



NORTHAM CHORAL SOCIETY



with the

HARTLAND CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

present

A Spring Concert

***Saturday 26th April 2025 at 7.00pm
in the Baptist Church, Westward Ho!***

<i>Musical Director</i>	<i>Malcolm Pike</i>
<i>Orchestra Leader</i>	<i>Hilary Littlewood</i>
<i>Organ/Piano</i>	<i>Chris Beechey</i>

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 Holiday Foundation North Devon***

HMRC Charity Number XT18388

www.northamchoral.org.uk

PROGRAMME

<i>PART 1</i>	
<i>Cantique de Jean Racine</i>	<i>G U Fauré</i>
<i>Symphony No. 31 ('Paris')</i>	<i>W A Mozart</i>
<i>Grant Them Rest: An English Requiem</i>	<i>M S Pike</i>

INTERVAL & REFRESHMENTS

<i>PART 2</i>	
<i>Wind Quintet in G Minor</i>	<i>F I Danzi</i>
<i>Mass in D Opus 111</i>	<i>J N Hummel</i>

PROGRAMME NOTES

PART 1

Cantique de Jean Racine

Gabriel Urbain Fauré was a French composer, organist, pianist and teacher. Showing great talent from a young age he was sent to the Ecole Niedermeyer Music College in Paris, where he was taught by Saint-Saens. They became life-long friends and Saint-Saens championed much of his work. The “Cantique de Jean Racine” Op.11 (1865) is a short composition for choir and keyboard by the then nineteen-year-old. The text is a paraphrase by Jean Racine (1639-1699), the famous French dramatist, of a Latin hymn from the Matins service and it asks God for his guidance and protection. Faure wrote the music for a school competition and, unsurprisingly, it won the prize. It was first performed in 1866 in a version for choir, strings and organ. Our arrangement this evening is for choir, strings and wind quintet. The lovely tranquil music is mostly chordal with a gentle triplet accompaniment.

Symphony No. 31 (‘Paris’)

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 name became legendary in the courts. Always restless he left his Salzburg court position aged seventeen and travelled to Vienna in search of a more lucrative position. Here he found fame but very little financial security despite writing most of his best-remembered symphonies, concertos and operas whilst there.

His Symphony No. 31 was composed in Paris in 1778 while he was, unsuccessfully, job-hunting. The first public performance took place at the “Concert Spirituel” and received very positive reviews. Unusually, Mozart uses an augmented orchestra to include clarinets. This is the first time he had used clarinets in a symphony and shows the larger forces available to him there. There are three movements, fast-slow-fast, omitting the customary Minuet.

Grant Them Rest: An English Requiem

Our Musical Director composed this piece for us last summer. He writes, “Musical settings of the Requiem are traditionally variable in content. I chose to set eight short sections from the Roman Catholic Mass for the Souls of the Dead and then added a “Credo”. The piece is written specifically for the forces on stage this evening and the music varies in style and speed according to the text. I couldn’t resist a lowly nod to Bach and Handel in the “Libera me,” which is a pastiche in fugal form.” The nine short movements are:

- 1. Grant them rest (Requiem aeternam)*
- 2. Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*
- 3. Day of Anger (Dies irae)*
- 4. I believe in one God (Credo in unum deum)*
- 5. Day of sorrow (Lacrymosa)*
- 6. Holy, holy, holy Lord (Sanctus/Benedictus)*
- 7. O Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)*
- 8. Deliver me O Lord (Libera me)*
- 9. May the angels guide you (In Paradisum)*

~ INTERVAL & REFRESHMENTS ~

PART 2

Wind Quintet in G Minor

Franz Ignaz Danzi (1763-1826) was a German cellist, composer and conductor. He knew Mozart, was a contemporary of Beethoven and was mentor to the young Carl Maria Von Weber, whose music he promoted. His father was principal cellist in the Mannheim Orchestra which moved to Munich in 1778. Danzi took over his father’s position in 1784 before becoming Kapellmeister in 1798. In 1807, disillusioned with Munich, he moved to the Stuttgart court of King Frederick 1 before entering his final position in the Royal Konservatorium in Karlsruhe in 1812.

He is best remembered today for his woodwind quintets but he also wrote operas, church music, chamber pieces and orchestral works. The quintet you are hearing this evening, played by “Wayward Winds”, the orchestra’s

wind section (who give regular concerts in their own right) has four short movements: *Allegretto – Andante – Minuetto – Allegretto*.

Mass in D Opus 111

Johann Nepomuk Hummel was an Austrian composer and virtuoso pianist. He was a pupil of Mozart, Haydn, Salieri and Clementi and his music influenced the works of Mendelssohn, Chopin and Liszt. When aged eight he went to live with Mozart for two years and gave his first concert aged nine. Touring in London in 1790 he performed a Mozart Piano Concerto and a Sonata of his own at Hanover Square Rooms and, aged thirteen, he premiered a Piano Trio by Haydn. Back in Vienna in 1793 he met Beethoven and the two became friends. He also befriended Schubert who dedicated his last three Piano Sonatas to him.

Although mainly famous for his piano music he wrote much else, including several masses. Opus 111 in D follows the traditional five movement form of Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus/Benedictus and Agnus Dei and is typically classical in nature.

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 own daughter five years ago and becoming a stay-at-home mum, Rachael worked in church administration. She is married to a Naval Chaplain 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. She is the soloist in the English Requiem this evening.

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 moved 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.

After Colin's departure for Ethiopia and ultimately Edinburgh we were happy to pass the baton to Tim Body (horn player) and then Malcolm Woodcock. Our conductor since September 2023 has been Dave Richards, who is also tonight's trumpet player.

The Northam Choral Society Spring Concert has been a regular feature of our programme and we are delighted to be here again in Westward Ho! Baptist Church in 2025.

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

The Children's Holiday Foundation North Devon was founded by Dr Robin Buckland in 1993. It provides much-needed holidays for children with life threatening illnesses or serious disabilities. The holidays are designed to boost children's self-confidence and help them feel more independent. In the past, the charity has taken children to Disney Parks, Universal Studios, Busch Gardens and Gatorland.

Members of the choir singing this evening are:

Soprano

<i>Gill Abbott</i>	<i>Mary Dendle</i>	<i>Emma Morrison</i>
<i>Sally Anderson</i>	<i>Janet Elliott</i>	<i>Rachel Oldham</i>
<i>Mo Channon</i>	<i>Moya Espley</i>	<i>Jackie Page</i>
<i>Wendy Chiles</i>	<i>Rachael Hutchins</i>	<i>Sue Ticehurst</i>
	<i>Marian Jones</i>	<i>Janet Wicks</i>

Alto

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

Tenor

<i>Sarah Battams</i>	<i>Roger Fursdon</i>	<i>Ian Pritchard</i>
<i>Melanie Beckett-Gregg</i>	<i>Graham Hill</i>	<i>Iain Wicks</i>
<i>Neal Downe</i>	<i>Donato Luongo</i>	

Bass

<i>Geoff Abbott</i>	<i>John Hobbs</i>	<i>Tony Nicholls</i>
<i>Michael Elliott</i>	<i>Stephen Jarvis</i>	<i>Chris Oldham</i>

Rehearsal Pianist

Chris Beechey

Thank you for supporting us this evening.

***Hartland Chamber Orchestra's next concert will be on Sunday the
22nd of June in St. Andrews Church, Stratton***

***Northam Choral Society's next concert will be their annual Carol
Concert on Saturday 6th December 2025 in St Mary's Church,
Bideford. Rehearsals start on the 2nd of September***