

## Programme

Monteverdi - *Beatus Vir*  
Tallis - *Salvator Mundi*  
Tallis - *If ye love me*

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Telemann - *Sonata no. 3 in F minor*  
*Kate Wright - flute and Louise Rapple - piano*

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Bruckner - *Three Motets*

1. *Locus iste*

2. *Christus factus est*

3. *Virga Jesse*

Parry - *My Soul, there is a Country*

Parry - *Never weather-beaten sail*

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### INTERVAL

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Three madrigals

1. *Morley - My bonny lass she smileth*

2. *Byrd - Lullaby my sweet little baby*

3. *Vautour - Mother, I will have a husband*

Three partsongs

1. *Finzi - My spirit sang all day*

2. *Ireland - The hills*

3. *Vaughan-Williams - Greensleeves*

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Debussy - *Prélude and La fille aux cheveux de lin*  
*Kate Wright - flute and Louise Rapple - piano*

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Three spirituals

1. *All my trials (arr. Bob Chilcott)*

2. *Steal Away (arr. David Blackwell)*

3. *Ev'ry time I feel de spirit (arr. Alan Paynes)*

Three popular songs

1. *Let's do it (Cole Porter arr. D Blackwell)*

2. *Smoke gets in your eyes (J Kern arr. D Blackwell)*

3. *I got rhythm (G and I Gershwin arr. Clapham)*

Tamesis is:

#### Sopranos

Frances Brewitt-Taylor

Sarah Dance

Charlie Hobson

Catherine Lidbetter

Susie Solway

Jennifer Wilson

#### Altos

Hilary Benson

Sue Butcher

Christine Didelot

Charlie Rapple

Liz Rapple

Lucy Rimmer

#### Tenors

Andy Button

Dan Dewey

Jason Murray

Matthew Skelton

#### Basses

Christopher Cipkin

John Cobb

Andrew Hyde

Austin Jacobs

Jeremy Robson

Simon Sherwood

Peter Walker

Tamesis Chamber Choir came into existence in September this year after some hefty organising and auditioning by Louise. It aims to offer something different from the choirs currently performing in the area. We are a high-standard, fun chamber choir, which intends to perform three to four concerts per year. As yet, we still have vacancies in most voice-parts, and in any case Tamesis will re-audition every year, so if you are interested in singing with us, please contact Louise on 0118 931 4279 or [lourap@yahoo.com](mailto:lourap@yahoo.com).

Louise Rapple has been a musician since she was small (some people would say she still is!), learning piano from age 6 and singing in a Church choir from age 7. She studied Music and French at Reading University, specialising in performance, and graduated in 1998 with the highest mark of all the pianists in her year for her final recital. She studied conducting at the Conservatoire de Pau, and returned to the UK to direct the Reading University Singers for two years. She is now Organist and Choir Director at Christ Church, Reading, with a lovely choir who sing a mean Choral Evensong. She's been dreaming of conducting a choir like Tamesis for some years and is thrilled with the reality.

Kate Wright has been playing the flute for 15 years. In 1999, she graduated from Reading University with a First Class music degree, having specialised in performance and composition in her final year. Whilst at Reading, Kate studied the flute with Janet Way under whose tutelage she also gained her Advanced Certificate. Kate has taken part in various courses and masterclasses with acclaimed flautists such as Wissam Boustany and William Bennett. Since leaving University, Kate has had less time available to devote to her flute playing. Performance (and even practice) remain a source of enjoyment and a welcome relief from working overtime and studying for professional exams!

#### Notes on the programme

The programme this evening is designed to give a taster of some of the styles of music Tamesis hopes to cover in the future. We start this evening with Monteverdi's popular *Beatus vir* (Blessed is the man) a psalm setting published in 1641. Our programme is not strictly chronological, however, for Thomas Tallis was writing in the previous century and his *Salvator Mundi* (Saviour of the world) was written in 1575. The motet *If ye love me* is a beautifully written Church anthem, still very popular today. Telemann's *Sonata in F minor* fits very well into its setting here, having been written in the early 1700s. Originally scored for bassoon, it works well for flute and its four movements are superbly contrasting.

Anton Bruckner takes us into the 19<sup>th</sup> Century with three motets. *Locus iste a Deo factus est* (This place was made by God) is a gradual for the

dedication of a Church. *Christus factus est pro nobis obediens* (Christ is made obedient for us) is a gradual for Maundy Thursday, and *Virga Jesse floruit* (The rod of Jesse has blossomed) is a text from the Feast of the Annunciation. Charles Hubert Hastings Parry is a well-loved English composer, mainly prolific in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, but these two motets come from his *Songs of Farewell*, published two years before his death in 1918.

The madrigal as a form was invented in Italy, and flourished there over a long period. The English then adopted the form during the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, and our three madrigals fall into this category. All three composers, Byrd, Morley and Tallis were writing at the same time, under Queen Elizabeth I, and Morley for one was very likely a friend of Shakespeare, for whose plays he composed various pieces. Gerald Finzi, John Ireland and Ralph Vaughan-Williams are all English composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. They were part of a group of composers known as the English Pastoralists, and these partsongs are a good example of this genre. Debussy died in the same year as Parry, but his music is quite different - he is an example of French Impressionism, as illustrated by artists such as Monet.

The Negro Spiritual tradition is a very rich and diverse one, as reflected by these three songs. This arrangement of *All my trials* was actually written for the Reading Phoenix Choir, so we are continuing a local tradition by performing it tonight! Our three popular songs need little explanation, as all are favourites from the early half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, and were in fact all written within a space of five years, around 1930.

I do hope you enjoy the varied programme on offer tonight, and that you will return to hear us explore some of these periods of music in more detail in our future concerts.

Our Next Concert...

Saturday February 28<sup>th</sup> 2004  
7:30 pm  
Holy Trinity Church, Theale

A selection of 20<sup>th</sup> Century English  
Choral Music

#### Acknowledgements

Our grateful thanks go to Wesley Methodist Church for giving us the use of such a lovely venue. We also thank the authorities at Christ Church, Reading, for allowing us to rehearse there.

Many thanks to Christopher Cipkin, our accompanist

# tamesis

## chamber choir

musical director - louise rapple

first concert

'a tamesis taster'

Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup> 2003  
7:30 pm  
Wesley Methodist Church  
Queen's Road, Reading