



Tilford Bach Society



Pegasus Choir

JS Bach: Ascension Oratorio GF Handel: Dettingen Te Deum

Conductor: Matthew Altham
Orchestra led by Adrian Butterfield

12 May 2018

www.tilbach.org.uk

Con Inio
I H R T C T
The Humphrey Richardson Taylor
Charitable Trust www.hrtctrust.org.uk

Programme

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750) Ascension Oratorio BWV 11 (1735)

This work combines the biblical account of the Ascension with chorales and free madrigal poems. Bach employs colourful orchestration, with two flutes, two oboes, three trumpets, timpani and strings, creating a splendid Baroque sound with a strikingly festive character.

The oratorio was composed in 1735, and first performed in one of the principal Leipzig churches on May 19 of that year. The Evangelist's narration was drawn by an unknown librettist from the Gospels of Luke and Mark, and the Acts of the Apostles. These sections plus two recitatives and the chorale placed at the centre of the work are the only original parts of the oratorio, the opening and closing choruses, and the two arias all being drawn from previously written cantatas, now lost. In line with the subject, this is a work brimming with the promise of heaven guaranteed by the ascension of Christ.

INTERVAL

Drinks are free but donations to cover costs are much appreciated

Georg Frederic Handel (1685 - 1759) Dettingen Te Deum (1743)

This is a setting of the Te Deum (Praise to God) composed by Handel, who was then "Composer of the Musick to the Chapel Royal", for the occasion of the thanksgiving for the victory in June 1743 of the British army and its allies under the command of King George II over the French at Dettingen (a few miles south east of Frankfurt). This was a closely fought battle in the war of the Austrian Succession and it was the only time in modern history that a British Force has been led into battle by a reigning monarch. The piece was performed on 27 November at St James Palace in the presence of the King.

As well as its place in church services, the Te Deum often figured in state services of celebration. Purcell wrote a Te Deum for St Cecilia's Day in 1694, which was supplanted later by Handel's Utrecht Te Deum; this was superseded by the Dettingen Te Deum, which is much longer than the preceding works.

Handel's Te Deums were influenced by Purcell's and Purcell in turn drew on an Italian Te Deum by Antonio Vivaldi.

The canticle consists of a number of solos and choruses, with a martial character reinforced by the frequent use of trumpets and drums, the whole work being brilliant and uplifting. "We praise Thee Oh God" makes special use of three trumpets.

Handel attempts to convey a sense of the everlasting through the dotted motive of "continually do cry" which appears eighty times in succession.

**making
music**

Pegasus

Soprano

Emily Benson †
Sarah Besley
Martha Boninfante
Katy McAdam*
Madeline Smith †
Anne Taylor
Serena Wilson

Alto

Claire Bennie
Rose Dixon*
Dave Gabbe*
Kirstin Gillon
Alison Grant

Tenor

Niall Bird
Ed Griffiths*
John Minett
Luke Phillips*
Samir Savant ‡
Graham Wood*

Bass

James Baer*
David Benedict
Peter Hatch
Graham Kirk* ‡
Tim Peters
Don Rowlands

* Soloist in Handel ‡ Soloist in Bach

Orchestra

Adrian Butterfield - Violin I Leader

Violins

Abel Cziczcer Balazs
Gabriella Jones
Eloise MacDonald
Viola
Joanna Patrick

Cello

Iain Hall
Violone
Peter McCarthy
Organ
Carl Jackson

Flute

Amelia Shakespeare
Mafalda Ramos
Oboe
Andre Villalobos
Hannah Blumsohn

Bassoon

Matthew Lewis
Trumpet
Paul Mitchell
Duncan Hughes
Adam Wood
Timpani
Scott Bywater

Pegasus

Pegasus, now in its 22nd season, is one of London's most acclaimed chamber choirs. Under its 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, often in collaboration with charities, music societies and festivals. The choir has a long association with Tilford Bach Society, for whom our most recent concert was J.S. Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* last December in Tilford. In 2017 Pegasus made its debut at London's Barbican Hall in Mahler's *Resurrection Symphony*, and in September the choir gave the London premiere of Colin Riley's *Roads Shining Like River Up Hill After Rain*. In March this year, Pegasus took the chorus role in two performances of Handel's opera *Acis and Galatea* for the London Handel Festival, performed at St John's Smith Square with the London Handel Orchestra, conducted by Laurence Cummings and directed by Martin Parr.

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 semifinalist in the BBC Choir of the Year competition in 2005. The choir has been featured on BBC television and radio, Channel 4 and Classic FM.

Details of Pegasus's upcoming performances are on www.pegasuschoir.org.uk.

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.

66th Tilford Bach Festival

Saturday 16 June Lunchtime concert: 12-30 pm

St Andrews Farnham GU9 7PW

With light lunch available afterwards

JS Bach – Sonata No.1 in B minor BWV1001 for solo violin

JS Bach - Suite No.5 in C minor BWV 1011 for solo cello

Adrian Butterfield, violin

Katherine Sharman, flute

Tickets £10 each at the door only (not available in advance)

Saturday 16 June Evening concert: 7-30pm

St Andrews Farnham GU9 7PW

"Welcome to all the Pleasures"

A celebration of the music of Henry Purcell

Ellen McAteer, Daniel Taylor, Robin Blaze, Charles Daniels
Theatre of Early Music Choir, Toronto

London Handel Players

Directed from the violin by Adrian Butterfield

TICKETS £17-50 in advance or £20-00 on the door

Sunday 17 June: 7-00pm

Tilford Church GU10 2DD

(to be repeated at St John Smith Square on Tuesday 19 June)

JS Bach Mass in B Minor



Ruby
Hughes

Ellen
McAteer

Helen
Charlston

Daniel
Taylor



Charles
Daniels

Laurence
Kilsby

Edward
Grint

Alex
Dobson

London Handel Orchestra

Directed from the violin by Adrian Butterfield

TICKETS £35, £30 & £20