

The Crofton Singers

Soprano

Alison Cavadino
Helen Lyall
Joanna Newell
Rohini Rajendram
Patricia Pretious
Frances Quintrell

Alto

Ashlee Godwin
Diana Meteyard
Diana Newlands

Tenor

James Bishop
Chris Mear
Hugh Meteyard
Geoff Williams

Bass

Richard Barnard
John Hall
Greg Hartwell
David Hatch
William Newell (*The
Ballad of Little Mus-
grave & Lady Barnard*)



The Crofton Singers

Registered Charity No. 1012741

Musical Director: **Simon Pusey**

Piano/Organ: **Chris Mear**

Britten & Connections

**Music to celebrate the centenary of
the birth of Benjamin Britten**

**7.30 p.m. on Saturday 27th April 2013
St. Barnabas Church, Snakes Lane East,
Woodford Green, IG8 7HX**

Tickets £10, Concessions £8, Under 12s free

www.croftonsingers.org.uk

The Crofton Singers is a friendly chamber choir, rehearsing from 8.00 p.m. on Thursday evenings at Bancroft's School during term times. New members of all ages are always welcome: there are no formal auditions – selection is by mutual agreement after a few rehearsals. The choir has a very wide and varied repertoire including sacred, secular, classical and modern music: from Bach to Bernstein, Tallis to Cole Porter, Rachmaninov to Vaughan Williams, eight-part Mediæval Latin Mass to the close harmony of the Barber Shop. We perform locally three or four times a year. Social events for all the family also form part of the calendar. If you'd like to come and sing with us, or want some more information, just pick up the phone and have a chat with the chairman Joanna Newell on 07866 186501 or contact us via our website:

www.croftonsingers.org.uk

Please also contact us if you would like to make a donation to support the Crofton Singers. As a registered charity we can claim Gift Aid on your donation which can increase its value at no extra cost to you.

We are very grateful to David Wightman for his generous donation towards the cost of hiring music for this concert.



Programme

Lord, how long wilt thou be angry Henry Purcell (1659-95)
Solos: Ashlee Godwin, Geoff Williams, Greg Hartwell

Hear my Prayer, O Lord

My Prayer Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)
Solos: Rohini Rajendram, Joanna Newell

Missa Brevis in D Benjamin Britten (1913-76)
Solos: Joanna Newell, Rohini Rajendram, Ashlee Godwin

Ave Maria Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)
Pater Noster

Rejoice in the Lamb Benjamin Britten
Solos: Rohini Rajendram, Diana Newlands, Hugh Meteyard, Richard Barnard

Interval

Swansea Town Gustav Holst (1874-1934)
This have I done for my true love Solo: Joanna Newell
There was a tree

The Ballad of Little Musgrave & Lady Barnard Benjamin Britten

In my childhood Raymond Warren (b. 1928)
Solo: Rohini Rajendram

Five Flower Songs Benjamin Britten
To daffodils
The succession of the four sweet months
Marsh flowers
The evening primrose
Ballad of green broom

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) was a unique force in British music. Of the fine composers among his contemporaries, none wrote such a wide variety of music across such a broad spectrum of genres and for such a range of ages and abilities. In many ways, though he might have been surprised by the comparison, he was the natural successor to Vaughan Williams, whose instincts for community and the nurture of amateur musicians brought him an almost cult-like status in

Britain. Britten did not devote himself so wholeheartedly to these things, but a sizeable proportion of his choral music is easily within the reach of a good ordinary choir, another part is well within the grasp of a reasonable church choir, and there is, of course, all the music he wrote specifically for children. Among the 60 or so non-operatic choral works there are also works which are exceptionally demanding and perhaps best left to professionals and outstanding amateurs. The range of this output and the frequency of performance of the better-known works underline Britten's ubiquity in the world of choral singing, not just in the English-speaking community but far beyond.

Paul Spicer

Simon Pusey became our Musical Director in September 2009. Simon also conducts the Hemel Hempstead Singers, is the Director of Music at St. Mary's Church, Hemel Hempstead, and is active as a singer, piano accompanist and teacher. He has been constantly involved in musical activities as Organist, Choirmaster and Director of Music and sometimes singer with a wide variety of professional and amateur ensembles. He has had previous connections with The Crofton Singers. The choir's first conductor was his godfather, the composer Raymond Warren. Simon sang in the choir himself for a short while before leaving for University. Not only that, his father, Andrew Pusey, was its conductor for a while in the 1970s.

Chris Mear began learning the piano at the age of five, and went on to study under Sandro Ivo Bartoli. Between 2000 and 2003 Chris was an organ scholar at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, during which time he also gave a number of piano recitals focusing on music by Chopin and Ravel. Chris now lives in London and works as an organist, accompanist and piano teacher at Forest School, Snaresbrook.

Future Concerts:

Summer Concerts

Saturday 13th July - St. Mary's, South Woodford

Saturday 14th September - St Mary's, Redbourn

Participation in Our Big Gig

Sunday 14th July - Victoria Park, Hackney

Christmas Concert

Saturday 14th December - St Mary's, South Woodford