



The London Festival of Contemporary Church Music

Monday 13 May 2019, 8pm
St Pancras Parish Church

Twelve Anthems

The East London Evensong Choir
Jonathan Pease
Samuel Ali

Programme

Jonathan Pease
(b. 1988)

Twelve Anthems

- i. Of Mans First Disobedience
- ii. Music on Christmas Morning
- iii. Royal Presents
- iv. Simeon's Prophecy
- v. Turn ye even to me
- vi. Psalm 114
- vii. And I will shew wonders in heaven above
- viii. Corpus
- ix. Alma redemptoris mater
- x. Lift up your eyes!
- xi. Sons of the Holy One bright with his splendour
- xii. An house not made with hands

"These anthems reflect my very recent discovery, just four years ago, of the Anglican choral tradition and liturgical calendar. Raised a Methodist, it's probably understandable that these didn't form a part of my childhood. Perhaps less forgivable is that the fact that I managed to get through a degree at Cambridge University, statistically proven to be one of the parts of the country with the highest concentration of Choral Evensong services, with no interest in or awareness of this style of worship whatsoever. But, at the age of 26, a chance encounter with Christ Church Isle of Dogs immersed me for the first time in this kaleidoscope of colour and ritual, with all its beauty of holiness, and I became enamoured with the whole thing. Elaborate choral services have been sneeringly called "the Sunday opera". Perhaps there's some truth in this: having written a lot in the operatic medium, a time-consuming and exhausting practice, there was no little appeal in turning to the anthem genre, where the same opportunities for drama and word-play exist, but on a rather smaller canvas. This set of anthems, structured in the order of the liturgical year from Advent to All Souls, is my own humble attempt to learn from the beauty and uniqueness of some of the church music I've discovered in the recent past. The attentive listener may detect good-natured nods and winks to figures such as Elgar, Howells, Stainer, Poulenc and various living composers."

– *Jonathan Pease*

Of Mans First Disobedience, and the Fruit
Of that Forbidden Tree, whose mortal tast
Brought Death into the World, and all our woe,
With loss of *Eden*, till one greater Man
Restore us, and regain the blissful Seat,
Sing Heav'nly Muse

Opening lines of "Paradise Lost", Book I, John Milton (1608 - 1674)

Music on Christmas Morning

Music I love - but never strain
Could kindle raptures so divine,
So grief assuage, so conquer pain,
And rouse this pensive heart of mine-
As that we hear on Christmas morn,
Upon the wintry breezes borne.

While listening to that sacred strain,
My raptured spirit soars on high;
I seem to hear those songs again
Resounding through the open sky,
That kindled such divine delight,
In those who watched their flocks by night.

With them, I celebrate His birth -
Glory to God, in highest Heaven,
Good-will to men, and peace on Earth,
To us a Saviour-king is given;
Our God is come to claim His own,
And Satan's power is overthrown!

Anne Brontë (1820 - 1849)

Royal Presents

The off'rings of the Eastern kings of old
Unto our lord were incense, myrrh and gold;
Incense because a God; gold as a king;
And myrrh as to a dying man they bring.
Instead of incense (Blessed Lord) if we
Can send a sigh or fervent prayer to thee,

Instead of myrrh if we can but provide
Tears that from penitential eyes do slide,
And though we have no gold; if for our part
We can present thee with a broken heart
Thou wilt accept: and say those Eastern kings
Did not present thee with more precious things.

Nathaniel Wanley (1634 - 1680)

Simeon's Prophecy

How still she stood that day,
As one apart,
Hearing the jagged words
That tore her heart.
But when the Child was still,
And Joseph slept,
She turned her face away,
And wept, and wept.

The Sisters of St. Joseph

Turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting,
and with weeping, and with mourning:
And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God.

Joel 2: 12 - 13

Psalm 114

When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language;
Judah was his sanctuary, and Israel his dominion.
The sea saw it, and fled: Jordan was driven back.
The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like lambs.
What ailed thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest? thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back?
Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams; and ye little hills, like lambs?
Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob;
Which turned the rock into a standing water, the flint into a fountain of waters.

And I will shew wonders in heaven above

And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Acts 2: 17, 19 - 21

Alma Redemptoris Mater, quæ pervia cæli
Porta manes, et stella maris, succurre cadenti,
Surgere qui curat populo: tu quæ genuisti,
Natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem
Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore
Sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere.

*Mother of Christ! Hear thou thy people's cry
Star of the deep, and portal of the sky!
Mother of Him Who thee from nothing made,
Sinking we strive and call to thee for aid;
Oh, by that joy which Gabriel brought to thee,
Thou Virgin first and last, let us thy mercy see.*

Corpus

The vultures circle
in cloudless sky,
glinting, beady eyes
fix upon the corpse.

But this is flesh
imbued with life,
not cast aside for scavengers
on a pilgrimage of plunder
but held, lifted, shown
to poor, to meek, to voiceless,
to those that would never ask
let alone take.

The golden surround
pales in the presence of His glory,
so small and white,
behind the glass
yet never contained.

It is the scaffold for my spirit,
in one moment, support
in another,
the place of my execution
as man must die
in His gaze
to be lifted, like Him
with Him.

Fr. Sam McNally-Cross, 1985 –

Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

John 4: 35 – 36

And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest. And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather every grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger: I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19: 9 – 10

The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few: Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Matthew 9: 37 – 38

Sons of the Holy One bright with his splendour,
Wakened to life at creation's new day,
First to uplift in the joy of surrender
Spirits to worship and wills to obey.

Armies of Michael, a heavenly wonder,
Crashed to the onset with evil on high,

Till the proud angel, o'ercome by their thunder,
Dropped on his darkening wings from the sky.

Stars of the morn, for creation returning
Praise to the wisdom ordaining the whole,
Hushed their glad songs, in amazement discerning
God's very likeness in man's living soul.

Sentries of Paradise, knew ye no sorrow,
Guarding the way with a flame of the sword?
Visioned ye not on a glorious morrow
Man by a tree to his Eden restored?

Gabriel came with his high salutation,
Burning with ardour and eager in flight.
"Ave Maria!" The dawn of salvation
Rose at its music and banished our night.

See, then, my soul, on a stairway all golden
Angels ascending, descending again!
Sion is here, if our eyes were not holden,
Praise would not fail for their service to men.

Praise God for Michael, in strife our defender,
Praise him for Raphael, our healer and guide,
Praise him for guardians, watchful and tender,
True to their charges in need at their side.

Laud to thee, Father of spirits supernal!
We with the angels adore thee, O Son!
Comforter holy, proceeding, eternal,
In thee be glory to God, Three in One. Amen.

F. A. Judd

An house not made with hands

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

II Corinthians 5: 1

Biographies

The East London Evensong Choir

East London Evensong Choir is a semi-professional choir committed to bringing high quality sacred choral music to London's East End. Founded in 2016, on the vanguard of what has been described as a resurgence of interest in traditional liturgy among the young, ELEC convenes singers from East London and beyond at a different East End parish church each month, allowing local congregations to enjoy the beauty and richness of Choral Evensong. While its staple crop is the Anglican choral tradition, the choir also explores European and American music, spirituals, and works by living composers. The choir also undertakes regular summer visits, to churches and cathedrals including St. Martin in the Fields, Waltham Abbey and Bury, Southwark and Chelmsford Cathedrals. It is led by its founder and musical director Jonathan Pease and is accompanied this evening by Samuel Ali.

Jonathan Pease

Jonathan Pease graduated with an MA in Music from Cambridge University in 2010, where he studied composition with Giles Swayne. He is a prolific composer and librettist. Scheduled within the next year are the first performance of *Concrete Music*, a full-length opera about the death of a 1960s architect, at Poplar Union; a professional recording of *Marginalised Groups*, a chamber opera about an office argument, commissioned by Teatime Opera; and the release of *Whither I go, ye cannot come*, a music video based on a Passion setting, directed by David Jones. His first opera, *These Things Happen*, depicting a group of people discussing their romantic problems in a bar, was performed at the Courtyard Theatre, Hoxton, in 2012; and a children's opera about a near-fatal boating accident, *St. Luke's Shipwreck*, first came to life in 2016. He was a finalist in the 2012 ENO Mini Operas competition and the 2015 Opera UpClose Flourish competition.

More events this week at
The London Festival of Contemporary Church Music

Wednesday 15 May

2.45pm Pre-Broadcast Talk
Room UG2, UNISON Centre, NW1 2AY

3.30pm Choral Evensong
St Pancras Parish Church, NW1 2BA
Broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 and BBC Sounds

The premiere performances of the Festival's 2019 commissions for Choral Evensong, with music by Bernard Hughes, Sarah Cattley, Joshua Ballance, Roxanna Panufnik, Deborah Pritchard and Alex Woolf. Before the broadcast, Deborah Pritchard discusses her work and approach in a talk at the UNISON Centre, just across the road from St Pancras Church.
Please arrive at least 15 minutes before the service begins

Thursday 16 May

1.15pm Choral Eucharist
St Pancras Parish Church, NW1 2BA

This service includes premiere performances of music submitted to the Festival's "Call for Scores" open submission project, with a particular focus on music by young composers.

8.30pm **"Night Prayer": Compline Renewed**
St Pancras Parish Church, NW1 2BA

The Lacock Scholars perform *Night Prayer*, a complete musical setting of the liturgy of compline. Ben Rowarth's music is entirely through-composed, carefully allowing the elements of the compline service to flow together into one seamless forty-five minute presentation.

Friday 17 May

5.30pm **"A Child's Prayer": Rush Hour Recital**
St Pancras Parish Church, NW1 2BA

The Chamber Choir of University College London presents a beautiful programme of sacred works by James MacMillan to celebrate his 60th birthday, including the rarely heard *Missa Brevis*, a work from his teenage years that was first performed and published only in 2007.

Saturday 18 May

7.30pm **"Vast Ocean of Light": Gala Concert**
St Pancras Parish Church, NW1 2BA
This event is ticketed. Book online at lfccm.com/tickets

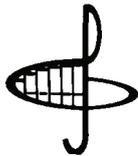
We celebrate Jonathan Dove's 60th birthday with a programme of his recent choral works performed by The Epiphoni Consort. The programme takes its title from the motet *Vast Ocean of Light*, a rich and resplendent work that features Dove's signature glistening organ writing. The composer introduces the programme with a pre-concert talk at 7pm.

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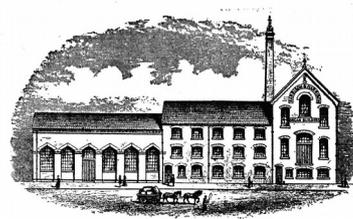
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The London Festival of Contemporary Church Music was founded in 2002 with the aim of showcasing contemporary liturgical music in both service and concert. Now in its eighteenth year, the LFCCM has grown to include more than 70 events, dozens of composers, hundreds of performers and thousands of audience members, both live and online.

*The London Festival of Contemporary Church Music is an artistic project of
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