

Programme

George and Ira Gershwin - 5 songs from *Crazy for You*

1. **Nice work if you can get it** (arr. Bennett)
2. **They can't take that away from me** (arr. Bennett)
3. **Someone to watch over me** (arr. Bennett)
4. **But not for me** (arr. Halton)
5. **I got rhythm** (arr. Clapham)

George Gershwin - **The man I love** from *Lady, be Good!*
Voice - Penny Firshman

Dizzy Gillespie - **Lights and Shadows**
Clarinet - Rachel Burgess, piano - Steve Downes

Kern & Hammerstein arr. Shaw - **Medley** from *Showboat*

Rodgers & Hammerstein - **Bali Ha'i** from *South Pacific*
Voice - Sarah Finch

Cy Coleman arr. Barnes - **Rhythm of Life** from *Sweet Charity*

INTERVAL

Rodgers & Hammerstein arr. Warnick - **Medley** from *The Sound of Music*

Rodgers & Hammerstein - **Sixteen going on Seventeen**
from *The Sound of Music*
Voice - Rachel Butler & Andy Button

Gibb/Jacobs/Farrar arr. Emerson - **Medley** from *Grease*

Farrar - **Hopelessly Devoted** from *Grease*
Voice - Tamsyn Wilson

Bernstein & Sondheim arr. Thomas - **Medley** from *West Side Story*

Rodgers & Hammerstein arr. Mann - **You'll never walk alone** from *Carousel*

Many thanks to our accompanist Adam McArdle

Tamesis is:

Sopranos

Heidi Cherry
Rachel Burgess
Rachel Butler
Sarah Dance
Penny Firshman
Susie Solway
Tamsyn Wilson

Tenors

Andy Button
Dan Dewey
Simon Eastwood
Jason Murray

Basses

Philip Bysh
Reuben Casey
John Cobb
Austin Jacobs
Jeremy Robson

Altos

Sarah Finch
Charlie Hodgkinson
Liz Rapple

Acknowledgements

Our grateful thanks go to the authorities at St Mary's for providing us with such a lovely venue. Particular thanks to Stuart Crippen for his help with the arrangements and publicity.

Tamesis Chamber Choir aims to offer something different from the choirs currently performing in the area. We are a high-standard, fun chamber choir performing several concerts per year. We re-audition formally each September so if you are interested in singing with us, please contact Louise on 0118 931 4279 or 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 graduating in 1998. 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 currently Organist and Choir Director at Christ Church, Reading. She's been dreaming of directing a choir like Tamesis for some years and is thrilled with the reality.

Notes on the programme

Tonight, tonight... we start with some ever-popular Gershwin. Our choral selection of songs comes from the 1992 show *Crazy for You* which, although not strictly by the Gershwin brothers, is based on the plot of the earlier musical *Girl Crazy* and takes its songs from the whole range of Gershwin musicals. **I got rhythm** and **But not for me** were both originally written for *Girl Crazy* (1930), while **Someone to watch...** is from *Oh Kay!* (1926), **Nice work if you can get it** from *A Damsel in Distress* (1937), and **They can't take that away from me** from *Shall we Dance?*, also 1937. **The man I love**, meanwhile, is from *Lady, be Good!* written in 1924. The chorus of the song was originally the verse, but Gershwin decided he preferred it to the original refrain and so turned it into the chorus and wrote a new verse to go with it!

Dizzy Gillespie (so-called for this comical stage antics) is well-known as one of the greatest jazz trumpeters of the twentieth-century. He was born in 1917 and died only 12 years ago in 1993. As well as being an unforgettable performer, Dizzy was also a composer and an arranger, and wrote some of the greatest jazz tunes of his era.

Now we come on to the man who dominates the rest of our programme this evening - Oscar Hammerstein II. Born in 1895, he came from a very theatrical family. He started writing lyrics while studying law at Columbia University and there he met Richard Rodgers, a composer with whom he was to collaborate for the rest of his life. Before embarking on an exclusive contract with Rodgers, however, Hammerstein partnered various other composers, including writing eight musicals with Jerome Kern, of which *Showboat* was their masterwork. The musical follows the lives and loves of three generations of show folk, on the Mississippi, in Chicago and on Broadway, between 1880 and 1927.

The Rodgers and Hammerstein partnership began in 1943, and produced many of the most famous musicals performed today, including *Oklahoma!*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I*, *Carousel* and *The Sound of Music*. *South Pacific*, from which *Bali Ha'i* is taken, is set during WWII on a tranquil Pacific island, and deals with the theme of prejudice versus love. *Carousel* is said to be Rodgers and Hammerstein's favourite of all their shows, and again deals with the power of love, this time its ability to change and heal. *You'll never walk alone* has of course gained notoriety in England, made famous by Gerry and the Pacemakers in the sixties and consequently adopted by Liverpool FC as their anthem. I was horrified to discover when researching these programme notes that many websites seem to think Gerry and the Pacemakers actually wrote the song!

The Sound of Music, written in 1959, was the last musical Hammerstein wrote before his death in 1960. Made into a film in 1965, it follows the story of Maria, a nun who leaves her convent to become a governess to a Naval officer's troop of children. I won't go any further with this story, as the film is such a classic that I'm sure you all know the plot and can sing along!

Sweet Charity premiered on Broadway in 1966 and tells the story of Charity Hope Valentine, a dancer who has no luck with men. The most famous song from this musical is in fact 'Big Spender' but we give you the much more fun *Rhythm of Life!* From which we slip back slightly to the fifties with *Grease*, a show full of very well-known songs (some of these will take you right back to school discos...) which follows the friendships, romances and adventures of a group of highschool friends. Immortalised in film by John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John in 1978, the musical premiered in 1972 and has been a classic ever since.

And finally, to *West Side Story*, in which Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet become Tony and Maria, teenagers from rival New York gangs in the sixties. With its great swooping musical lines and clever lyrics I think this has to be my favourite of our 'Songs from the Shows'!

2005-6 The 'Biblical Characters' Season

Our first concert, *Magnificat*, will take place on **Saturday November 12th 2005** and will feature music inspired by the Virgin Mary.

Our spring concert will feature music related to the Crucifixion, and the summer concert will involve other Biblical characters such as Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, and Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo...

Keep in touch... If you would like to be kept informed of Tamesis' forthcoming events and concerts, please sign our visitors' book and we'll make sure your details are included in the mailing list. Do also keep an eye on our website, www.tamesischamberchoir.co.uk which is regularly updated with news and events.

tamesis

chamber choir

musical director - louise rapple

presents the final concert in the
"Choral World Tour" concert
series for the 2004-5 season

Songs from the Shows

Saturday June 25th 2005

7:30 pm

The Church of St Mary the
Virgin, Henley-on-Thames

www.tamesischamberchoir.co.uk