Frances Roberts
Jenny Rogerson
Alison Taylor
Jean Treleven
Clare Twiston Davies
Val Willis
Frances Wilson
Gillian Woodall
Susan Wright

“The St Cecilia Orchestra”

St Cecilia, symbol for the divine power of music.

When the Festival Choir was started in 1955, it developed strong links with the Royal Academy of Music, who would arrange for its orchestra, professor, students of conducting, and soloists to visit Jersey annually to present a weekend of wonderful choral and orchestral concerts in the Island, based at Wesley Grove Methodist Centre. When this partnership came to a natural end, the choir hosted other orchestras including the St Cecilia Orchestra, conducted for many years by John Lobb, grandfather of the choir’s current conductor, and the name of which is retained for the unique orchestra made up annually of local players, supplemented by UK players.

We are delighted to welcome our instrumentalist friends old and new and thank them for their generosity of spirit in giving up their time and talent to support our concert this evening.

VIOLIN

Angela Barnard
Val Brookland
Anna Cavey
Carole Edelenbos
Donna Mitchell
Julie Riley
Kate Le Ruez
Pauline Snarey
Pat Woodsford

VIOLAS

John Asplet
Julius Bannister
Alan Cross
Julie Robinson

CELLO

Graham Boxall
Finn Engelbrecht-Kotze
Martin Marsay

DOUBLE BASS

Peter Ringmore

FLUTE

Helen Reid

OBOE

Sarah Le Fondré

CLARINET

Mim Poingdestre

BASSOON

Nick Hubbard
Mark Risby

HORN

Stuart Lumbard

TRUMPET

Andrew Thomson

TIMPANI

Louise Risby

The Jersey Festival Choir extend their sincere thanks to the following for their help during the past year:

Jersey College Preparatory School

Jersey College for Girls

Jersey Academy of Music

The Rev. Tony Morling, and the St Helier Methodist Centre

Mr Paul Matthews

Ms Nicki Kennedy

Ms Annette Blanchet



It has been our pleasure to support the Jersey Music Association's "Year of Song", which aims to celebrate the power of singing and showcase the incredible depth and breadth of singing in the Island.

For more information about the Association or other Year of Song events please visit: www.jma.org.je

COME AND JOIN US

If you have enjoyed tonight's concert then
why not consider singing with the Choir?

We rehearse on Wednesdays at Jersey College Prep, starting 7.30pm.

For more information please contact our Secretary, Jeane Gruchy:

jeane@gruchy.com

We are a friendly and supportive group, have no auditions
and always welcome newcomers.

FRIENDS OF THE JERSEY FESTIVAL CHOIR

We are very grateful to the Friends whose financial
support makes these concerts possible.

If you would like to become a Friend please contact

Mrs Angela Le Sueur:

amblesueur@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE

**Festival of Carols
St Thomas' Church**

**Wednesday 14th December
8pm**