



# ***NORTHAM CHORAL SOCIETY***



*accompanied by*

***HARTLAND CHAMBER ORCHESTRA***

*present*

## ***A Spring Concert***

***Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.30pm  
in the Baptist Church, Westward Ho!***

***Musical Director***

***Malcolm Pike***

***Organ/Piano***

***Chris Beechey***

***Admission: £10.00***

***Children and students free***

***Interval refreshments included***

***Supported by Bideford Bridge Trust  
and Bideford Town Council***

***Northam Choral Society wishes to thank the Baptist Church  
for kind permission to use their church for our concert***

***A retiring collection will be held for the Choir's chosen charity,  
Northern Devon Foodbank***

**HMRC Charity Number XT18388**

**[www.northamchoral.org.uk](http://www.northamchoral.org.uk)**

## ***PROGRAMME***

<b><i>PART 1</i></b>	
<b><i>Overture to ‘Olympie’</i></b>	<b><i>J M Kraus</i></b>
<b><i>Te Deum in D</i></b>	<b><i>W A Mozart</i></b>
<b><i>Judex Ergo (from Requiem)</i></b>	<b><i>G D M Donizetti</i></b>
<b><i>Gloria</i></b>	<b><i>A L Vivaldi</i></b>

## ***INTERVAL & REFRESHMENTS***

<b><i>PART 2</i></b>	
<b><i>Te Deum in D</i></b>	<b><i>B Galuppi</i></b>
<b><i>Crossing the Bar</i></b>	<b><i>M S Pike</i></b>
<b><i>Requiem</i></b>	<b><i>J M Nunes Garcia</i></b>

## ***PROGRAMME NOTES***

Much of our concert this evening centres around the theme of “Praise to God”.

### ***PART 1***

#### **J.M. Kraus (1756-1792) Overture to “Olympie”**

Joseph Martin Kraus (1756-1792) was a German-born classical composer, writer and poet. He moved to Sweden aged 21 and died in Stockholm when only 36, giving him a life strikingly similar to his contemporary, Mozart. In Sweden he wrote choral music for the local church before gaining a position at the court of King Gustav III. After three hard years the King finally commissioned an opera from him and, after its success, he was promoted to Vice Kappelmeister of the Royal Swedish Opera. The King then sent him on a five-year tour of Europe where he met many notable composers including Gluck and Haydn. He also became a member of the same Masonic Lodge as Mozart.

In 1792 he wrote an overture and incidental music for a production of Voltaire’s play, “Olympie”. This overture follows the usual form of three short sections (slow-fast-slow) and there is much dramatic contrast to be heard!

### **W.A. Mozart (1756-1791) Te Deum in D**

Born in Salzburg Mozart's exceptional ability appeared very early and by the age of five he was already composing and giving concerts on the keyboard and violin. His father, Leopold, took him on many trips throughout Europe where his fame was legendary in the courts. Always restless, he left his Salzburg court position aged seventeen and travelled to Vienna in search of a more lucrative post. Here he found fame but very little financial security despite writing most of his best-remembered symphonies, concertos and operas whilst there.

Considering his prolific musical output it is surprising that Mozart only wrote one setting of the Te Deum (We praise thee, O God). Probably written in 1769, when he was nineteen, the earliest set of parts called for 2 clarini (high trumpets) or oboes, two trumpets and strings with bassoon doubling the bass part. The timpani part was lost and is here reconstructed. The three sections are fast-slow-fast.

### **G. Donizetti (1797-1848) Judex Ergo from Requiem in D minor (1935)**

Gaetano Donizetti was an Italian romantic composer best known for writing nearly seventy operas! He showed talent at an early age and was given a full musical education at school before entering Bologna University. Here he produced his first opera aged nineteen and in 1832 he was invited by the impresario of the Teatro di San Carlo in Naples to take up residency there. He stayed for twenty-two years producing fifty one operas!

The Requiem was written to commemorate the death of his friend Bellini. The lovely duet "Judex ergo" for tenor and bass tells us "Before the judge all hidden things must appear plain".

### **A.L.Vivaldi (1678-1741) Gloria (Glory to God in the Highest)**

Vivaldi was born in Venice. His father, a professional violinist, taught him from an early age and toured Venice giving concerts with his son. Aged fifteen, Antonio began studies for the priesthood, and he was ordained in 1703. Because of his red hair he quickly acquired the nickname of "the red priest"! In the same year he became Master of the Violin at an orphanage called Pio Ospedale della Pieta. He soon became Master of Music and, over the next thirty years, wrote over five hundred concertos for the children as well as about forty operas and a large body of choral music.

The well-loved "Gloria" was written around 1715 and is scored for soprano and alto soloists, chorus, oboe, trumpet, strings, and keyboard continuo. There are twelve short sections.

## ***PART 2***

### **B. Galuppi (1706-1785)      Te Deum in D**

We begin our second half with another Te Deum, this time by Baldassare Galuppi. Galuppi was an Italian composer spending most of his life in Venice but he achieved international success after trips to Vienna, London and St. Petersburg. He is best known for his operas, mostly in the “giocosso” (jolly) style and he became known as “father of the comic opera”. He was also a virtuoso keyboard player. Whilst Maestro di Capella at the Doge’s chapel in St. Mark’s Basilica, he wrote a large number of sacred choral works, including fifty-two masses!

The Te Deum No.2 in D which we perform this evening is scored for two oboes, two horns, strings and keyboard continuo. The three sections, as with the Mozart, are fast-slow-fast.

### **M.S. Pike (b.1950)      Crossing the Bar**

Our Musical Director wrote this piece last year with John, our bass soloist, in mind. The poem “Crossing the Bar” by Alfred Lord Tennyson is one of his favourites and it is thought Tennyson was staying by the coast when he wrote it. In it he compares death with crossing the barrier between the river of life and the deep ocean of endless sleep; hence the several references to water. The Pilot in the last verse refers to God.

The music for tenor, bass, two oboes and strings ripples gently throughout, alternating between major and minor keys before reaching its final happy and peaceful “crossing” in the major key.

#### ***Crossing The Bar***

Sunset and evening star, and one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar, when I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep, too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell, and after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell, when I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place the flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face when I have crossed the bar.

### **J.M. Nunes Garcia (1767-1830)      Requiem in D Minor (1816)**

Jose Mauricio Nunes Garcia was a Brazilian classical composer. Born in Rio de Janeiro he was raised by his mother and an aunt. He, too, showed early musical talent. By the age of twelve he was teaching music to “society ladies” having become a fine harpsichord and guitar player by teaching himself! He took Holy Orders in 1797 and enjoyed a period of intense composition of mostly sacred choral pieces. In 1808 he

became Master of Music at the Royal Chapel and continued to produce much sacred music until his death.

His Requiem (Mass for the Dead) of 1816 employs four soloists, choir and orchestra. There are eleven short sections.

## ***Our Soloists***

### ***Soprano - Tina Gibbons***

*Tina has sung in choirs and vocal groups from a very early age, but never thought of herself as a 'serious' soloist until much later, and certainly not as a soprano. She lived in Hertfordshire for many years, took singing lessons and coaching with Neil MacKenzie, a member of the BBC Singers, and sang with several amateur choirs and societies, both as chorister and soloist, often performing with them in London at The South Bank Centre, the Barbican and at the Royal Albert Hall, and in venues in France, Italy and Spain.*

*Since relocating to North Devon, Tina has been kept busy as soloist with local choirs in the Nelson, St Nicholas and Maria Theresa masses by Haydn, in Vivaldi's Gloria, Handel's Messiah, Purcell's King Arthur and, last year, as Yum Yum in Gilbert & Sullivan's The Mikado with South Molton Singers, with whom she sings regularly. She is always happy to give recitals and lunchtime fund-raising concerts locally, and is currently preparing new programmes of music for recitals this summer, plus the role of Gianetta in Gilbert & Sullivan's The Gondoliers to be performed in May. She is very pleased to be asked to sing again with Northam Choral Society in this exciting Spring concert.*

### ***Alto - Rebecca Smith***

*Rebecca Smith graduated from Trinity College of Music where she won many prizes and awards. Operatic roles vary from Dido in Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, to Jocaste in Oedipus Rex, Stravinsky, and 'The Traveller' in the premier of the opera, 'Victory over the Sun' by Jeremy Arden performed at the Barbican.*

*She was a member of Glyndebourne Festival Chorus and Touring Opera for several seasons, touring also to Paris. She has sung at the Purcell Room, London with the Company of Singers and Players to critical acclaim, at the Festival Hall, at several BBC Promenade concerts at the Albert Hall, and other venues such as the British Embassy, Brussels, St George's, Wigmore Hall, St Martin's-in-the -Fields and Exeter and Truro Cathedrals.*

*Recordings include Handel's Italian Duets and Arias and the premier of Isabella and the Pot of Basil by Laurence Roman.*

*Since moving to Devon Rebecca teaches privately and adjudicates in competitions, as well as continuing to perform. Future engagements include, Mozart's Coronation Mass, Constant Lambert's The Rio Grande, John Rutter's Feel the Sprit, Saint Saens*

*Christmas Oratorio, Charpentier's Messe de Minuit and Elijah by Mendelssohn and performances with Staircase Opera.*

### **Tenor – Les Baker**

*Les Baker trained as a Quirister at Winchester College and as a Choral Scholar at Cambridge where he gained a Music degree. He taught music at Felsted School in Essex and at Colyton Grammar School in Devon. He has also had many woodwind and singing pupils and spent some years as a peripatetic teacher in East Devon. As an opera singer he has sung with companies in Essex and Devon taking leading tenor roles in works by Handel, Mozart, Donizetti, Rossini, Bizet, Lehar, Britten, Sullivan and others. He has an extensive oratorio repertoire and regularly performs with many Choirs and Choral Societies in the South West. He also gives concerts and recitals both singing and playing the clarinet and has conducted several local choral and dramatic societies. He has recently retired from teaching and now concentrates on performing and conducting.*

### **Bass - John Hobbs**

*John Hobbs has played the piano and sung since early school days in his native Warwickshire. Singing became even more central to his career when he was awarded a Choral Exhibition, at the age of 17, to assist his studies at Christ's College, Cambridge. After settling in North Devon in 1964, he began dairy farming whilst concurrently developing a singing career, which has led him to perform an extensive repertoire of oratorio, lieder and songs with many choral and music societies. A move into Cornwall, in 1968, saw him pick up the baton for the first time and become the Conductor of Bude Choral Society, a post he has held since, apart from a gap of five years when he moved back over the border into Devon in 1981 when he also became organist of Holy Trinity Church, Weare Giffard, near Bideford. His farming career was interrupted by a twenty year term as Director of Music at St Petroc's School, Bude during which period he became the Conductor of the North Devon Choral Society in 1992 and joined the Duchy Opera Company for which he has performed a large number of principal baritone roles. Now retired from farming, he fills his time with music and gardening at his home in the lovely North Devon countryside.*

### **Musical Director - Malcolm Pike**

*Malcolm was educated at Eton College Choir School and City of London school for Boys before embarking on his musical career, firstly at the Royal Academy of Music and subsequently at King's College, London University from where he graduated. He then enjoyed a fruitful year at Reading University doing his PGCE but spending much of his time arranging and conducting concerts!*

*He was appointed Director of Music at Pierrepont School in Surrey in 1973 and was for many years Musical Director of Farnham Operatic Society and Opera Omnibus in Haslemere. He also ran his own choir and composed for the staff and students.*



*He moved to Westonbirt School for Girls in Gloucestershire in 1992 and his Chapel Choir appeared on television and gave regular public concerts. An accident in 2004 led to him being granted early retirement and in 2005 he retired to West Wales where he ran a chamber choir and for several years conducted the Teifi Chamber Orchestra in Cardigan.*

*In the summer of 2015 Malcolm moved to Bradworthy and for three years was the Musical Director of Torridge Male Voice Choir before joining Northam Choral Society in 2019.*

### **Organ /Piano - Chris Beechey**

*Chris recently retired from teaching after thirty-four years at Grenville College/Kingsley School. In that time he held various posts from Head of History, Housemaster and Head of Performance. In 2017 his School Choir at Kingsley won the title Devon Schools' Choir of the Year. He studied the organ at Lancaster University with Ian Hare as part of his first degree and has been Organist and Director of Music of a number of parish churches. He took over the post at St. Mary's Bideford in March 2020.*

### **Hartland Chamber Orchestra**

*Hartland Chamber Orchestra was founded circa 1992 by Colin Hodgetts, then Head Teacher at The Small School in Hartland and on several occasions acting Clergy for St Nectan's, Stoke. As I recall about 12 of us gathered, at this time of the year, to put together a concert for St Nectan's "One Week in Summer" music festival that July. Our musical diet was mainly Baroque with a lot of Telemann Tafelmusik. Over the years our numbers have grown to over 20 and our repertoire spread through the Classical era and into the Romantic.*

*When Colin left Hartland for a post in Ethiopia, our French horn player, Tim Body, stepped up to take the baton. Then after several successful years with Malcolm Woodcock, we found ourselves again enjoying Tim's expert leadership, although he always said he would rather play! He got his wish last September, when Dave Richards, a conductor, arranger, and trumpet player agreed to become our Musical Director and since then Dave has directed us through some well-received concerts.*

*We have accompanied Northam Choral Society for many years and are delighted to take part in their Spring Concert. Our leader this evening is Hilary Littlewood.*

### **Northam Choral Society**

*An article in the North Devon Journal of 17th November 1859 shows that a Choral Society was formed 'for the practice of good secular and sacred music' to complement an evening school opened by the vicar. The society comprised the village choir and young men and women who could 'sing by note'. Today's choir is still open to those who can sing by note - although no audition is required - and concerts are given twice*

*a year. New members are always welcome and anyone who enjoys singing may come along to St Mary's Church, Bideford, where we are currently rehearsing, on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm. Our autumn rehearsals will resume on 5th September 2023.*

### ***Retiring collection – Northern Devon Foodbank***

*The Northern Devon Foodbank is a locally funded charity covering the districts of North Devon and Torridge. The foodbank supplies food to anyone in need using a voucher system. Local people have access to over 200 frontline referral agencies who can issue vouchers for their clients and who help them to resolve the underlying need.*

### ***Members of the choir singing this evening are:***

#### ***Soprano***

*Gill Abbott  
Elizabeth Backway  
Mo Channon  
Wendy Chiles*

*Thelma Clarke  
Janet Elliott  
Rachael Hutchings \*\*  
Margaret Murray-Palmer*

*Jackie Page  
Jenny Thurston  
Sue Ticehurst*

#### ***Alto***

*Sue Chope  
Margaret Cracknell  
Ro Day  
Lucy Giddy*

*Christine Holmes  
Helen Holwill  
Ann Humpris  
Jane Kivlin  
Heather Laugharne*

*Jean Ley  
Anne McKiernan  
Jen Mills  
Jeannie Smith  
Di Warmington*

#### ***Tenor***

*Sarah Battams  
Graham Hill*

*Clarice Harwood  
Gilbert Csecs*

#### ***Bass***

*Geoff Abbott  
Michael Crouch*

*Michael Elliott  
Peter Goodall*

*Tony Nicholls*

#### ***Rehearsal Pianists***

*Chris and Pam Beechey*

*\*\* Soprano duet*

***Thank you for supporting us this evening.***

***Our next concert will be our annual Carol Concert on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023 in St Mary's Church, Bideford.***

***We hope you will join us for this festive occasion.***

**If you are interested in joining the Society, feel free to contact the Chairman, Michael Elliott [michaelandjanet.elliott@gmail.com](mailto:michaelandjanet.elliott@gmail.com)**