

A close-up photograph of pink hellebores flowers in a sunlit garden. The flowers have delicate, layered petals with some yellow centers. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and yellow, suggesting a lush garden setting.

# WrittleSingers

registered charity no: 1056334

Conductor: Christine Gwynn

Organ: Hilary Punnett

# Lighten our darkness

Saturday 12 March 2022

7:30 pm

All Saints Church, Writtle



Welcome to our spring concert,

# Lighten our darkness

We are delighted to be joined by Hilary Punnett, organist of Chelmsford Cathedral. The concert will run continuously with the opportunity to chat and share refreshment at the end. Many of the pieces are gentle and contemplative; you may feel that quietness is the fitting way to signal appreciation. Feel free to reserve any applause for the obvious places!

*Lighten our Darkness* was conceived as a journey from the dark times of winter and lockdown into longer, hopeful days of spring, reflected in words about nature and in music that journeys from Lent to Easter. Little did we imagine the darkness that has descended upon Ukraine and the urgent need for hope and peace.

William Byrd's *Mass for Four Voices* was published in 1592 at a time when Catholics were persecuted in England. All three of Byrd's masses were first sung not in a church or cathedral but a house; Byrd and his wife were regular guests at Ingatestone Hall, home of Lord Petre, where the local recusant Catholics met to worship in secret - counting some very able musicians among their number, one must assume.

The movements of this 'secret' mass are interspersed by motets and organ music spanning some 450 years – and by some 21<sup>st</sup> century reflections on nature.

We are very grateful to the Rev'd Tony Cant and the church wardens of All Saints for their support as we continue to enjoy making music in this beautiful building.

When COVID-19 struck in early 2020, Writtle Singers, along with an estimated 2.2 million amateur choral singers around the country, had to find new ways to meet and rehearse. Initially, we took to our computers and got to grips with the joys of Zoom. A rendition of "Happy Birthday" for one of our basses at our first online rehearsal immediately made it clear that with differing internet speeds, singing together was not an option! But we were able to remind ourselves of old repertoire,



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Musical Director  
Christine Gwynn

**Soprano** Kashi Francis, Sarah Moore, Cathy Pargeter, Catherine Reeve, Jean Rose, Helen Sismey, Ruth Travers, Hilary Walden

**Alto** Audrey Cassidy, Lucy Elwell, Sue Hirst, Emma Norton, Eleanor Oldershaw, Sophie Richards

**Tenor** Alan Flower, Martin Mason, David Miles

**Bass** Peter Brisley, Martin Clarke, Steven Clews, John Cockcroft, Andrew Taylor



*A workshop evening with vocal coach Ghislaine Morgan*

Writtle Singers is a friendly mixed-voice chamber choir. We aim to perform an exciting variety of music to the highest standard and provide enjoyment for both singers and audience. Based in the village of Writtle where we rehearse on Monday evenings in the historic church of All Saints, our members come from all over Essex and beyond. Our repertoire is varied, and recent concerts have included Gabriel Jackson's *To the Field of Stars*, the *Messe Solennelle* by Langlais, and Duruflé's *Requiem*, along with works by composers from Weelkes and Wilbye through to contemporaries such as Janet Wheeler, Matthew Harris, Lisa McMaster and Ola Gjeilo.

Why not come and sing with us? We give a warm welcome to new members. For more information, email [info@writtlesingers.org](mailto:info@writtlesingers.org) or ring 07770 884913.



[www.writtlesingers.org](http://www.writtlesingers.org)



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and begin to learn some new music. And it's fair to say that we also learned a little more about each other's homes, families and cats! As the rules and advice changed (sometimes with baffling logic!) we were able to meet outdoors in the churchyard, and indoors with limited numbers and strict social distancing. All of this happened only because of the dedication of our Musical Director and committee, and thanks to them the choir survives to have the pleasure of performing live for you once again!





## Drop, drop slow tears

words: Phineas Fletcher 1582-1650  
music: Orlando Gibbons 1583-1625

## Mass for Four Voices: Kyrie

William Byrd c.1539/40-1623

Organ solo

## Valediction: Drop, drop slow tears

Arthur Wills 1926-2020

## Jehova, quam multi sunt hostes mei

words: Psalm 3  
music: Henry Purcell 1659-1695

## Reading from *My Garden World*: Snowdrops

Monty Don b.1955

## Mass for Four Voices: Gloria

William Byrd

## *My Garden World*: Violets

Monty Don

## A Prayer of Henry IV

words: King Henry IV 1421-1471  
music: Gabriel Jackson b.1962

## Mass for Four Voices: Credo

William Byrd

## *My Garden World*: Gardens in a time of confinement

Monty Don

## Jesu, grant me this I pray

words: 17th century, tr. H W Baker  
music: Percy Whitlock 1903-1946



Organ solo

## Attende Domine

Jeanne Demessieux 1921-1968

## Mass for Four Voices: Sanctus

William Byrd

## Northern Lights

words: Song of Songs 6:3-4  
music: Ola Gjeilo b.1978

## *My Garden World*: Spring

Monty Don

## Mass for Four Voices: Benedictus

William Byrd

## Third Mode Melody

words: J M Neale 1818-1866  
music: Thomas Tallis 1505-1585

Organ solo

## O Mensch, beweine dein Sünde gross BWV 622

Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750

## Mass for Four Voices: Agnus Dei

William Byrd

## While Christ lay dead

words: Christina Rossetti 1830-1894  
music: Havelock Nelson 1917-1996

## *My Garden World*: Arrival

Monty Don

## Greater love hath no man

words: Song of Songs 8:7&6, John 15:13  
music: John Ireland 1879-1962



# Texts and translations

## Mass for Four Voices

**Kyrie** eleison.  
Christe eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.

**Gloria** in excelsis Deo  
et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.  
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.  
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.  
Gratias agimus tibi  
propter magnam gloriam tuam.  
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,  
Deus Pater omnipotens,  
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.  
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
suscipe deprecationem nostram.  
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,  
miserere nobis.  
Quoniam tu solus sanctus. Tu solus Dominus.  
Tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe.  
Cum Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

**Credo** in unum Deum, Patrem omnipotentem  
factorem caeli et terrae,  
visibilium omnium et invisibilium.  
Et in unum Dominum Jesum Christum,  
Filius Dei unigenitum.  
Et ex Patre natus ante omnia saecula.  
Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine,  
Deum verum de Deo vero.  
Genitum, non factum, consubstantialem Patri:  
per quem omnia facta sunt.  
Qui propter nos homines  
et propter nostram salutem  
descendit de caelis.  
Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto  
ex Maria virgine:  
Et homo factus est.  
Crucifixus etiam pro nobis:  
sub Pontio Pilato passus et sepultus est.  
Et resurrexit tertia die  
secundum scripturas.  
Et ascendit in caelum:  
sedet ad dexteram Patris.  
Et iterum venturus est cum gloria  
iudicare vivos et mortuos:  
cuius regni non erit finis.  
Et in Spiritum Sanctum, Dominum et vivificantem:  
qui ex Patre Filioque procedit.  
Qui cum Patre et Filio simul  
adoratur et conglorificatur;  
qui locutus est per Prophetas.

*Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.*

*Glory to God in the highest  
and on earth peace to men of goodwill.  
We praise you. We bless you.  
We worship you. We glorify you.  
We give thanks to you  
for your great glory.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God the Father,  
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.  
You take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
You take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
You sit at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.  
For you only are holy. You only are the Lord.  
You only are the most high, Jesus Christ.  
With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

*I believe in one God, the Father, the almighty  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is seen and unseen.  
I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only begotten Son of God.  
Eternally begotten of the Father.  
God from God, light from light,  
true God from true God.  
Begotten not made, of one being with the Father:  
through him all things were made.  
For us men  
and for our salvation,  
he came down from heaven.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate of the virgin Mary:  
And was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified:  
under Pontius Pilate he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven:  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He shall come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead:  
and his kingdom shall have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and the giver of life:  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son  
he is worshipped and glorified;  
he has spoken through the Prophets.*

Et unam sanctam catholicam  
et apostolicam Ecclesiam.  
Confiteor unum baptisma  
in remissionem peccatorum.  
Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum.  
Et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen.

**Sanctus**, sanctus, sanctus,  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.  
Osanna in excelsis.

**Benedictus** qui venit in nomine Domini.  
Osanna in excelsis.

**Agnus Dei**, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
dona nobis pacem.

## Jehova, quam multi sunt hostes mei.

Quam multi insurgunt contra mei.  
Quam multi dicunt de anima mea,  
Non est ulla salus isti in Deo plane.  
At tu, Jehova, clypeus es circa me;  
Gloria mea, et extollens caput meum.  
Voce mea ad Jehovah clamanti,  
Respondit mihi e monte sanctitatis suae maximae.  
Ego cubui et dormivi; ego expergefeci me;  
Quia Jehova sustentat me.  
Non timebo a myriadibus populi,  
Quas circum disposuerint metatores contra me.  
Surge, surge Jehova; fac salvum me deus mi;  
Qui percussisti  
omnes inimicos meos maxillam,  
Dentes improborum confregisti.  
Jehova est salus: super populum tuum,  
Sit benedictio tua maxime.

## A Prayer of King Henry IV

Domine Jesu Christe,  
qui me creasti, redemisti,  
et praeordinasti ad hoc quod sum,  
tu scis quid de me facere vis;  
fac de me secundum voluntatem tuam,  
cum misericordia. Amen.

## Northern Lights

Pulchra es amica mea,  
suavis et decora filia Jerusalem,  
terribilis ut castrorum acies ordinata.  
Averte oculos tuos a me  
quia ipsi me avolare fecerunt.

*I believe in one holy, catholic  
and apostolic Church.  
I acknowledge one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
And I look for the resurrection of the dead.  
And the life of the world to come. Amen.*

*Holy, holy, holy,  
Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.*

*Lord how are they increased that trouble me.  
Many are they that rise up against me.  
Many there be which say of my soul,  
There is no help for him in God.  
But thou, O Lord, are a shield for me;  
My glory, and the lifter up of my head.  
I cried unto the Lord with my voice,  
And he heard me out of his holy hill.  
I laid me down and slept; I awaked;  
For the Lord sustained me.  
I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people  
That have set themselves against me round about.  
Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God:  
For thou hast smitten  
all mine enemies upon the cheek-bone;  
Thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.  
Salvation belongeth unto the Lord:  
Thy blessing is upon thy people.*

*Lord Jesus Christ,  
who didst create me, and redeem me,  
and hast foreordained me to that which I am.  
Thou knowest what thou wilt do with me;  
do with me according to thy will,  
and show me thy mercy Lord. Amen.*

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



## Forthcoming Events from Writtle Singers

### Open Rehearsal

Monday 28 March 2022 7:30pm  
featuring Alan Bullard's *A Summer Garland*  
and other music for our summer concert

## A Summer Garland

Saturday 2 July 2022

Music for a summer's evening,  
including *A Summer Garland* by Alan Bullard

### Autumn Concert

Sunday 16 October 2022

### Candlelit Carol Concert

Sunday 11 December 2022

all at All Saints Church, Writtle

Look at our website for more details -

[www.writtlesingers.org](http://www.writtlesingers.org)

where concert tickets can also be purchased

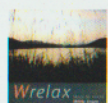
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All three CDs are  
available to buy tonight,  
price £7 each  
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## Friends of Writtle Singers

We are most grateful for the continuing support of our Friends:

Pamela Butt, Keith Byatt, Alistair Fiddes, Heather Gwynn, Jenny Haxell,  
Brian Marsh, Graham Reeve, Paul Tarrant, Liz Tiplin

*Have you considered becoming a Friend of Writtle Singers?*

Benefits of our Friends scheme include:

>>> a free ticket to each of our concerts <<<

>>> a discount on further tickets <<<

>>> invitations to social events and workshops <<<

>>> optional acknowledgement in our programmes <<<

For more details of our Friends scheme, please ring John Cockcroft on 07380 221115.