

## Programme

I want Jesus to walk with me (arr. Williams)  
Steal away (arr. Blackwell)  
All my trials (arr. Chilcott)  
Deep river (arr. Hart)  
Swing low, sweet chariot (arr. Pryce Jackman)  
Were you there (arr. Hart)  
Every time I feel the Spirit (arr. Paynes)

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Rose Leaf Rag (Scott Joplin)  
Bethena (Scott Joplin)  
*David Old - piano*

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I got Rhythm (Gershwin arr. Clapham)  
Summertime (Gershwin arr. Carter)  
'S Wonderful (Gershwin arr. Blackwell)

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### INTERVAL

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Ain't misbehavin' (Waller/Brooks arr. Gritton)  
Autumn leaves (Kosma/ Mercer arr. Carter)  
A nightingale sang in Berkeley Square (Maschwitz & Sherwin)  
Shenandoah (Trad arr. Erb)  
Londonderry Air (Trad arr. Chilcott)

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Marigold (Billy Mayerl)  
*David Old - piano*

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In the Mood (Garland arr. Gritton)  
Smoke gets in your eyes (Kern/Harbach arr. Blackwell)  
Let's Do It (Kern/Harbach arr. Blackwell)  
Blue Moon (Rodgers/Hart arr. Blackwell)

### Tamesis is:

#### Sopranos

Frances Brewitt-Taylor  
Rachel Butler  
Sarah Dance  
Charlie Hobson  
Tanya Kirkpatrick-Scriven  
Susie Solway

#### Tenors

Andy Button  
Dan Dewey  
Jason Murray  
Matthew Skelton

#### Basses

Christopher Cipkin  
John Cobb  
Andrew Hyde  
Austin Jacobs  
Jeremy Robson  
Simon Sherwood

#### Altos

Hilary Benson  
Sue Butcher  
Sarah Finch  
Liz Rapple  
Lucy Rimmer

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.

David Old is mainly known in this area as an Organist. He studied organ with Timothy Farrell (sub-organist of Westminster Abbey) and now plays at various Churches around the area as a relief organist. Having gained his organ teaching diploma, he specialised for many years in choir accompaniment in Bristol and Reading. However, whilst at the RSCM in the early seventies, he also studied piano with Noretta Conci-Leech, and now enjoys performing as a solo Pianist and Duettist. During the last few years he has been a familiar face at the summer recital at Christ Church, Reading. He combines his musical activities with a career in Television and Feature Films Sound Post-production, and has been awarded no fewer than seven BAFTAs so far!

### Notes on the programme

This concert starts with a selection of negro spirituals, or gospel songs. These songs were first sung by African American slaves in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, who sang them at every possible opportunity to try and inject some happiness into lives of slavery. The composers of these songs are unknown; they are genuine folk-music. The most famous of this selection is probably **Swing low, sweet chariot**, which actually refers to The Underground Railroad, an organisation which helped slaves run away to freedom by hiding them in chariots.

Scott Joplin was born in Texas in 1868. He first learned to play the piano by teaching himself on an instrument in the white-owned home where his mother worked. There is evidence that he was still unable to write music notation well into his twenties, but this did not stop him from developing as a composer and publishing his music. His first rags were published in 1898. The two we hear tonight were

published in 1905 and 1907 respectively. He died in 1917 of syphilis, and is now universally acknowledged as the father of Ragtime music.

From Ragtime we move on to the Jazz Age. George Gershwin was born 30 years after Scott Joplin and had his first song published at the age of 19. He wrote both musicals and more classical works such as his famous Rhapsody in Blue, which opened up a new era in American music in 1924. I got rhythm (apparently George's favourite of all his songs) is from the musical Girl Crazy (1930), Summertime from Porgy and Bess (1934) and S'wonderful from An American in Paris (1928). Gershwin died aged 39 of a brain tumour.

Billy Mayerl was born in London in 1902 and won a scholarship to Trinity College London at 9 years old. He was very much in demand as a pianist throughout his life and founded the Billy Mayerl School which existed for 30-odd years, until two years before his death in 1959. Marigold was written in 1927 and is probably Mayerl's most famous work.

The second half of the programme is made up of popular songs from the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the exception of two folk-songs, Shenandoah and the Londonderry Air (also known as Danny Boy) which we put in for no reason other than that we had the music and we loved them both! Of the popular songs, the earliest is A nightingale sang in Berkeley Square from 1915, followed by Let's do it and Ain't Misbehavin' from the twenties, Smoke gets in your eyes and Blue Moon from the thirties, and Autumn Leaves and In the Mood from the forties.

#### Future Concerts...

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2004  
at St Peter's Church, Hammersmith

A concert of inspiring sacred music  
from around the world

#### Acknowledgements

Our grateful thanks go to both St James the Less, Pangbourne, and All Saints, Wokingham for providing us with such lovely venues for these concerts.

#### 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

summer concerts

## In the Mood for Summer

Saturday June 19<sup>th</sup> 2004

7:30 pm

St James the Less Church,  
Pangbourne

and

Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> 2004

7:30 pm

All Saints Church,  
Wokingham

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