

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 administering 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. She is much in demand as a deputy conductor locally, conducting the Reading Gay Chorus, Goring Chamber Choir, Wantage Choral Society and the Twyford Singers on a regular basis.

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 Wesley for the use of this lovely Church, and for making us so welcome.

Tamesis is:

Sopranos

Cathy Al-Ghabra
Miranda Bradshaw
Katie Breakspear
Rachel Burgess
Bethan Davies
Clare Garner
Katie Johnston
Kat Penn
Tania Pratt
Tamsyn Wilson

Altos

Lucy Allen
Alison Evans
Sarah Finch
Victoria Henshall
Charlie Hodgkinson
Liz Rapple
Chloë Robson

Basses

James Allen
Andy Button
Edward Hobson
John Kendall
Joe Kimberley
Patrick Moore
Jeremy Robson
Dan Tyndall

Tenors

Tim Beavan
Nick Brown
Simon Eastwood
Graham Watt

Organ Simon Dinsdale

Flute Amy Bingham

Clarinet Jeremy Gouldstone

Oboe Alice Carter

Horn Elin Davies

Timpani Graham Dare

Trumpets Mark Cox and John Ravnor

Trombones Nick Kershaw and Harry Ledger

tamesis chamber choir

musical director - louise rapple

presents the first concert
in the 2011-12 season
“Historic Times”

A time to mourn

Saturday November 12th 2011
7:30 pm
Wesley Methodist Church,
Reading

www.tamesischamberchoir.co.uk

“A time to celebrate”, the second concert in the Historic Times season, will take place at Greyfriars Church in Reading on Saturday March 3rd 2012.

This concert will feature Royal Wedding and Coronation music.

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

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Laurence Binyon

Programme

Requiem

1. Introit and Kyrie
2. Offertorio
3. Pie Jesu
4. Sanctus
5. Agnus Dei
6. Thou knowest, Lord
7. Lux aeterna

Bob Chilcott
(b. 1955)

Soprano: Cathy Al-Ghabra

Tenor: Simon Eastwood

Chilcott's *Requiem* was first performed at the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford in March 2010. The text is mainly taken from the *Missa pro defunctis*, the Roman Catholic Mass for the Dead, except for the sixth movement, Thou knowest, Lord, which is taken from the Book of Common Prayer. In many ways, this Requiem is not music for mourning, but rather, a work for meditation and reflection, it manages to be solemn and momentous at times, yet at other times inspiring and uplifting.

The Kontakion

Lang

Rupert

(b. 1948)

Tenor: Nick Brown

Soprano: Tania Pratt

Bass: Patrick Moore

The Kontakion is a form of hymn performed in the Eastern Orthodox Church, based on words from the Burial service. It doesn't refer to any particular text, but rather to a generic poem, often a dialogue between the Minister and the choir, or even the whole congregation. In this setting, the refrain is sung by the choir, and the verses by either a soloist or a single section of the choir. Rupert Lang is Organist at Vancouver Cathedral in Canada, and composed this piece in 2001 as a commission for a Remembrance Day concert, so it is fitting that it is included this evening.

INTERVAL

Funeral Music for Queen Mary

Purcell

Henry

(1659-1695)

1. Funeral March
2. Man that is born of a woman
3. Canzona
4. In the midst of life, we are in death
5. Canzona
6. Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts
7. Funeral March

The Queen Mary in question is Queen Mary II, perhaps better known as one half of 'William and Mary'. She fell victim to a smallpox epidemic in December 1694, and Purcell composed the funeral sentences for her Westminster Abbey funeral in January 1695. They were then used at Purcell's own funeral later in the same year. The text is from the Burial Service in the Book of Common Prayer.

Interlude:

"St Anne" Fugue, BWV 552

Organist: Simon Dinsdale

J S Bach
(1685-1750)

Lord, let me know mine end

Sopranos: Bethan Davies and Kat Penn

Maurice Greene
(1696-1755)

This beautiful setting by Maurice Greene of text

from Psalm 39 was much influenced by Purcell, who died the year before Greene was born. Greene was organist at St Paul's Cathedral and the Chapel Royal, and was eventually appointed Master of the King's Musick. He wrote a fair amount of choral and vocal music, of which this setting is probably the best known.

So they gave their bodies to the Commonwealth

Peter Aston (b. 1938)

This piece was composed in 1976, when Peter Aston had recently taken the position of Professor of Music at the University of East Anglia, where he is now Emeritus Professor of Composition. The text is taken from Pericles' Funeral Oration, written in Athens in 431 BC.

In Remembrance

Eleanor Daley
(b. 1955)

Eleanor Daley is a Canadian composer, organist and accompanist. *In Remembrance* is the fourth movement of her Requiem, published in 1995. The poem on which it is based, 'Do not stand at my grave and weep', was written in 1932 by American Mary Frye. The poem was introduced to Britain in 1995, when it was read out on Radio 4 by a father, who had found it in the personal effects of his son, a soldier who had been killed by a bomb in Northern Ireland. For a while, it was thought that the soldier had written the poem himself; the real author of the poem was not confirmed until 1998 when a journalist researched its origins.

For the Fallen

Karl Jenkins
(b. 1944)

Narrator: Dan Tyndall

For the Fallen was first performed at the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday 13th November 2010, so today is in effect its first anniversary. The text is the Laurence Binyon poem reprinted at the top of the previous page. The piece is subtitled 'In memoriam Alfryn Jenkins', referring to Karl Jenkins' uncle, who was captain of a Lancaster bomber that was lost over Berlin in 1944. The piece was also performed in September this year at a special memorial concert at the Lincoln Center in New York, along with Jenkins' well-known work 'The Armed Man', as part of the tenth Anniversary commemorations of 9/11.