



**DURHAM**  
CHORAL SOCIETY  
AND ORCHESTRA

**FROM DUSK**

**'TIL DAWN...**

Durham Cathedral

18th May 2024 7.30pm

**EINE KLEINE NACHTMUSIK - MOZART**

**MASS IN G - SCHUBERT**

**SUNRISE MASS - OLA GJEILO**

Durham Choral Society is a registered charity  
No514557 affiliated to Making Music  
[www.durhamchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.durhamchoralsociety.org.uk)



**There will be a 20 minute interval after the Schubert Mass.**

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**From Dusk 'Til Dawn**  
**Mozart: Eine Kleine Nachtmusik**  
**Schubert: Mass in G**  
**Ola Gjeilo: Sunrise Mass**

18 May 2024

Durham Cathedral

(by kind permission of the Chapter of Durham Cathedral)

**Soloists:**

C. Elizabeth Woods, Soprano

Simon Lee, Tenor

Peter Coulson, Bass

**Conductor:**

Michael Summers

**Leader:**

Julia Boulton

Durham Choral Society is a registered charity (RC 514557) and is affiliated to Making Music (RC 249219).





**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)**, baptised as **Joannes Chrysostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart**, was a prolific and influential composer of the Classical period. He was a friend of, and was mentored by, Joseph Haydn.

Despite his short life, he composed more than 800 works of virtually every genre of his time. Mozart is widely regarded as among the greatest composers in the history of Western music, with his music admired for its "melodic beauty, its formal elegance and its richness of harmony and texture".

Born in Salzburg, Mozart showed prodigious ability from his earliest childhood. Already competent on keyboard and violin, he composed from the age of five and performed before European royalty. At 17, he was a musician at the Salzburg court of Archbishop Colloredo but grew restless and travelled in search of a better position.

While visiting Vienna in 1781 Mozart had plans to become a soloist in the Tonkünstler-Societät concert series which led to disagreements with Colloredo. He stayed in Vienna where he married Constanze Weber in 1782.

He achieved fame but little financial security. During his final years, he composed many of his best-known symphonies, concertos, and operas.



**Franz Schubert** (1797–1828) was an Austrian romantic composer and although he died at the age of 31, he was a prolific composer, having written some 600 lieder and nine symphonies.

Aged 10, the young Schubert won a place in the Vienna Imperial Court chapel choir and quickly gained a reputation as a budding composer with a set of facile string quartets.

Schubert followed his father into the teaching profession. This turned out to be a blessing, for it was Schubert's deep loathing of the school environment that finally lit the touchpaper of his creative genius. The same year he began teaching - 1814 - he produced his first indisputable masterpiece, 'Gretchen am Spinnrade'.

While Schubert was still struggling to hold down his full-time teaching post, he not only composed 145 lieder (songs), the Second and Third Symphonies, two sonatas and a series of miniatures for solo piano, two mass settings and other shorter choral works, four stage works, and a string quartet, in addition to various other projects. This period of intense creative activity remains one of the most inexplicable feats of productivity in musical history.

With little money, Schubert began to produce a seemingly endless stream of masterpieces that for the most part were left to posterity to discover, including the two great song cycles, Die Schone Mullerin and Winterreise, the Eighth ('Unfinished') and Ninth ('Great') Symphonies, the Octet for Wind, the last three string quartets, the two piano trios, the String Quintet, the 'Wanderer' Fantasy and the last six sonatas for solo piano.

Composer and pianist **Ola Gjeilo** (1978- ) was born and grew up in Skui, a suburb of Oslo in Norway. He began playing piano and composing when he was five years old and learned to read music when he was seven years old.

He studied music at the Norwegian Academy of Music between 1999 and 2001 where he was tutored in classical composition by fellow Norwegian, Wolfgang Plagge, before transferring to the Juilliard School, New York, in 2001.

Returning to Europe in 2002, Gjeilo gained a place at the Royal College of Music where he received a Bachelor's degree in composition in 2004. He continued his education at Juilliard from 2004 to 2006 where his master's degree in composition was awarded in 2006. He currently resides in the USA, working as a freelance composer.

His recordings include the Decca Classics albums *Ola Gjeilo* (2016) and *Winter Songs* (2017) featuring Tenebrae, Voces8 and the Choir of Royal Holloway. Later recordings include *Dark & Luminous Night* (2020) and *Dreamweaver* (2023).

Photograph by Lilian Andersen

# Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

Mozart's Serenade No 13 for strings in G major was written in Vienna in 1787. The traditionally used name of the work comes from the entry Mozart made for it in his personal catalogue, which begins, "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik". It is however thought that Mozart was not giving the piece a special name, rather just making a note to himself that he had completed it, as he was otherwise busy composing Don Giovanni. Most of Mozart's serenades were written on commission but it is not known for whom No 13 was written or when it was first performed as it remained unpublished until 1827, almost 30 years after Mozart's widow Constanze sold it to a publisher as part of a job lot of her husband's compositions. The serenade was written for a chamber ensemble of two violins, a viola, a cello and a double bass and it is often performed by a string orchestra as at this concert. The serenade is one of Mozart's most famous works and comprises the following movements

Allegro (G major)

Romanze: Andante (C major)

Minuetto: Allegretto (G major, with trio in D major)

Finale: Allegro (G major)

## Mass No. 2 in G

This work was composed by Schubert in early March 1815. It remains one of the best known of his three missae breves, written between his more elaborate Masses No.1 and No.5. Schubert originally wrote the Mass for just string orchestra, organ, choir and soloists. Apart from some passages for soprano, its solistic interventions are modest; and Schubert, characteristically, inclines toward a devotional mood. However in the 1980s a set of parts dated later than Schubert's published full score was found at an exciting discovery at Klosterneuburg and their content suggests that his final thoughts about the work were on a grander scale, with trumpet and timpani added. The Mass was not printed until 1845, some years after Schubert's death, and until then remained one of his less-noted compositions. Its first edition was in fact usurped by Robert Fuhrer, director of music at Prague's St Vitus Cathedral who eventually in an unrelated incident landed in prison for embezzlement. The mass consists of six movements.

1. Kyrie eleison
2. Gloria in excelsis
3. Credo
4. Sanctus
5. Benedictus
6. Agnus Dei

## The Sunrise Mass

This work was commissioned in 2007 by Tore Erik Mohn for performance by the Majorstua and Nova Chamber Choirs. They premiered it on 2nd November 2008. Gjeilo's compositional style is distinct and is a self-confessed result of an amalgamation of cinematic and classical influences with sacred and secular elements. Gjeilo himself has commented that he composed the Sunrise Mass with one eye on the big screen, influenced by some of his most dearly loved films, and one eye towards the past in the direction of Brahms, Britten, Duruflé, and Bach. He has also explained that he used English titles in the Latin Mass because he wanted the musical journey of the work to evolve from transparent and spacey to something earthy and warm. "From nebulous and pristine, through more emotional landscapes, to ultimately solid groundedness – as a metaphor for human development from child to adult, or as a spiritual journey". The result is

The Spheres (Kyrie)

Sunrise (Gloria)

The City (Credo)

Identity and the Ground (Sanctus, Benedictus, Agnus Dei)

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or scan the qr code.



**C. Elizabeth Woods, soprano** studied Music at Royal Holloway, University of London, where she was a Choral Scholar under the direction of Professor Lionel Pike and specialised in Vocal Performance, studying with Elaine Pearce. As a student she was awarded the prestigious J. W. Pearce prize for the Young Musician of the Year in her home town of Huddersfield.

Elizabeth sings with the acclaimed, Yorkshire-based vocal group The Mastersingers, with whom she has taken part in numerous television and radio broadcasts, tours and recordings. The Mastersingers recorded the first album of Choral works by Malcolm Williamson, Master of the Queen's Music (1975-2003), featuring a solo written for Elizabeth when she was just 17.

Previous solo engagement highlights include Orff's Carmina Burana and Saint Saens' Christmas Oratorio with the Durham County Youth Choir; David Fanshawe's African Sanctus, Fauré's Requiem, Len Young's Earth Song and Bach's Magnificat with the Newcastle Choral Society; Handel's Messiah, Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man and Haydn's Creation with Lanchester Choral Society; Rossini's Stabat Mater, Mozart's Requiem and Schubert's Mass in G with Bishop Auckland Choral Society; Brahms' Requiem for "Sing Together" in Sage 1; performing alongside Sir Thomas Allen in Alan Woods' This Joyous Night with Durham Choral Society; and Will Todd's Mass in Blue for a number of performances including the Swaledale Festival and with Manchester Chorale.

Elizabeth now teaches Singing for Durham Music Service where she is Musical Director of the Durham Music Youth Choir and Founder-Director of its Training Choir. She is also Assistant Conductor of Durham Choral Society.

She lives in Durham with her husband, local musician and composer Alan Woods, and their three sons. As a family band, "Woods" have released two albums of original songs by the two older boys, "Meant to Be Together" and "See Things Differently" are available on most Music Streaming platforms.



**Simon Lee, tenor**, is based in the North-East of England where he is in demand as a tenor soloist and conductor. He holds a master's degree in Choral Conducting from the Yale School of Music and Institute of Sacred Music where he studied from 2016-18.

During his time in the States, he was a soloist with the Yale Camerata under Marguerite L. Brooks and with the Yale Schola Cantorum under David Hill and Masaaki Suzuki as well as in the wider Connecticut area.

He is a tenor Lay Clerk in the choir of Durham Cathedral where he also conducts the Consort of Singers and the Cathedral Young Singers.

His professional career is split between Durham and Newcastle with choirs in both cities, and at the Glasshouse International Centre for Music (formerly The Sage) in Gateshead.

**Peter Coulson, bass**, is a lay clerk at Durham Cathedral, having held the same post at Guildford Cathedral, after graduating from Durham University.

He has studied singing with David Wilson-Johnson, and Colin Baldy, and has sung as a soloist with numerous ensembles, including the London Philharmonic Choir in a performance of Fauré's Requiem.

Other solo appearances include the premiere of John Tavener's Let's Begin Again in Norwich Cathedral, and Peter Maxwell Davies' Eight Songs for a Mad King with Durham University New Music Group.

On the operatic stage, he has appeared with Morley Opera, and the Mayer-Lismann Opera Centre. Recent solo engagements include performances of the Bach Passions, Beethoven's Mass in C, Handel's Messiah, Haydn's Creation, Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle, and Mendelssohn's Elijah.

He is also the Musical Director of Tynemouth Choral Society.

## **Michael Summers, Conductor**

is a highly respected figure in music within the North East of England, where he has made significant contributions to music education and choral conducting. Currently serving as the Manager of Music Education for Durham Music Service, a lead partner in the Durham and Darlington Music Hub, and a Schools Improvement Advisor across the north of England, Michael has helped to shape the music education landscape in the region.

As a choral conductor, Michael has an impressive track record, having held several musical director positions, including with Felling Male Voice Choir, Guisborough Choral Society, and Prudhoe Gleemen. Additionally, he has worked with The National Youth Choir of Great Britain and Northern Spirit Singers. His conducting performances have included Eric Whitacre's Five Hebrew Love Songs at the Albert Hall, Andrew Carter's Benedicite with a youth massed choir of over 400 voices at Birmingham Town Hall, and Belshazzar's Feast with Durham Choral Society in Durham Cathedral.

Michael pursued his love for choral conducting by obtaining a Masters in Choral Conducting at Huddersfield University with Deborah Catteral. He subsequently moved to Durham to train as a teacher and became Director of Music at St. Thomas More Catholic School in Blaydon. During his tenure, he oversaw nationally-known ensembles and more than 500 pupils playing instruments. Michael now works with over 350 schools in County Durham, advising on music and education, and often extends his expertise across the North, helping schools and choirs to reach their potential.

In addition to his extensive work in music education, Michael is also the Director of the Durham Vocal Festival, where he showcases the very best choral music from across the North East. His work with renowned artists, such as VOCES8, The Kings Singers, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, and The Gabriellis, has further cemented his reputation as a highly sought-after choral conductor. Michael also established the North East Festival of Youth Choirs to showcase the best choral singing from young people in the area.



DURHAM  
CHORAL SOCIETY

**Durham Choral Society** was founded in 1962 and has been performing glorious choral music for over 60 years. We are a mixed voice choir with around 110 members. Although we are an amateur choir, and un-auditioned, we are encouraged by our dynamic musical director to achieve high standards. We sing two major concerts a year in the magnificent setting of Durham Cathedral and a Christmas concert, profits from which are donated to local charities. Our concerts have full orchestral accompaniment and professional soloists are brought in as required. Our President is Durham-born composer Will Todd.

The repertoire of the society is varied including traditional choral works such as Handel's Messiah, with The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Bach's B Minor Mass, Mendelsohn's Elijah, Dvořák's Stabat Mater, Rossini's Petite Messe Solenne and more. We also embrace more recent compositions and have performed works by living composers including Will Todd, Howard Goodall, Paul Mealor and Alan Woods. We have also commissioned works, notably Will Todd's *Gala and Gloria* based on the Durham Miners' Gala and Will Lang's *Canny at Neet, Bonny at Morn* featuring North East folk songs.

Singing didn't stop during the Covid-19 pandemic with online rehearsals and performances becoming the norm. There were virtual performances of Todd's *Gala and Gloria* and his new song *Like a Rainbow Shining*, composed to celebrate the NHS, along with a virtual *Nine Lessons and Carols* in conjunction with Durham Singers and Northern Spirit Singers.

In 2017 we had the privilege of performing the UK premiere of *Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezín* in Durham Cathedral to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. This adaptation tells the very moving story of Raphael Schächter and his choir performing Verdi's Requiem in the concentration camp at Theresienstadt.

Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from September through to May and are held at Durham School during term time.

If you would like to join us as a singing member, or become a Friend or Patron of the Society please contact us on [committeedcs@gmail.com](mailto:committeedcs@gmail.com).

# **Friends and Patrons of Durham Choral Society**

## **2023-2024**

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As at 1 May

Durham Choral Society appreciates the support we receive from our Friends and Patrons. For an annual donation, Friends can buy discounted tickets for concerts held in Durham Cathedral and receive a complimentary ticket for the Christmas Concert. They also receive free concert programmes. Patronage is 'life membership' with patrons receiving similar benefits.

For further information please email [committeedcs@gmail.com](mailto:committeedcs@gmail.com) and our Friends' Secretary will contact you.

# Durham Choral Society

## 2023-24

President	Will Todd
Vice Presidents	Dr Fiona Hill, Chancellor of Durham University Richard Brice, David Crookes, John Goodwill, Esq., Tom Rennie.
Committee	
Chair	Val Wooff
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Hon. Treasurer	Sue Massey
Committee	Liz Payne, Kate Deeming, Angela Eddy, Jill Francis, Fiona Gameson, Lesley Hamill, Victoria Nower.
Musical Team	
Musical Director	Michael Summers
Assistant Conductor	C. Elizabeth Woods
Accompanist	Alison Gill
Assistant Accompanist	Isaac Conroy

The committee would like to thank all members who have contributed to the organisation of tonight's concert and other choir activities.

Contact: [committeedcs@gmail.com](mailto:committeedcs@gmail.com)

Website: [www.durhamchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.durhamchoralsociety.org.uk)

# Future Concerts

## *Durham Choral Society*

### **Christmas Concert**

14 December 2024, Elvet Methodist Church

*Profits to be donated to charity*

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### **Judas Maccabeus**

25 January 2025, Durham Cathedral

*A rare chance to experience this wonderful oratorio by Handel.*

*Tickets will be on sale in the autumn.*

Keep an eye on our website [www.durhamchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.durhamchoralsociety.org.uk)

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## ***Orchestra North East***

**7.00pm Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup> 2024**

In Newcastle Cathedral

**Brahms: Piano Concerto no.1**

**Franck: Symphony in D Minor**

Soloist: Khrystyna Mykhailichenko

Conductor: Alexander Rebetge

Our soloist is the young Ukrainian pianist who gave a stunning performance of Rachmaninov's 3<sup>rd</sup> Piano Concerto with us in 2023. We are very much looking forward to welcoming her back to Newcastle.

Tickets will go on sale in the summer via the Orchestra's website.

[www.orchestranortheast.org.uk](http://www.orchestranortheast.org.uk)

Cover Photo Sol ved Fiskenestind på Senja Øy by Ingrid Marie Simpson

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