

The Chantry Singers

The Chantry Singers is a chamber choir based in Guildford which regularly performs three concerts a year. The choir was formed in 1983 by Tim Vennell, then deputy music director at the Royal Grammar School Guildford, and who went on to conduct it for the next ten years.

His successors Peter Coulson, Andrew Wilson and Sarah Baldock carried forward his policy of alternating the unaccompanied repertoire with performances of major works. Throughout, the accent has been on a variety of musical styles from a variety of musical ages. Away from home the choir has sung services in several cathedrals, notably Rochester, Salisbury and St. George's Chapel Windsor. Joanna Marsh was guest conductor for the choir's concert in December 2002 and we are delighted to welcome her this evening for her first concert as our new resident conductor.

Sopranos

Sylvia Coghill
Beryl Disley
Fiona Linford *
Jennifer Nicholas
Claire Rennison *
Pat Turner
Sally Varley
Frances Worpe

Altos

Shirley Aston
Michelle Bowles
Jean Matthews
Catherine Nunn

Tenors

Geoff Disley
Tony Kemp
Jo Huddleston
Roger Smy
Hugh Walker

Basses

John Hart
Mike Lodge
Tony Morden
Mike Trumble
John Trundle

*Soloists this evening

Next Concert

*Saturday 13th December 2003
Holy Trinity, Church Guildford
At 7.30 p.m.*

Motets by J.S.Bach



A BOUQUET OF SUMMER MUSIC

*Choral part songs by
Parry, Holst, Finzi and Britten*

Conductor

JOANNA MARSH

**Saturday 21st June 2003
St Nicolas Church,
Guildford
at 7.30pm**

Programme

- Three Part Songs** *Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)*
My spirit sang all day
I praise the tender flower
Haste on, my joys!
- My Soul, There is a Country** *C. Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918)*
- Five Flower Songs** *Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)*
To Daffodils
The Succession of the Four Sweet Months
Marsh Flowers
The Evening Primrose
Ballad of Green Broom
- Three English Folk Songs**
My Sweetheart's like Venus *Gustav Holst (1874-1934)*
O Waly, Waly *John Rutter (born 1945)*
Greensleeves *Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*
- Silent Noon** *Ralph Vaughan Williams*
Soloist: Claire Rennison
- It was a Lover and His Lass** *Ralph Vaughan Williams*
Soloists: Claire Rennison and Fiona Linford
The soloists are accompanied by Margaret Roberts
- Never Weather-Beaten Sail** *C. Hubert H. Parry*
- Two Songs from "Childhood Lyrics"** *John Rutter*
Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
Sing a Song of Sixpence
- Is You Is Or Is You Ain't My Baby?** *Billy Austin/Louis Jordan*
arr. James Oxley
- And so it goes** *Billy Joel arr. Bob Chilcott*

Please join the choir for refreshments

The Music

The music for tonight's concert is a celebration of the English unaccompanied part-song over the last hundred years—a small musical form of infinite variety and a wide subject matter. Parry's well-loved *My Soul, There is a Country* alternates homophony and polyphony to set the 17th century poem by Henry Vaughan. The three songs by Finzi are part of a cycle of seven songs on poems of Robert Bridges, who also inspired Parry, Holst and Stanford.

Britten's contribution to the tradition is extensive and the *Five Flower Songs* are fine examples of his genius in painting his subjects in sound, whether nodding daffodils or the scent of primrose in poems by Herrick, Crabbe and Clare.

The resurgence in interest in the English folk-song in the 19th and 20th centuries inspired many composers to revisit traditional songs and we feature settings by Holst, Rutter and Vaughan Williams.

The evening concludes with the last two of John Rutter's *Five Childhood Lyrics*, innovative settings of popular songs, and in a lighter vein with two arrangements of popular songs, the jazzy *Is You Is* and the serene *And So It Goes*.

Joanna Marsh

Joanna Marsh is a freelance conductor, organist and composer based in Sussex. She was School Organist at Christ's Hospital from 1997 until July 2002. As an organist Joanna has given recitals in Europe and the USA and recent performances in the UK have included Westminster Abbey, Westminster Cathedral and St. Paul's Cathedral.

Educated at Kingswood School, Bath, Joanna studied the organ with Marcus Sealy at Bath Abbey and then with David Sanger at the Royal Academy of Music. While at the Academy she won the Henry Richard's Organ Prize, adjudicated by the Lady Suzy Jeans. Joanna was Organ Scholar at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, 1989-92. She has tutored for the International Organ Festival at Oundle, on the *Pulling out the Stops* course for young organists and has organised many workshops, Organ and Singing Days, which have attracted large numbers of both experienced musicians and keen beginners.

In addition to her work as a performer and composer, Joanna has run children's choirs, including the East Sussex County Girl's Choir, a choir of 70, who have recently returned from a tour of New York and Boston where her work *The Train to Glasgow* for choir and wind orchestra received its first performance.

Joanna also directs the choir Innovation which she founded in 1999 to put on professional concerts with singers based in Sussex. The choir has recently produced its first CD of 20th Century Sacred Music, recorded in the atmospheric setting of Christ's Hospital Chapel.