

# tamesis

chamber choir  
featuring  
**Indigo May**



Musical director - Louise Rapple Moore

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

Find us on facebook  
at [facebook.com/tamesischamberchoir](https://facebook.com/tamesischamberchoir)

Follow us on twitter  
at [twitter.com/tamesischoir](https://twitter.com/tamesischoir)

Follow us on instagram  
at [instagram.com/tamesischamberchoir](https://instagram.com/tamesischamberchoir)

Subscribe to us on YouTube  
at **Tamesis Choir**

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

presents

## Blue Skies Ahead

An optimistic and joyful programme  
to celebrate being able to make  
music together again

on Saturday 6th November 2021  
at 7pm

Shiplake Memorial Hall



## Tamesis Chamber Choir

### Sopranos

Miranda Bradshaw  
 Rebecca Connell  
 Clare Garner  
 Louise Hill  
 Vicky Mason  
 Anne Owen  
 Suzanne Smith  
 Tamsyn Wilson

### Altos

Sarah Finch  
 Charlie Hobson  
 Emily King  
 Emily Reed  
 Alison Wilkins

### Tenors

Tim Beavan  
 Nick Brown  
 Aled Elmore  
 Laurence Hicks  
 Jude Watts

### Basses

Andy Button  
 John Cobb  
 Andrew Grigg  
 Edward Hobson  
 Trevor Mansfield  
 Patrick Moore

Tamesis Chamber Choir was founded in 2003. The choir of around 28 singers has carved a niche in the Berkshire area: members are auditioned each year to maintain the highest standards, and we sing high-quality music with only a few rehearsals for each concert. It's also important to us that we have a lively social aspect!

Tamesis is the Latin name for the River Thames, reflecting our links to Reading and the surrounding area. We perform regularly to raise funds for local and national charities including Macmillan, Sue Ryder, Water Aid, ABF The Soldiers' Charity and Rotary International. The choir has featured several times on local radio and on BBC Radio 3.

Tamesis has been styled 'one of Berkshire's best ensembles' in local press. Our repertoire ranges from sacred to popular music, spanning the centuries from the renaissance period to the present day. Our three CDs, Spirituals, Remembrance and Christmas, will be on sale this evening.

We re-audition formally each September but currently we do have vacancies in some parts so if you are interested in singing with us, contact Louise on [lourap@gmail.com](mailto:lourap@gmail.com).

We need an **architect** we trust to design our dream home



Love where you live.  
 Love the process of creating it.

- Inspiring design
- The 'wow' factor
- Creative vision
- Great communication
- Bespoke comfort
- Ingenuity
- Practicality
- A well-managed project

### You CAN have it all

"An empathetic, creative architect who can guide you through the whole process smoothly."

**If you're considering a new build, transformation, renovation or extension for your home I can help you create a place that feels as good to live in as it looks. I am based near Shiplake and work across South Oxfordshire and Berkshire.**

Anne Owen, BA (Hons) BArch, RIBA  
 Find out more about my approach...  
 visit [annethearchitect.blogspot.com](http://annethearchitect.blogspot.com)



**anne owen**  
 architects

0118 932 0846 / 07788 262602  
[info@annethearchitect.co.uk](mailto:info@annethearchitect.co.uk)  
[www.annethearchitect.co.uk](http://www.annethearchitect.co.uk)



 @VickyPodiatrist

I can solve your foot problems and make you feel like you are walking on air.

**VICKY WATTS  
PODIATRY IN  
YOUR HOME**

vwattspodiatry@gmail.com

07818303809

How are  
your  
feet?

Do they  
hurt?  
Are they  
hard to  
manage?



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Christmas Carol Concert in aid of St John's Ambulance at Wellington College Chapel Saturday 11th December, 6:00pm

We are delighted to be returning to Wellington for the first time since the launch of our Remembrance album, for a charity Christmas concert in this beautiful venue.

### Eton College Christmas Service, in aid of Thames Hospice, at Eton College Chapel Thursday 16th December, 7:30pm

We are so pleased to be singing at Eton for the third time in this magical Christmas service.

### Epiphany Motcombe Church, near Shaftesbury Saturday 15th January 2022

We are excited to reprise our Epiphany concert from 2020, this time in Dorset!

Information and tickets for all these events are on our shiny new website at:  
[www.tamesischamberchoir.co.uk](http://www.tamesischamberchoir.co.uk)

## PROGRAMME

### *Indigo May and Tamesis:*

O salutaris hostia

Eriks Ešenvalds

### *Tamesis:*

Birthday Madrigals

John Rutter

1. It was a lover and his lass
2. Draw on, sweet night
3. Come live with me
4. My true love hath my heart
5. When daisies pied

### *Indigo May:*

Adagio

Tomoso Albinoni, arr. Giazotto/Fabian

Badinerie

Johann Sebastian Bach

How do you keep the music playing?

Michel Legrand

The Prayer

David Foster, Carole Bayer Sager,  
Alberto Testa and Tony Renis

### *Indigo May and Tamesis:*

Ave verum corpus

Geoffrey Burgon

---

## **INTERVAL**

---

### *Indigo May and Tamesis:*

Swimming over London

Bob Chilcott

### *Indigo May:*

Angel

Sarah McLachlan

Come what may

David Baerwald and Kevin Gilbert

Bring him home

Claude-Michel Schönberg  
and Alain Boublil

### *Tamesis:*

Oh Shenandoah

Trad. arr. Andy Milburn

The seal lullaby

Eric Whitacre

Blue skies

Irving Berlin arr. Steve Zegree

Sure on this shining night

Morten Lauridsen

(Something inside) so strong

Labi Siffre arr. Rice

### *Indigo May and Tamesis:*

Bridge over troubled water

Paul Simon arr. Kirby Shaw

## BLUE SKIES AHEAD

A very warm welcome to Tamesis Chamber Choir's first live public performance since March 2020. In anxious times, when music and community can be such a solace, the recent enforced hiatus for choirs and musicians felt even more dispiriting. To say we're glad to be back understates our feelings: we've missed singing together so very much.

Performing with us tonight are professional duo Indigo May. Thank you, Meinir and Julie, for sprinkling some Indigo May stardust across the evening and making our comeback concert even more memorable.

Tonight's theme is a simple one - we've chosen well-loved pieces that weave together threads of optimism, reflection and musical beauty. We hope to share with you our pleasure at being able to gather, collaborate and perform once again, and to acknowledge the difficult experiences that have affected us all since March 2020.

We're truly delighted to welcome you back as our audience tonight - we've missed you - and hope you enjoy the programme. Here's to Blue Skies Ahead for us all.

### **Ēriks Ešenvalds (b. 1977) - O salutaris hostia**

Latvian Ēriks Ešenvalds is a rising star in contemporary choral music. He graduated from the Latvian Academy of Music in 2004 and has since won numerous awards for his composition. This 2009 setting of *O salutaris hostia* (the saving grace of heaven's gates) takes its text from a poem by medieval priest and philosopher St. Thomas Aquinas. The two solo soprano lines are spun above and around a supporting chorale from the rest of the choir, in a tender, ecstatic piece.

### **John Rutter (b. 1945) - Birthday Madrigals**

The *Birthday Madrigals* were commissioned in 1995 by former King's Singer Brian Kay to celebrate the 75th birthday of the great jazz pianist George Shearing. Rutter took *It was a lover and his lass*, which he had written in 1975, and added four new pieces to make up the set. In tribute to Shearing, he draws on a lively crossover jazz style for the more exuberant madrigals, contrasting with the two reflective and tender pieces that separate them.

The texts of all the Birthday Madrigals are taken from the original madrigal era: *It was a lover and his lass* has words by Shakespeare; *Draw on sweet night* is attributed to John Wilbye; *My true love hath my heart* has text by Sir Philip Sidney; and *When daisies pied* is again by Shakespeare, with the third verse by Peele.

*Come live with me and be my love* is a clever amalgamation of two poems. Marlowe's *The Passionate Shepherd To His Love* provides the shepherd's imploring text, sung by the men. The ladies are pitted against them with words from Walter Raleigh's poem *The Nymph's Reply To the Shepherd*, written after Marlowe's poem in response to it. Being of a pragmatic bent, the nymph is only prepared to live with the shepherd if, as she says, 'youth could last, and love still breed, had joys no date nor age no need...' Is a happy ending in prospect for the two? You'll have to decide.

### **Tomaso Albinoni (1671-1751) - Adagio**

Adagio, often referred to as "Albinoni's Adagio, arranged by Giazotto", is most commonly orchestrated for string ensemble and organ, or string ensemble alone. In 1999,



### **Trevor Defferd**

Our pianist this evening, Trevor graduated in Music from Southampton University. Following sixteen years teaching music in secondary schools in Hampshire and Berkshire, he took a Postgraduate Musical Director's course at LAMDA in 1996. He now works as a freelance musician, dividing his time between teaching piano and theatre work as a Musical Director and keyboard player.

Professional work in London includes being Musical Director for *Mapp and Lucia* at the Jermyn Street Theatre and the revue *Sweet Mr Shakespeare* in Regent's Park. He has sung, played solo piano and conducted in the Royal Albert Hall and been a rehearsal pianist at the National Theatre. He performs regularly in cabaret at venues such as Crazy Coqs and The Pheantry and is Aimi Macdonald's regular Musical Director. He played cocktail piano for nearly ten years at The Mill at Sonning, where he recorded his first CD of solo piano music, *Out Here On My Own*.

Trevor has worked on nearly 200 shows, including 80 as Musical Director. Locally, he has conducted musicals at the Corn Exchange, Newbury and The Hexagon in Reading, as well as The Haymarket and The Anvil in Basingstoke. He is also a Director of the newly-formed Triple Threat Theatre.

**An enormous THANK YOU to Lottie and everyone at Shiplake Memorial Hall for the use of this lovely venue.**

**Please enjoy the interval refreshments, brought to you tonight by the efforts of the Tamesis Tenor Section!**



**Singers at the Patchwork Mass, Henley-on-Thames, 14th March 2020: The final Tamesis event to take place before the pandemic**



### **Louise Rapple Moore**

Louise studied conducting at the Conservatoire de Pau in southern France whilst at university and began her conducting career by directing the Reading University Singers. She spent several years in Church music as an organist and choir director and founded Tamesis in 2003. She also directs Tamesis Cathedral Singers, an occasional choir that sings Cathedral Evensongs twice a year.

Louise is founder and director of Shiplake Community Choir and Hagbourne Community Choir, both choirs for singers of all ages and abilities singing a mainly popular repertoire. In October 2013 she was delighted to be recognised for both her work as a Choral Director and her charitable fund-raising efforts by being named Creative Woman of the Year in Sue Ryder's annual 'Women of Achievement' awards at the Madejski Stadium in Reading. In 2017 she gained her LRSM in Choral Conducting via the Advanced Conducting Course with the Association of British Choral Directors.



### **Indigo May**

Indigo May is a classical crossover vocal duo with at least one very familiar face and voice to Tamesis fans. Julie Kench partners with her former Swingle Singers colleague Meinir Ann Thomas in their professional act, where two blended soprano voices create one incredible sound. The duo captures the hearts of audiences with thrilling harmonies and a banquet of well-loved and new songs. Julie and Meinir met whilst touring the world as members of the legendary, Grammy-award winning a cappella group The Swingle Singers. They both have extensive vocal careers spanning everything from opera to jazz. They are based in the UK and perform locally, internationally and at sea as regular guest headline artists on board cruise liners with P&O, SAGA and Cunard, where audience members have rated them one of the best acts they've seen on board.

Indigo May is excited to be in demand once again with leading cruise lines, as global travel begins to reopen and we are very happy that they've found space in their itinerary for this joint concert. Find out more about Indigo May and hear their recordings at [www.indigomayduo.com](http://www.indigomayduo.com).

singer songwriter Lara Fabian created a vocal version with Italian lyrics, which is the inspiration for our version. Whist in the Swingle Singers we also sang an a cappella arrangement using vocal scat to imitate instruments.

Giazotto claims to have discovered a manuscript fragment in a library in Dresden just after the end of World War II, consisting of a few opening bars of the melody line and a portion of the basso continuo. He then constructed a single-movement work based on these themes. After it was published in 1958 under a title which, translated into English, reads "Adagio in G minor for strings and organ, on two thematic ideas and on a figured bass by Tomaso Albinoni", Giazotto was never able to produce the manuscript fragment, and no official record has been found of its presence in the collection of the Saxon State Library. *Adagio* has been used in many films and TV programmes including *Gallipoli* and *Flashdance*.

### **JS Bach (1685-1750) - Badinerie**

In 1963, American Ward Swingle and a group of session singers experimented with singing Bach's *Well-Tempered Klavier* using jazz scat. This experiment was very fruitful, and The Swingle Singers were born. One of their most recognisable pieces was *Badinerie* (originally written for flute), performed by soprano Christiane Legrand.

### **Michel Legrand (1932-2019) - How do you keep the music playing?**

Christiane Legrand's brother Michel composed this song, with lyrics by Alan and Marilyn Bergman, for the 1982 film *Best Friends*, where it was performed by James Ingram and Patti Austin. The Austin/Ingram version became a single in 1983 and it was one of three songs with lyrics by the Bergmans that were nominated for the Academy Award for Best Original Song at the 55th Academy Awards.

### **David Foster (b.1949), Carole Bayer Sager (b.1947), Alberto Testa (1927-2009) and Tony Renis (b.1938) - The Prayer**

Most famously recorded by Canadian singer Celine Dion and Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli, *The Prayer* was originally recorded in two solo versions for the 1998 film *Quest for Camelot*. Dion recorded the English version and Bocelli the Italian version. The song won a Golden Globe Award for Best Original Song and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Song in 1999 and a Grammy Award for Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals in 2000. It has become a firm favourite in the classical crossover world and features on both Indigo May albums.

### **Geoffrey Burgon (1941-2010) - Ave verum**

The *ave verum* is a short Eucharistic hymn dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, which has been set to music by many composers over hundreds of years. This contemporary version is by Geoffrey Burgon, best known as a composer of TV and film scores, including the original TV version of *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*, the film music for *Monty Python's Life of Brian* and this theme for *Brideshead Revisited*. Originally an instrumental piece, Burgon later arranged it for three sopranos, choir, organ and oboe. Tonight we have swapped the organ and oboe for piano and flute and are pitting Tamesis' first sopranos against our guest vocalists, Indigo May!

### **Bob Chilcott (b. 1955) - Swimming over London**

*Swimming over London* was originally written in 2010 for the King's Singers: Bob Chilcott once sang tenor with the group.

The piece is a vivid musical depiction of the colourful dreamscape created in Charles Bennett's poetic text. The solo floats soulfully over the soft, jazz harmonies of the choir, narrating a dreaming woman's voyage across London's sky. It's a wistful blend of childlike dreams of flying ("touching a cloud") and fragments of the London landscape. The lyrics seem to evoke a longing to escape the city for the coast, drawn on through the night, pointed by rooftop aerials, to the countryside and at last, the sea, where she "sings to the stars like a mermaid."

#### **Sarah McLachlan (b.1968) - Angel**

Canadian singer-songwriter Sarah McLachlan featured this song on her fourth studio album, *Surfacing*, in 1999. The lyrics are inspired by the pressures musician face and, notably, describe the death of Jonathan Melvoin (1961-1996), the Smashing Pumpkins' touring keyboard player, who died from a drug overdose. When asked about the song McLachlan said it was "about trying not to take responsibility for other people's problems and trying to love yourself at the same time".

#### **David Baerwald (b.1960) and Kevin Gilbert (1966-1996) - Come what may**

*Come what may* was originally intended for the film *William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet*. However, it was first heard publicly, and is best known, as the romantic love theme from Baz Luhrmann's 2001 film *Moulin Rouge!*, where it is sung by Ewan McGregor and Nicole Kidman in their respective roles as Christian and Satine.

#### **Claude-Michel Schönberg (b.1944) and Alain Boublil (b.1941) - Bring him home**

*Bring him home* is from *Les Misérables*, the musical based on the 1862 novel by French poet and novelist Victor Hugo, with music by Claude-Michel Schönberg and original French lyrics by Alain Boublil. The protagonist Jean Valjean begs God to save the life of another character, Marius, even if he must sacrifice his own life for Marius' safety. In a documentary on the film adaptation, Claude-Michel Schönberg revealed that the song was written specifically for Colm Wilkinson who was the original Valjean in the West End and Broadway productions.

#### **Trad. arr. Milburn - Oh Shenandoah**

The Shenandoah melody and words spring from a traditional American folksong from the early 1800s. It's thought to have originated with fur traders who travelled down the Missouri River in canoes. Since then, it's been adopted as a sea shanty by sailors around the world. There are lots of versions of the lyrics. Shenandoah was a famous Indian chief in American history; there are several US towns named after him.

Local musician and composer Andy Milburn studied with Louise at Reading University. In the first 2020 lockdown, he was inspired to set Shenandoah for SATB choir and piano, with Tamesis Chamber Choir in mind. We were delighted to have a Coronaproject (as Louise called it!) of our own and duly recorded video and audio of our individual tracks, which Andy then mixed and produced. Though we loved the end result, it was challenging and frustrating to rehearse and record in isolation at home. Coming back together at last to perform this as a united choir is a wonderful feeling. We're thrilled to present the first live public premiere of Andy's beautiful, poignant setting this evening, and to welcome Andy in the audience to hear the performance.

#### **Eric Whitacre (b.1970) - The seal lullaby**

The words of *The seal lullaby* appear as a poem at the start of *The White Seal*, a story from Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*. In 2004 Whitacre was asked by Dreamworks to write the music for a film based on the story, and, very excited, said that this piece 'came gushing out of him'. He sent it off and waited eagerly for a response, but none was forthcoming. When he finally called them to chase it up, they said "Oh, we decided to make Kung Fu Panda instead!"

#### **Irving Berlin (1888-1989), arr. Zegree - Blue skies**

*Blue skies* was composed in 1926 as a last-minute addition to the Rodgers and Hart musical *Betsy* - an instant success, with audiences on opening night demanding 24 encores of the piece. In 1927 it became one of the first songs to be featured in a "talkie" movie, performed by Al Jolson in *The jazz singer*.

The lyrics use the blue sky above (and a bluebird) to symbolise love, joy and optimism. Versions have been recorded by dozens of celebrated vocalists and ensembles, from Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald to Eva Cassidy, The Swingle Singers and Groove Armada.

#### **Lauridsen (b. 1943) - Sure on this shining night (from Three Nocturnes)**

When the US President awarded Lauridsen the National Medal of Arts in 2007, he commended the composer "for his composition of radiant choral works combining musical beauty, power and spiritual depth..." The *Three Nocturnes*, premiered in the same year, bear all the hallmarks of Lauridsen's admired contemporary style. *Sure on this shining night* sets a text by James Agee. His setting brings a sense of nocturnal intimacy, with soaring harmonies giving the sense of shimmering lights in the rich and kindly darkness all around.

#### **Labi Siffre (b. 1945) arr. Rice - (Something inside) so strong**

*(Something inside) so strong* is an anti-apartheid song written by the British poet, musician, singer and songwriter Labi Siffre. It was inspired in 1985 by a film showing a white soldier shooting black children. Siffre emerged from self-imposed retirement from mainstream pop singing to record and release the song in 1987 - it reached number four in the UK charts. He later revealed that the lyrics also reflect his personal experience of exclusion and condemnation, as a black, gay man in a Catholic community.

#### **Simon (b. 1941) arr. Kirby Shaw - Bridge over troubled water**

This much-loved song of hope and help in times of trouble turned out to be Simon and Garfunkel's swansong, released in 1970 as their legendary pop partnership came to an end.

The description on musicroom.com sums up this version perfectly: "Kirby Shaw's phenomenal arrangement... is contemporary choral writing at its finest! The light, harmonic a cappella opening is contrasted with this soaring, fresh gospel-style setting that holds opportunities for improvisation from multiple soloists." You can count on Indigo May to take care of that this evening!

*Programme notes by Charlie Hobson and Julie Kench*