

**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).

**Thank you** to the authorities at Greyfriars for the use of this lovely Church, and to our organist, Simon Dinsdale, who has worked very hard for this concert! Big thanks also go to Charlie Hodgkinson, for invaluable help with the programme notes.

**Tamesis is:**

**Sopranos**

Cathy Al-Ghabra  
Miranda Bradshaw  
Katie Breakspear  
Rachel Burgess  
Bethan Davies  
Clare Garner  
Katie Johnston  
Anne Owen  
Tania Pratt

**Tenors**

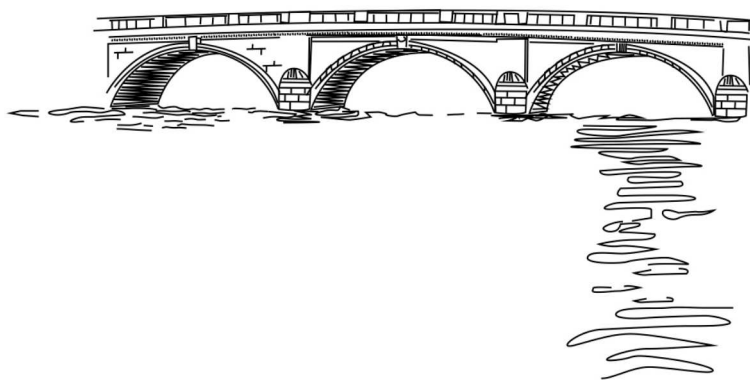
Tim Beavan  
Nick Brown  
Simon Eastwood  
Graham Watt

**Altos**

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

**Basses**

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



# tamesis chamber choir

musical director - louise rapple

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

## A time to celebrate

**Future concerts:**

**Saturday March 10th 2012**

**St Joseph's College, Reading, 8:00pm**

A concert in aid of the Rotary Club of Maiden Erlegh, with the theme 'Musicals', also featuring the Salvation Army Band.

**Saturday June 2nd 2012**

**Elms Field, Wokingham, 7:45pm**

Wokingham Jubilee Chorus Concert, featuring a huge choir with Tamesis taking a leading role, with Coronation music and fireworks!

**Saturday June 23rd 2012**

**St Laurence's Church, Reading, 7:30pm**

'A Time to Perform' - our summer concert, with music inspired by London and the Olympic Games.

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

**Saturday March 3rd 2012**

**7:30 pm**

**Greyfriars Church, Reading**

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

Long live the Queen! Today we celebrate Royal occasions past and present, with a concert of music from Royal Weddings and from the Coronation itself.

## Programme

**I was glad** C Hubert H Parry (1848-1918)

Written in 1902, the unmistakable opening chords of *I was glad* began the Coronation as the Queen entered the Abbey. The *Vivat Regina* acclamations are traditionally sung when the monarch is present; unless Her Majesty is unexpectedly in attendance this evening, we won't include them tonight!

**We wait for Thy loving kindness, O God** William McKie (1901-1984)

Australian McKie came to England in 1938 to become Organist at Magdalen College, Oxford. Three years later, as Organist at Westminster Abbey, he was at the helm for the Queen's wedding and the Coronation. This piece was composed for the former occasion and is his best known work.

**Let the people praise Thee, O God** William Mathias (1934-1992)

Welshman Mathias composed this anthem for Charles and Diana's 1981 wedding, gaining an immediate audience of around 1 billion people worldwide due to the TV coverage. Its popularity stems from its ebullience and verve, expressed in fluent rhythms and an uplifting, independent organ part.

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Interlude:

**O clap your hands together** Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

Octet: Cathy Al-Ghabra, Tania Pratt, Lucy Allen, Louise Rapple, Nick Brown, Simon Eastwood, Patrick Moore and Jeremy Robson

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**This is the day** John Rutter (1945- )

Rutter's compositions and arrangements, especially his Christmas carols, form a core of the modern choral repertoire. *This is the day*, composed for William and Catherine's 2011 wedding, bears all Rutter's hallmarks, being joyous, melodic and accessible to singer and listener alike.

**Ubi Caritas** Paul Mealor (1975- )

Welshman Mealor shot to fame last year, propelled by the Military Wives' hit *Wherever you are* and the performance of *Ubi Caritas* at the royal wedding. We have come to enjoy the subtlety of the piece, which at first seemed an indistinct blur of sound. Mealor has been justly compared to Lauridsen and Whitacre, two contemporary composition giants.

**Blest pair of sirens** C Hubert H Parry (1848-1918)

Parry enjoyed something of a portfolio career, never devoting himself fully to composition. From being an underwriter at Lloyds of London, he eventually became Director of the Royal College of Music. *Blest Pair of Sirens* was commissioned by Stanford and takes Milton's poem *At a solemn Musick* as its text.

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INTERVAL

**Zadok the Priest** Georg Friedrich Händel (1685-1759)

Perhaps the most famous Coronation music of all, *Zadok* was written in 1727, one of four Coronation Anthems composed for George II and used at every coronation since. *Zadok* has been widely used in film and TV soundtracks, its grandiose introduction conveying a sense of coming greatness.

**Let my prayer come up** William H. Harris (1883-1973)

Harris was Organist at St George's Chapel, Windsor when he composed this piece for the Coronation. He conducted at both the 1953 and 1937 coronations

and was awarded the KCVO in 1954 for these and other services to British music. He is best remembered for his anthem *Faire is the heaven*.

**Behold, O God our defender** Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Howells studied under other august coronation composers including Parry and Stanford. His work divides the opinion of our choir, who vigorously debate whether it is to be loved or loathed! *O God our defender* was written as the introit for the Coronation and is dated Christmas Day 1952.

**Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace** Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

A leading English organist and choirmaster in the nineteenth century, Wesley's works were almost all composed for the Church of England. Much of his music is still regularly performed by Church choirs today. *Thou wilt keep* was composed around 1850, setting words from the book of Isaiah.

**O taste and see** Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

"One is never quite sure whether one is listening to something very old or very new." This quotation about Vaughan Williams seems apt for *O taste and see*, a short, meditative piece with a sweetly haunting melody, evoking the folk songs that Vaughan Williams loved. It was commissioned for the Coronation and was sung during the communion.

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Interlude:

**Crown Imperial** William Walton (1902-1983)

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**Gloria in Excelsis** Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

This setting was written for George V's coronation in 1911 and was sung at both subsequent coronations. Stanford was a teacher and academic who taught Holst and Vaughan Williams. Though much of his oeuvre was overlooked after his death, his church music continues to be widely performed to this day.

**Coronation Te Deum** William Walton (1902-1983)

This magnificent work was commissioned for the 1953 Coronation. It has all the elements of pageantry and flourish required for such an occasion. In Walton's own words: "Lots of counter-tenors and little boys Holy-holying, not to mention all the Queen's Trumpeters and sidedrum." He went on, "I think it is going to be rather splendid." We agree.