

**Louise Rapple** is a Reading University graduate who studied conducting at the Conservatoire de Pau in southern France during her degree, and returned to the UK to direct the Reading University Singers for two years. She followed this with seven years as a Church 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. 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](mailto:lourap@gmail.com).

**A big 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 pianist Judith Creighton, and her duet partner Patsy Moore.

**Tamesis is:**

**Sopranos**

Cathy Al-Ghabra  
Miranda Bradshaw  
Katie Breakspear  
Clare Garner  
Katie Johnston  
Julie Kench  
Nanette Naude  
Anne Owen  
Tania Pratt  
Tamsyn Wilson

**Altos**

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

**Tenors**

Tim Beavan  
Nick Brown  
Simon Eastwood  
Graham Watt

**Basses**

Andy Button  
Edward Hobson  
John Kendall  
Patrick Moore  
Jeremy Robson  
Dan Tyndall

# tamesis

## chamber choir

musical director - louise rapple

presents the final concert  
in the 2011-12 season  
"Historic Times"

# A time to perform

Saturday June 23rd 2012  
7:30 pm  
St Laurence's Church, Reading

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

**Future events:**

**Saturday October 6th 2012**

**St Andrew's Garrison Church, Aldershot**  
**'Remembrance' CD Launch**

We will be launching our new CD, 'Remembrance' in October with a concert held in Aldershot. All profits from the CD will go to ABF: The Soldiers' Charity

**Saturday November 17th 2012**

The first concert in our decennial season for 2012-13, based on music chosen by you, our audience, to celebrate ten years of Tameis!

For details and tickets of these events, please see our website, [www.tamesischamberchoir.co.uk](http://www.tamesischamberchoir.co.uk)

On your marks, get set... GO! Tonight we celebrate Olympics past and present with a programme of music inspired by games, sports and London Town.

## Programme

**Medley from *Oliver!*** Lionel Bart arr. Leyden

*Oliver!* premiered in the West End in 1960. It launched the careers of several child actors, including Phil Collins and Tony Robinson, Davy Jones of the Monkees and John Bluthal, who played Frank in the Vicar of Dibley. Michael Caine just missed out on the role of Bill Sikes, and is said to have cried for a week! Apparently Lionel Bart never learned to read or write music, but this didn't stop his career as a songwriter—did you know he wrote 'Living Doll' for Cliff Richards and 'Little White Bull' for Tommy Steele?

**The Timeless Way of Cities** Raymond Yiu

In the autumn of last year, the Whitley Arts Festival commissioned a choral piece from award-winning composer Raymond Yiu and asked Tamesis to sing it. We worked with Raymond while he was writing the piece and performed the world premiere at the Minster Church of St Mary's in Reading in November 2011. The words were written by John Bancks in 1738 and are about London and the river Thames, conjuring up a scene of a lively, noisy, bustling town with all classes and races of people going about their business. "This is London! How d'ye like it?"

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Interlude:

**En bateau** Claude Debussy  
Piano: Patsy Moore and Judith Creighton

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**The Exercise of Music** Paul Ayres

The Exercise of Music is the first movement of the Loughborough Cantata, a piece composed for Loughborough University's Composition Competition 2012, inviting composers to write a work celebrating the London Olympics and the university's own sporting tradition. The panel of judges, including Tamesis favourite Bob Chilcott, awarded the cantata first prize. The première took place last month - we think this is only the second-ever performance! The words for this movement are from 'The Compleat Gentleman' by Henry Peacham (1578-?1644) and are quite brilliant - listen out for 'Leaping is an exercise very commendable, and healthfull for the body, especially if you use it in the morning... Upon a full stomacke or to bedward, it is very dangerous and in no way to be exercised'!

**The Olympic Hymn** Spiridon Samaras

In 1896 Samaras, a Greek composer mainly famous for his operas, was chosen by the first President of the International Olympic Committee to write the music for the Olympic Hymn, to be sung at the opening ceremony of the Athens Olympic Games. This hymn was declared the official Olympic Anthem in 1958 and has been sung at the opening ceremony of every Olympic Games since then.

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**INTERVAL**

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**Medley from *Sweeney Todd*** Sondheim arr. Beck

*Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* opened on Broadway in 1979. Sondheim's first Broadway job was writing the lyrics for *West Side Story*, but he did not consider himself solely a lyricist, and used the success of that show as a springboard towards writing both the lyrics and the

music for future shows. Somewhat unusually for Sondheim, *Sweeney Todd* is filled with catchy themes - of all tonight's programme, it's songs from *Sweeney* that I've been singing around the house for the last two weeks - not bad going for a composer who has been criticized for writing music that is not 'hummable'!

**A London Medley** arr. Gareth Malone

Written by Gareth Malone in 2007 for the Sing London! Festival, this medley incorporates six well-known London tunes made famous by the likes of the Kinks, Ralph McTell, and the musical 'Me and my girl'. It links nicely to our Olympic theme with its last few lines: "London is singing, yes and London is winning. Now London start running, the Olympics are coming!"

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Interlude:

**Business Girls** Madeleine Dring  
Soprano: Cathy Al-Ghabra, piano: Louise Rapple

**Just you wait** Lerner & Loewe  
Soprano: Tania Pratt, piano: Judith Creighton

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**Swimming over London** Bob Chilcott

Another piece from our old favourite, Bob Chilcott, *Swimming over London* was originally written in 2010 for the King's Singers, of whom Bob used to be a member. The words are by Charles Bennett (b.1954) and the beautiful tenor solo tells of a woman having the same dream she always has, where she's swimming over London and looking down at animals, trees and birds while she dances through the air over houses and fields to the ocean.

**Songs and Cries of London Town** Bob Chilcott

Written in 2001, the words and inspiration for the outer two movements of this cantata come from the 17th-century 'The Cries of London' by Orlando Gibbons. The second movement sets words from the 15th century by William Dunbar, the middle movement uses the traditional 'Oranges and Lemons' and the fourth movement sets William Wordsworth's well-known poem 'Composed upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802' - "Earth hath not anything to show more fair...". We have really enjoyed the contrasting movements and at times hilarious words. Listen out in the first movement for 'I'll very nicely cut your corns' and for the good roasted sausage in the last movement!