



Writtle Singers

Registered Charity no 1056334

"A group of people who care about how they sing and not just what they sing."
Ghislaine Morgan, international vocal coach and teacher

Musical Director: Christine Gwynn
Rehearsal Pianist: Caroline Finlay

Soprano: Jane Atkinson, Glyn Buckmaster, Jenny Haxell, Gwendoline Johnston, Abby Morton, Jean Rose, Helen Sismey
Alto: Audrey Cassidy, Josephine Gordon, Sue Hirst, Emma Norton, Frances Quintrell, Sophie Richards, Elizabeth Tiplin
Tenor: Martin Atkinson, Peter Brisley, Graham Frankel, Martin Mason, Graham Reeve
Bass: Clive Beale, John Buckmaster, Martin Clarke, Peter Quintrell, Andrew Taylor

From Michael Gray's Arts Blog review of our recent performance of Gabriel Jackson's *To the Field of Stars*:
An intriguing poetic reflection on pilgrimage and life's journeys, its elusive melodies and rich harmonies beautifully handled by the choir michaelgray.blogspot.co.uk

You can stay in touch with news of Writtle Singers on-line:

- ❖ visit our website www.writtlesingers.org
- ❖ find Writtle Singers on Facebook
- ❖ join our mailing list to be notified of forthcoming events
email info@writtlesingers.org
or ring John Buckmaster on 01992 611711

Laurence Lyndon-Jones Organ



Laurence Lyndon-Jones is Assistant Organist and Director of the Girls' Choir at Chelmsford Cathedral. Before his appointment at Chelmsford, Laurence was Assistant Director of Music at Coventry Cathedral. Laurence has given recitals at numerous venues in Oxford as well as at Chelmsford, Chester, Coventry, Ely, Hereford, Lichfield, Liverpool, St Albans, and St Edmundsbury Cathedrals. He has toured abroad as both a soloist and accompanist, and has played recitals at Würzburg Cathedral, St. Catherine's church in Hamburg, the Frauenkirche in Dresden. In August 2015 Laurence gave a recital at the Festival Europäische Kirchenmusik Schwäbisch Gmünd which was broadcast live on SWR2, and in November appeared as a soloist with the DSO-Berlin at the Berliner Philharmonie. As an orchestral organist, Laurence has performed with Canzona, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the English String Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Southbank Sinfonia. Laurence is also composer of choral music and in 2015 his piece *Rorate Caeli* reached the final of the New Music for St Paul's composition competition. Laurence is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists and an Associate of Trinity College London.

Writtle Singers' next concert

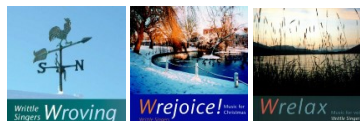
Time Pieces

spanning six centuries - featuring music by Gibbons, Morley, Brahms, Kodaly, Delius, Debussy, Whitacre and Janet Wheeler's *Time becomes a Song*

Saturday 15th July 2017 7:30pm
All Saints' Church, Writtle

Look at our website for more details - www.writtlesingers.org
where concert tickets can also be purchased

Writtle Singers CDs



Wroving music from our travels

Wrejoice! Christmas music

Wrelax soothing music

All three CDs are available to buy tonight, price £7 each
Buy 2 or more CDs for only £5 each

For further copies of our CDs, visit our website
www.writtlesingers.org

Friends of Writtle Singers

We are most grateful to our existing Friends listed below, and to those who wish to remain anonymous, for their continuing support.

Pamela Butt, Keith Byatt, Anne Coverley, Alistair Fiddes,
Heather Gwynn, Brian Marsh, Vera Mason,
Graham Reeve, Pamela Rose, Martin Taylor,
Kath Thompson, Chris Watts, Veronica Watts

For more details of our Friends scheme, please ring Martin Mason on 01277 657774.

We are delighted that **Jenny Haxell** will once again be taking a solo in our concert this evening - a role in which many of you will have seen her during her 19 years with Writtle Singers. This will be Jenny's final appearance (for now, at least!) in the Singers as she and her husband Paul prepare for a new chapter of their lives up in Suffolk. Our thanks go to Jenny for all that she has contributed to the choir, both on and off stage, and to Paul for his marvellous and loyal support at our concerts and our warmest wishes to them both for their next adventures!

Writtle Singers

Conductor: Christine Gwynn

Organ: Laurence Lyndon-Jones



Durufié

Requiem

Langlais

Messe

Solennelle

Saturday 4th March 2017

7:30pm

All Saints' Church, Writtle

Welcome...

Thank you for joining us for this programme of music by great Parisian organists of the twentieth century. We are delighted to be joined by Laurence Lyndon-Jones, Assistant Organist and Director of the Girls' Choir at Chelmsford Cathedral. We hope that you enjoy the evening; we're always pleased to hear any feedback that you may have. Our thanks as ever to the parish priest and churchwardens of All Saints, Writtle and to all who have assisted with the preparation of this concert.

This programme of Parisian music for voices and organ exemplifies a wonderfully fruitful union: that of plainsong — the fundamental musical element of catholic worship, at least until Vatican II — with extraordinary technical developments in French organ building.

In the 19th century, when Anglican worship was built around set-pieces of 4-part choral music, catholic liturgy in France remained focused on the melodies of plainsong upon which the organist would improvise to link and enrich the various sections of the service. The art of the improviser was greatly encouraged and enhanced by the wonderful developments in organ building achieved by the likes of Cavailleé-Coll; so much so that the extended and gloriously colourful improvisations at the conclusion of mass began to be an attraction in themselves!



The Cavailleé-Coll organ in the Basilica Church of Ste-Clotilde

~ PROGRAMME ~

Tu es Petrus

Tantum ergo

from Quatre Motets sur des Thèmes Grégoriens

Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

Saint-Étienne-du-Mont

Tu es Petrus

You are Peter,
and upon this Rock I will build My Church:
and the gates of hell shall not overcome it.
And I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.
Whatever you bind upon earth
shall be bound in heaven,
and whatever you release upon earth
shall be released in heaven,
and I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

Tantum ergo

Therefore so great a Sacrament
let us fall down and worship,
and let the old law
give way to a new rite,
and let faith stand forward
to make good the defects of sense.

To the Father and the Son
be praise and joy,
health, honour and virtue
and blessing,
and to him proceeding from both
be equal praise. Amen.



L'église St-Étienne-du-Mont has stood for many centuries in the 5th arrondissement of Paris, close to the Panthéon. It is noted for the shrine of St Geneviève, patron saint of Paris, as well as the tombs of Blaise Pascal and Jean Racine, not to mention a moment of cinematic fame in the Woody Allen film *Midnight in Paris* when Gil is picked up on the church steps!

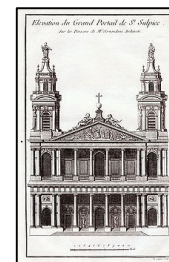
Duruflé held the title of organist at St-Étienne from 1929 until his death in 1986, although his wife Marie-Madeleine covered much of the service playing from 1975 after Maurice suffered severe injuries in a car accident. A highly self-critical composer, Duruflé published relatively few works. The *Quatre Motets sur des Thèmes Grégoriens*, from which we hear tonight *Tu es Petrus* and *Tantum ergo*, were written in 1960; as indicated by the title the motets are each woven around the plainsong associated with the text – miniatures of economy and variety.

O salutaris Marcel Dupré (1886-1971) Saint-Sulpice

O salutaris

O saving victim
who opens the gate of heaven,
hostile wars press on us:
give strength, bring aid.

To the Lord, three in one,
be everlasting glory,
for life without end
he gives us in (his) Kingdom.



The church of Saint-Sulpice is a familiar Paris landmark with its distinctive west façade flanked by two towers – a design inspired by Wren's St Paul's Cathedral in London. It is famous also for the glorious Cavailleé-Coll organ and an extremely impressive role of organists, two of whom, Charles-Marie Widor (in post 1870-1933) and his successor Marcel Dupré (organist up to his death on Whit Sunday 1971) clocked up over a century of duty between them!

Dupré had also served for 20 years as assistant to Widor, during which time he composed a range of music for various instruments and voices whilst building his reputation as an extraordinary improviser and organ virtuoso, the latter cemented by a 1920 recital series in Paris of the complete organ works of J S Bach – from memory! This setting of *O salutaris* is one of four motets composed in 1916, shortly before Dupré focused his composing energies almost entirely on organ music. *O salutaris* is one of the two canticles customarily sung at the traditional catholic service of Benediction, where the congregation is blessed with the reserved sacrament.

Méditation

Maurice Duruflé

Organ solo: Laurence Lyndon-Jones

Méditation, published posthumously, was included in recitals by both Duruflé and his wife Marie-Madeleine.



Messe Solennelle

Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

Sainte-Clotilde



Kyrie ~ Gloria ~ Sanctus ~
Benedictus ~ Agnus Dei

The Basilica church of Ste-Clotilde, with its own famous *Cavailleé-Coll* organ, stands on the Rue las Cases in the Saint-Germain-des-Prés area of Paris. A succession of famous composers has held the post of organist titulaire, notably César Franck (in post 1859-1890) and Charles Tournemire (1898-1939). Langlais became organist at Ste-Clotilde in 1945 in his late thirties, remaining until 1988. Blind from the age of two, Langlais studied at the National Institute for the Young Blind at which he later taught for 40 years. He became renowned as a virtuoso recitalist and improviser and composed primarily for the organ. Steeped in Catholic liturgy and its plainsong roots, his music also revels in the possibilities of the great 19th century French organs. The *Messe Solennelle* reveals, too, the improviser's delight in exploring the potential of plainsong-like themes to generate harmonic, textural and rhythmic contexts of both great energy and exquisite tenderness.

~ INTERVAL ~

Requiem

Maurice Duruflé

Introït ~ Kyrie ~ Domine Jesu Christe ~

Sanctus ~ Pie Jesu *Soloist: Jenny Haxell* ~

Agnus Dei ~ Lux æterna ~ Libera me ~

In Paradisum

The *Requiem*, commissioned by the publisher Durand in 1947, was written in memory of Duruflé's father. Published in 1948, the work is based very clearly on the plainsong of the requiem mass. It both reflects and expands the great Parisian tradition of liturgical organ improvisation as the plainchant-based melodies are woven into wonderfully rich and varied textures. The selection of texts matches that made by Fauré some sixty years earlier and similarly uses a solo female voice for the *Pie Jesu*. As Duruflé preferred, we are using the combined tenor and bass sections for those parts optionally assigned in the score to solo baritone.