

Louise Rapple graduated in Music and French from Reading University in 1998, specialising in performance. She studied conducting at the Conservatoire de Pau in southern France and returned to the UK to direct the Reading University Singers for two years, following that with seven years in Church music, as Organist and Choir Director at two local Churches. Louise works at Shiplake College, teaching piano, conducting choirs and administrating all sorts of things. She also directs Tamesis Cathedral Singers, a larger choir whose members visit Cathedrals twice a year to sing Evensong, and the Shiplake Community Choir.

Tamesis Chamber Choir aims to offer something different from other choirs in the area. We are a high-standard, fun chamber choir performing several concerts per year. We re-audition formally each September but do sometimes have vacancies during the year, so if you are interested in singing with us, contact Louise on 0118 931 4279 or email lourap@gmail.com.

Thank you to the authorities at St Laurence's for the use of this lovely Church, and for making us so welcome.

Many thanks also to our band, blah on blah, blah on blah and blah on blah, and our pianist, Judith Creighton.

Tamesis is:

Sopranos
Miranda Bradshaw
Katie Breakspear
Rachel Burgess
Bethan Davies
Clare Garner
Claudia Lange
Kat Penn
Tania Pratt
Tamsyn Wilson

Altos
Emily Clark
Alison Evans
Sarah Finch
Charlie Hodgkinson
Liz Rapple
Chloë Robson

Tenors
Tim Beavan
Nick Brown
Simon Eastwood
Graham Watt

Basses
James Allen
Andy Button
John Cobb
John Kendall
Patrick Moore
Dan Tyndall

tamesis

chamber choir

musical director - louise rapple

presents the final concert in the
2010-11 "Coalition" season

Ministry of Entertainment

... Coming up ...

The Historic Times Season
for 2011-2012

First concert Saturday 12th November
2011, 7:30pm

For details and tickets, please see our website,
www.tamesischamberchoir.co.uk

Saturday June 18th 2011
7:30 pm
St Laurence's Church, Reading

www.tamesischamberchoir.co.uk

Roll up, roll up, ladies and gents. We're coming to the end of our Coalition season, and celebrating with a selection of medleys showcasing the great partnerships between librettist and composer. Take your seats for the Ministry of Entertainment!

Programme

Medley from Cats - Andrew Lloyd-Webber & Thomas Stearns Eliot, arr. Ed Lojeski

Cats premiered in the West End in 1981, with music by Lloyd-Webber and words from TS Eliot's Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats, which was published in 1939. It transferred to Broadway in 1982, and is the second longest-running show in Broadway history. It's the fourth longest-running West End show, having closed on its 21st birthday in 2002. The show details the antics of the Jellicle Cats - who by day are just common cats but who by night have completely different lives. In this medley we hear about Old Deuteronomy, the Jellicle Patriarch - an ancient, wise cat, Skimbleshanks: The Railway Cat, Macavity: The Mystery Cat, and magical Mr Mistoffelees, the original conjuring cat. We also hear the famous Memory, sung sadly by Grizabella, a one-time glamour cat who is now a shell of her former self.

Interlude:

Do you love me? - Jerry Bock & Sheldon Harnick
Dan Tyndall - bass, Liz Rapple - alto

Medley from My Fair Lady - Frederick Loewe & Alan Jay Lerner, arr. Carl Strommen

My Fair Lady is based upon Pygmalion, a play by George Bernard Shaw. The title relates to one of Shaw's provisional titles for Pygmalion, "Fair Eliza", and alludes to the nursery rhyme London Bridge is falling down. The show premiered on Broadway in 1956 and was a great hit, transferring to London, being made into a film, and having numerous revivals. Tonight's medley showcases all of the best tunes from the story of the London flower-girl turned society belle.

Interlude:

Somewhere - Leonard Bernstein & Stephen Sondheim
Tania Pratt - soprano

Medley from Oklahoma! - Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II, arr. John Leavitt

Oklahoma! is the first collaboration between the hugely successful duo Rodgers and Hammerstein. Both men had previously enjoyed commercial success with other partners, but nothing like the success they achieved together. The opening of Oklahoma! on Broadway in 1943 marked a revolution in musical theatre, introducing a number of new storytelling elements and techniques, including using song and dance to convey plot and character, rather than just as diversions, as had previously been the case.

INTERVAL

Medley of Gershwin songs - George & Ira Gershwin, arr. Carl Strommen

Our Gershwin medley this evening is slightly different from the others because it's not based on any particular show. Rather, it's a fast-paced romp through a whole selection of Gershwin songs. It's a bit like hooked-on-Classics - you have just enough time to recognise each song before you're on to the next one! The first show that George and Ira wrote together, in 1924, was Lady Be Good, from which we hear two snippets tonight, but the earliest song included in this medley is Swanee, which actually has lyrics written by Irving Caesar. The other snippets in the medley come from other shows that George and Ira wrote together: Oh, Kay!, Funny Face, Strike up the Band, Show Girl, Girl Crazy and Let 'em eat cake. The famous Summertime is from Porgy and Bess, a folk opera that was the brothers' most ambitious composition.

Interlude:

The girl in 14G - Dick Scanlan & Jeanine Tresor
Kat Penn - soprano

Medley from Chicago - Fred Ebb & John Kander, arr. Ed Lojeski

Chicago opened on Broadway in 1975. Its revival in 1996 is the longest-running Broadway revival and is still going strong now. In 2002 it was made into a hugely successful musical film with an all-star cast. Chicago is based on a 1926 play of the same name by Chicago Tribune reporter Maurine Dallas Watkins, about actual criminals and crimes on which she reported. The plot centres around chorus-girl Roxie Hart and vaudevillian Velma Kelly, and is a story of murder, crime and the benefits of having a slick lawyer. The music evokes Prohibition-era America in its mixture of jazz, swing and ragtime.

Interlude:

Ill Wind - Michael Flanders & Donald Swann
Andy Button - bass

Medley from Les Misérables - Claude-Michel Schönberg & Alain Boublil, with Herbert Kretzmer, arr. Ed Lojeski

Based on Victor Hugo's 1862 novel of the same name, Les Misérables was composed in 1980 with a French libretto. Herbert Kretzmer wrote the English adaptation, and it opened in the West End in 1985. Still running now, it is the longest-running musical in the world. Set in post-revolution Paris, the plot follows the stories of many characters who strive for redemption and revolution, aided by a cast which includes prostitutes, student revolutionaries and factory workers. Many of the songs have become famous in their own right, but arguably the most famous these days is I dreamed a dream, which was used by Susan Boyle as her audition piece for Britain's Got Talent in 2009. The youtube clip of that performance, has, as I write, had around 85 million viewings.