



# ***NORTHAM CHORAL SOCIETY***



*accompanied by*

***HARTLAND CHAMBER ORCHESTRA***

*present*

## ***A Spring Concert***

***Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.00pm  
in the Baptist Church, Westward Ho!***

<b><i>Musical Director</i></b>	<b><i>Malcolm Pike</i></b>
<b><i>Organ/Piano</i></b>	<b><i>Chris Beechey</i></b>

***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,  
Children's Hospice South West*

HMRC Charity Number XT18388

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

# ***PROGRAMME***

<b><i>PART 1</i></b>	
<b><i>The King shall rejoice</i></b>	<b><i>G F Handel</i></b>
<b><i>Symphony No. 8</i></b>	<b><i>W Boyce</i></b>
<b><i>Come Ye Sons of Art Away</i></b>	<b><i>H Purcell</i></b>

## ***INTERVAL & REFRESHMENTS***

<b><i>PART 2</i></b>	
<b><i>My Heart is Inditing</i></b>	<b><i>G F Handel</i></b>
<b><i>Concerto for Oboe and Violin</i></b>	<b><i>J S Bach</i></b>
<b><i>Let Thy Hand be Strengthened</i></b>	<b><i>G F Handel</i></b>
<b><i>Lament and Chorus from Dido and Aeneas</i></b>	<b><i>H Purcell</i></b>
<b><i>Zadok the Priest</i></b>	<b><i>G F Handel</i></b>

# ***PROGRAMME NOTES***

## ***PART 1***

### **Four Coronation Anthems: Handel**

George Frideric Handel (1695-1759) was a German-British composer, organist and violinist. After university he spent three years in Italy before becoming Kapellmeister in Hanover in 1710. In 1712 he moved to London, where opera was all the rage, and never left. He wrote over forty operas before the public grew less enchanted with opera, so he turned his hand to oratorios and other church music with great success.

The four coronation anthems were set to texts from the King James bible, which Handel chose, and were commissioned for the coronation of George II in 1727. George I had granted Handel an “act of naturalisation” shortly before his death and these were his first works as a British citizen. All four were performed during the service, the last, “Let thy hand be strengthened” was sung during the coronation of Queen Caroline. The “grandness” of the occasion was celebrated by over one hundred players and the Chapel Royal Choir was augmented by forty seven singers!

We begin our evening with “**The King shall rejoice**” which uses Psalm 21 for its text. There are four sections, the first with lots of quaver movement and the second being slower and gentler using dotted rhythms. After a short choral fanfare the third section goes into the minor key and is fugal, before a final contrapuntal “Alleluia” ends the piece triumphantly.

### **Symphony Number 8: William Boyce**

William Boyce (1710-1779) was another English organist and composer. Born in London he was a choir-boy at St. Paul’s Cathedral before being appointed “Master of the King’s Musick” in 1757 and organist of the Chapel Royal a year later. Like all our composers this evening he wrote much in all genres including eight symphonies published in 1760. Number 8 is scored for two oboes (with two recorders in the second section), strings and continuo. After a slow introduction there is a lively double fugue (where two tunes are developed at the same time) followed by a few slow bars before an elegant Gavotte dance movement brings the symphony to a close.

## **Come ye Sons of Art away: Henry Purcell**

Henry Purcell (1659-1695) was another London-based English composer and organist. He was a Chapel Royal treble, “Keeper of the King’s instruments”, organ tuner, copier and Organist of Westminster Abbey. He wrote in every genre including the theatre. “Come Ye Sons of Art” is also known as “Ode for Queen Mary’s Birthday”. Purcell wrote it in 1694 and it is the last of six he wrote for Queen Mary II, wife of William III. The score uses recorders, oboes, trumpets, strings and continuo. There are nine sections:

- |                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Overture                  | 6. Bass Solo with Chorus          |
| 2. Alto Solo with Chorus     | 7. Soprano Solo with Oboe         |
| 3. Duet for Soprano and Alto | 8. Bass Solo                      |
| 4. Chorus                    | 9. Duet for Soprano and Bass with |
| 5. Alto Solo with Recorders  | Chorus                            |

## ***~ INTERVAL & REFRESHMENTS ~***

### ***PART 2***

## **My Heart is Inditing: Handel**

This second anthem has Psalm 45 and the Book of Isaiah as its text. There are four sections. Unusually all three opening movements are marked “Andante”, a leisurely pace. The first is stately, the second more florid and the third gentle with rippling dotted rhythms. The last section is fast and grandiose.

## **Concerto for Oboe and Violin: Bach**

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) was a German composer, organist and violinist. He held various court positions notably as Kapellmeister in Cothen, where he wrote much of his instrumental music, and, for many years, as Cantor in Leipzig where choral music was his main concern. His keyboard and organ music is still much in use today. Which keyboard player hasn’t dabbled in the “Forty Eight Preludes and Fugues”! The Concerto in D minor for Oboe and Violin is thought to have originated in the early 1720s but the manuscript is lost. Bach later arranged it as a concerto for two harpsichords in the 1730s. There are the usual three movements. The first is quick with much interplay between the soloists; the second is slow and lyrical and the finale is a dance-like Allegro.

## **Let thy Hand be Strengthened: Handel**

Psalm 89 provides the words for this anthem. The three sections contrast in key, texture and mood. The first is chordal and full of pomp, the second calm and quiet and the final section is a joyful “Alleluia” which intersperses chordal and contrapuntal textures.

## **Lament and Chorus: Purcell**

“Dido and Aeneas” is Purcell’s only true opera as it has no spoken dialogue. The story tells of the love of Dido, Queen of Carthage, and Aeneas, a Trojan hero, and her ultimate despair when he leaves her. This well-loved recitative, aria and chorus ends the piece.

## **Zadok the Priest: Handel**

“Zadok” has been sung at every coronation since its composition and tells of the anointing of Solomon by the priest Zadok. It is scored for oboes, trumpets and strings with the violins, unusually, divided into three parts. The three short movements consist of a grand chordal opening, a jaunty second section and the third, “God save the King”, a florid, triumphant and ceremonial finale with “Amens”.

### ***Our Soloists***

#### ***Soprano - Rachael Hutchins***

*Rachael has known Malcolm, our Musical Director, since she was born! Having a father who was a music teacher meant her love of singing and all things musical began at a very young age. Before having her daughter 4 years ago and becoming a stay-at-home mum, Rachael worked in church administration and is married to a Reverend, which is what brought her and her family to Devon. While most of her singing these days is contemporary worship music, Rachael loves opportunities to go back to her roots and sing beautiful choral music.*

#### ***Alto - Jeannie Smith***

*Jeannie was born in Manchester and lived in Cheshire until her family moved to Northam 26 years ago. She worked as a physiotherapist in North Devon until her retirement last year. Jeannie joined Northam Choral Society about 12 years ago due to her love of choral music. Initially, she wasn't sure if she could sing well enough so visited a singing teacher who helped her realise that she could hold a tune quite well! Since then, she has sung a few solo parts with the choir, her favourite being 'The Armed Man'*

by Karl Jenkins. Jeannie was also the first winner of 'Bideford's got Talent', a rare accolade indeed!

### **Baritone - Iain Wicks**

Iain started singing next to his mum at the piano aged about 5. They still sing together now in the Northam Choral Society. Iain was a chorister at Chichester Cathedral from 1975-1980 and has continued to sing in various choirs ever since, including at the University of London (UCL), the Middle Temple, and Vox Cordis. In 2020 Iain sang the role of Judas in the Bach Matthew Passion at a charity performance by Vox Cordis on behalf of the Charlie Waller Charity accompanied by a professional orchestra including members of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment amongst other professionals who gave their services for free. Iain joined the Northam Choral Society on his return to live in Devon in 2021.

### **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 Pierrepoint 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. He and his wife, Pam, have accompanied Northam Choral Society since 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. Now after several successful years with Malcolm Woodcock we find ourselves again enjoying Tim's expert leadership (although he says 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 currently rehearse, on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm. Our rehearsals for the Autumn term will resume on 3rd September 2024.*

## ***Nominated Charity***

*Our chosen charity needs no introduction. Children's Hospice South West is a wonderful organisation that provides palliative, respite, end of life and bereavement care for life-limited and terminally ill children and their families in the south west of England. It oversees three of the 41 children's hospices in the United Kingdom. Little Bridge House at Fremington serves the Devon area and has eight child-friendly bedrooms and a range of vital facilities for children and families dealing with some of the most difficult emotional challenges in life.*

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

### ***Soprano***

<i>Gill Abbott</i>	<i>Mary Dendle</i>	<i>Jackie Page</i>
<i>Sally Anderson</i>	<i>Janet Elliott</i>	<i>Sue Ticehurst</i>
<i>Mo Channon</i>	<i>Rachael Hutchins</i>	<i>Sylvia West</i>
<i>Wendy Chiles</i>	<i>Marian Jones</i>	<i>Janet Wicks</i>

### ***Alto***

<i>Sue Chope</i>	<i>Ann Humphris</i>	<i>Anne McKiernan</i>
<i>Margaret Cracknell</i>	<i>Jane Kivlin</i>	<i>Jen Mills</i>
<i>Lucy Giddy</i>	<i>Heather Laugharne</i>	<i>Jeannie Smith</i>
<i>Christine Holmes</i>	<i>Jean Ley</i>	<i>Di Warmington</i>
		<i>Cathy Whaley</i>

### ***Tenor***

<i>Melanie Beckett-Gregg</i>	<i>Donato Luongo</i>
<i>Graham Hill</i>	<i>Iain Wicks</i>

### ***Bass***

<i>Geoff Abbott</i>	<i>Peter Goodall</i>	<i>Stephen Jarvis</i>
<i>Michael Elliott</i>	<i>John Hobbs</i>	<i>Tony Nicholls</i>
	<i>John Humphris</i>	

### ***Rehearsal Pianists***

*Chris and Pam Beechey*

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

***Our next concert will be our annual Carol Concert on***

***17 December 2024 in St Mary's Church, Bideford.***

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