

## Programme

Parry - Songs of Farewell

1. *My soul, there is a country*
2. *I know my soul hath power to know all things*
3. *Never weather-beaten sail*
4. *There is an old belief*
5. *At the round earth's imagined corners*
6. *Lord, let me know mine end*

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Joseph Jongen - Petite Pièce (W.313)

*Christopher Cipkin - organ*

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Finzi - Lo, the full, final sacrifice

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### INTERVAL

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Harris - Faire is the Heaven

Messiaen - O sacrum convivium

Britten - Hymn to St Cecilia

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Naji Hakim - Mariales

1. *Incantation (Mater admirabilis)*
2. *Pastorale (Regina coeli)*
3. *Antienne (Salve Regina)*
4. *Hymne (Virgo Dei genitrix)*
5. *Danse (Ave maris stella)*

*Christopher Cipkin - organ*

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Gorecki - Totus tuus sum, Maria

## Tamesis is:

### Sopranos

Frances Brewitt-Taylor  
Sarah Dance  
Charlie Hobson  
Tanya Kirkpatrick-Scriven  
Catherine Lidbetter  
Susie Solway

### Altos

Hilary Benson  
Sue Butcher  
Christine Didelot  
Sarah Finch  
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

## Acknowledgements

Our grateful thanks go to Holy Trinity 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.

Tamesis Chamber Choir came into existence in September last 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 performs three to four concerts per year. Tamesis re-auditions every year (next auditions coming up summer 2004), 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 from a young age, learning piano from six and singing in a Church choir from seven. 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 in southern France during her year abroad, 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.

Christopher Cipkin began his musical career as a chorister of Leeds Parish Church. He later went on to become Organ Scholar at the University of Keele where he gave the inaugural recital of the refurbished Chapel Organ. He was also awarded the Wedgwood Prize for a dissertation on organ history. While working at Canterbury Cathedral Library, he researched and catalogued the eighteenth-century music of the Canterbury Catch Club. He served as Organ Scholar at Newcastle Cathedral and studied organ with James Lancelot (Durham Cathedral), gaining his ARCO in 1997. After a short time as Director of Music at St. James the Less, Pangbourne he took up post as Organist and Choirmaster at Wesley Methodist Church, Reading. He is currently Music Librarian at the University of Reading, where he is also studying for the MA in Musicology.

## Notes on the programme

The music chosen for this concert spans almost the whole twentieth century, ranging as it does from 1916 up to 1987. The earliest of the music heard tonight is the *Songs of Farewell* by Charles Hubert Hastings Parry, which were written in 1916, two years before the composer's death. The songs are pre-occupied with death but remain generally optimistic in character, looking as they do towards what might be waiting 'on the other side'.

Chronologically, William Harris's *Faire is the Heaven* was the next piece to be written. This glorious setting for double choir uses a text by Edmund Spenser which is once again concerned with the souls of the faithful and the heaven in which they reside. Next to be written was Olivier Messiaen's *O sacrum convivium* in 1937. Messiaen was a prolific composer of organ music, but this is one of the few choral

pieces he wrote. Slow but with an intense beauty, the acoustic in this Church will suit it perfectly.

Benjamin Britten's *Hymn to St Cecilia* and Gerald Finzi's *Lo, the full, final sacrifice* were written within four years of each other, in 1942 and 1946 respectively. The text of *Lo, the full, final sacrifice* was written by Richard Crashaw, and is taken from his versions of the Hymns of St Thomas Aquinas. The words of the *Hymn to St Cecilia* were written by W H Auden and they are wonderfully colourful. St Cecilia is the patron Saint of music, and the following refrain underpins the work:

*Blessed Cecilia, appear in visions  
to all musicians, appear and inspire:  
Translated Daughter, come down and startle  
Composing mortals with immortal fire.*

From this point we jump 40 years in time to 1987 when Henryk Mikolaj Gorecki's *Totus tuus sum, Maria* was first performed. I'm afraid Gorecki is too modern to be mentioned in my *Oxford Companion to Music*, so I know very little about him except that he was born in a Polish mining village in 1933 and this piece was first heard in a High Mass said by Pope John Paul II in Victory Square, Warsaw.

Future Concerts...

Thursday March 4<sup>th</sup> 2004  
7:30 pm  
Christ Church, Reading

A truncated version of this concert for all your friends and relations who couldn't make it tonight!

Saturday June 19<sup>th</sup> 2004  
7:30 pm  
St James the Less, Pangbourne  
and

Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> 2004  
7:30 pm  
Venue to be confirmed

A selection of light-hearted secular music suitable for a summer's evening in June

Keep in touch...

If you would like to be kept informed of Tamesis' forthcoming events and concerts, please sign the visitors book which can be found at the back of the Church, and we will make sure your details are included in the mailing list. Also, please keep an eye on our website, [www.tamesischamberchoir.co.uk](http://www.tamesischamberchoir.co.uk), which is regularly updated with news, events and details of concerts.

# tamesis

## chamber choir

musical director - louise rapple

second concert

## a programme of 20<sup>th</sup> century choral music

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

[www.tamesischamberchoir.co.uk](http://www.tamesischamberchoir.co.uk)