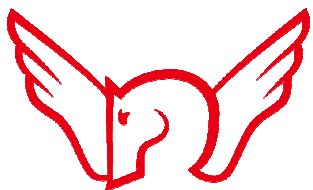




Tilford Bach Society

(CIO)

JS Bach: Cantatas & Mass



PEGASUS CHOIR

Conductor: Matthew Altham



20 May 2017

www.tilbach.org.uk

Programme

JS Bach (1685-1750)

Cantata BWV 131 *Aus der Tiefe ruf ich, Herr, zu dir*

Cantata BWV 150 *Nach dir, Herr, verlanget mich*

Interval

Drinks are free but donations to costs are much appreciated

Mass in G major, BWV 236 & Sanctus in D major, BWV 238

(Please do not applaud between the Mass and the Sanctus)

Notes

Tonight's concert presents two of Johann Sebastian Bach's earliest church cantatas. For three years, aged 18 to 22, Bach worked at the New Church in Arnstadt, not far from Weimar, where he had been briefly employed until then. From Arnstadt he moved on to Mühlhausen for about a year, before returning to Weimar in 1708 for what would be a much longer appointment.

Bach composed his cantata *Aus der Tiefe ruf ich, Herr, zu dir* (Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord) during his time in Mühlhausen, though it was not written for his own church but was a commission from the minister of another congregation.

Bach may have composed *Nach dir, Herr, verlanget mich* (To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul) at around the same time, but it is possible that it dates from his time in Arnstadt, which would make it his earliest surviving church cantata. At any rate, its influence has stretched across almost two centuries: the final movement is a chaconne (a composition in which a short sequence of notes in the orchestral bass line is continuously repeated), and in the 1880s Johannes Brahms adapted the theme for the last movement of his fourth symphony, also a chaconne, as a salute to his musical forebear.

Bach's *Mass in B Minor* is his most famous setting of the liturgical text, but while he was cantor of St Thomas's Church in Leipzig he also composed at least five other mass settings, mostly in the late 1730s. These are what is known as "parody" masses, meaning that they are based on pre-existing music. Parodying in this sense is not plagiarism, but a way to pay homage to another composer, as we saw with Brahms. In Bach's case, however, the composer re-used his own compositions for these masses. The *Mass in G Major* draws upon movements from four cantatas (though not the ones from the first half of this evening's programme). Bach adjusted the music to suit the Latin texts, but retained the orchestration. Unlike its more famous companion, the G major mass was composed specifically for Lutheran worship services, which did not permit much Latin, so it contains just the Kyrie and Gloria (the latter subdivided into five movements).

We follow the mass, and round out our concert, with a setting of the Sanctus which is known to have first been performed at Bach's first Christmas in Leipzig, in 1723.

Notes by James Baer

Pegasus

Soprano

Emily Benson#
Sarah Besley
Eleanor Franzen
Anna Kirby
Katy McAdam†
Martha Oddy
Anne Taylor
Serena Wilson

Alto

Rhian Billington
David Gabbe†
Kirstin Gillon
Alison Grant
Ali Sheppard#
Lowri Williams

Tenor

Niall Bird
John Minett
Luke Phillips*#
Samir Savant†
Don Rowlands

Bass

James Baer*#
Andrew Dickson
Graham Kirk†
Tim Peters

* Soloist in Cantata BWV 131 # Soloist in Cantata BWV 150 † Soloist in Mass in G

Orchestra

Adrian Butterfield - Violin I Leader

Abel Balasz - Violin II	Joanna Patrick - Viola I
Martin Jeriga - Viola II	Iain Hall - Cello
Lucy Keller - Violone	Katie Cowling - Oboe I
Summer Alp - Oboe II	Matthew Lewis - Bassoon
Martin Toyer - Organ continuo	

Pegasus

Pegasus, which last year celebrated its 21st anniversary, is one of London's most acclaimed chamber choirs. Under its regular director, Matthew Altham, the ensemble has developed an extensive repertoire of sacred and secular music ranging from the Renaissance to the present day, including premieres of works by Thomas Adès, Francis Grier and John Tavener.

Pegasus presents numerous concerts each year in collaboration with charities, music societies and festivals. Rather than rehearsing weekly, members meet for intensive rehearsals in the few weeks prior to each performance. This gives the choir the flexibility to be involved in a wide range of musical projects.

Pegasus performs with leading instrumental ensembles, vocal soloists and conductors, and has regular collaborations with the London Handel Orchestra, most recently in Bach's Mass in B Minor at the Tilford Bach Festival and at St John's Smith Square, London, and Mozart's Mass in C Minor for Grayshott Concerts. Other concerts have included Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610, also for TBS, and two programmes of sacred music at St Martin in the Fields, London, as part of the Brandenburg Choral Festival. Earlier this month Pegasus made its debut at London's Barbican Hall in Mahler's Resurrection Symphony.

In 2013 Pegasus won the chamber choir prize at the Florilège Vocal de Tours International Choral Competition in France, along with a special award for its performance of the music of Francis Poulenc. The choir was a prize-winner at the 2007 Tolosa International Choral Competition in Spain, and a semi-finalist in the BBC Choir of the Year competition in 2005.

Matthew Altham

Matthew Altham has been the director of Pegasus since 2001. He began conducting choirs while studying at Oxford University and led performances of music by Poulenc and the major English Renaissance composers.

Alongside his work as director of strategy for a business management company, Matthew directs Pegasus, Vox Cordis and the London Bach Players, with whom he has performed on numerous occasions in Pau, France. He has toured as a conductor to Prague, Tolosa, Arezzo and Antwerp and has broadcast on BBC Radio and Classic FM.

Future Concerts

Saturday 3 June: 7-30pm

St Andrew's Church, Farnham, GU9 7PW

MAIASTRA String Quartet

Mozart, Shostakovich & Smetana

Friday 9 June: 7-30pm

Busbridge Church, Godalming GU7 1XA

Risatina Wind Quartet

Arnold, Beethoven, Telemann, Piazzolla, Joplin etc

Saturday 10 June: 7-30pm

St Andrew's Church, Farnham, GU9 7PW

Poetry & Prose by local writers, Violin and Piano

Graham Fawcett, Elizabeth Cooney & Grace Mo

Tilford Bach Festival 17-18 June

Don't delay booking your seats!

Details on separate sheet

Saturday 7 October: 7-30pm

St Andrew's Church, Farnham, GU9 7PW

Farnham Sinfonia

Haydn, Schubert, Sibelius, Lloyd

Saturday 28 October: 7-30pm

Farnham United Reformed Church, GU9 7QU

Atea String Quintet

Programme including Goldberg Variations

Saturday 18 November: 7-30pm

Tilford Church, GU10 2DD

JS Bach: Christmas Oratorio

International Soloists & London Handel Orchestra

TBS Secretary

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Registered Charity: 1172416

www.tilbach.org.uk