

# Summer Concert



**Saturday 15th June 2019, 7.00pm**

**St Marks Church, Primrose Hill**

**London**

**The Royal Free Music Society would like to thank  
their loyal Patrons:**

Adrian Cahill, Billy Elkins, Patsy Henley and  
David Gluckman

# Welcome

Welcome and thank you for coming to support us at our Summer 2019 concert.

We are delighted to be joined by a French choir, Groupe Vocal Antara, who welcomed us in Paris in December 2017. Antara specialise in singing Latin American songs, of which they will be singing a selection this evening. The Royal Free Music Society will be performing a mix of early and much more recent English music. The two choirs will then join together to sing a piece in French and a piece in English.

We would like to thank our musical director, Benjamin Wolf, for his dedication and guidance while teaching us this lovely repertoire; our exceptional accompanist, Gill Cracknell, for all her skills in supporting each and all of the voice parts during rehearsals; and, of course, St. Mark's Church and the Reverend Matt Harbage for allowing us to sing in this beautiful venue. We would also like to thank César Alzamora, Antara's musical director, Gala Libercier, their Chair, and Antara's singers for coming to sing with us here in Primrose Hill. Finally, thanks to the twin sisters, Sophie Jackson and Laurence Mengin, who worked hard to bring their choirs together for this concert.

Please note our future concert dates which are listed in the programme and, if you would like to join the choir, we are always delighted to welcome new members. All details are on our website:

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



Diana Parkinson and Lucinda Sturgis,  
Co-Chairs, Royal Free Music Society Choir

# Programme

## The Royal Free Music Society

1. **Alleluia** - William Boyce
2. **If Ye Love Me** - Thomas Tallis
3. **Sicut Cervus** - Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
4. **And I Saw a New Heaven** - Edgar Bainton
5. **O Radiant Dawn** from Strathclyde Motets - Sir James MacMillan
6. **Jubilate** - Bob Chilcott
7. **A Gaelic Blessing** - John Rutter
8. **For the Beauty of the Earth** - John Rutter
9. **The Lord Bless You and Keep You** - John Rutter

## Interval

### Groupe Vocal Antara

10. **Hanacpachap Cussicuinin** - Traditional
11. **Alfonsina y el Mar** - Ariel Ramírez, arranged for a cappella chorus by Esteban A Tozzi
12. **Teresica Hermana** - Mateo Flecha
13. **La Flor de la Canela** - Chabuca Granda, arranged by Alfredo Morales
14. **Ojos Garços a la Niña** - Attributed to Juan del Encina or Juan Vasquez
15. **Carnavalito Humahuaqueño** - Los Hermanos Abalos, arranged by Raimundi Coello
16. **Se Equivocó la Paloma** - Carlos Vicente Guastavino
17. **Dirait-on** - Morten Lauridsen

## **Both Choirs**

18. **Belle Qui Tiens ma Vie** - Thoinot Arbeau
19. **All You Need is Love** - The Beatles

## **End of Concert**

## **Conductors**

The Royal Free Music Society : Benjamin Wolf

Groupe Vocal Antara : César Alzamora

## **Piano Accompanists:**

Gill Cracknell and Joaquín Arbelo

# Programme notes

by Benjamin Wolf & César Alzamora

## **1 Alleluia**

This is a joyful canon composed by William Boyce, who was a prominent English composer of the eighteenth century. Boyce was both Master of the King's Musick and one of the organists at the Chapel Royal.

## **2 If Ye Love Me**

Thomas Tallis was a prominent composer of the Tudor period, whose life was made particularly complicated by the religious turmoil of the sixteenth century. He wrote pieces in both Latin and English (in part dependent on who was on the throne at the time). This is a short and beautiful motet in English.

## **3 Sicut Cervus**

This is a short motet written by G.P. da Palestrina, one of the masters of Renaissance polyphony. It is imitative in texture (phrases sung by one voice part are imitated by other voice parts and combined into a polyphonic whole). The text is taken from Psalm 42: 'Just as the hart longs for springs of water, so my soul longs for you, o God.'

## **4 And I Saw a New Heaven**

Edgar Bainton, a British composer who ultimately settled in Australia, is chiefly remembered for this piece which is typical of his work in that he was attracted to late-romantic harmony without indulging in the folksong-influenced modal harmonies which characterize much of the music of his English contemporaries such as Vaughan Williams. The text comes from the Book of Revelations, and looks forward to the establishment of the kingdom of heaven, and an end to sorrow and death.

## **5 O Radiant Dawn**

This short Antiphon (a sort of musical aperitif) represents church music of the twenty-first century. James MacMillan is one of Britain's most prominent living composers and has written a significant amount of church music. This is one of his most popular, and simplest, compositions. It is largely homophonic in texture, and comes from a larger set called The Strathclyde Motets.

## **6 Jubilate**

This is an extended piece of music by Bob Chilcott which combines both solo and choral elements. The text is based on Psalm 100 and also on Prayer, a poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins. For the most part, the music is lyrical and simply melodic, though there are moments of significant rhythmic complexity.

## **7 A Gaelic Blessing**

One of three pieces by John Rutter performed tonight. The text is a poem by the Scottish author William Sharp, written in 1909 bestowing peace with imagery of nature and idyllic rural life.

## **8 For the Beauty of the Earth**

This, one of John Rutter's most popular pieces, was commissioned for the convention of the Texas Choral Directors Association in 1980. It has some of the optimistic lyricism of pop music, and the message is a joyful one, encouraging thanksgiving for the gifts of life.

## **9 The Lord Bless You and Keep You**

This is an English translation of the Hebrew priestly blessing found in the Book of Numbers. Rutter wrote the piece for the memorial service in 1981 for Edward T Chapman, the Director of Music at Highgate School under whom Rutter had studied.

## **10 Hanacpachap (Heaven's Joy)**

This is the earliest piece of printed music from the Americas. It was discovered in the cathedral of Cuzco, Peru, and is sung in the Quechua language. It is a religious song written in 1631. The lyrics are an ode to the Virgin Mary, containing many metaphors about love and nature grounded in Quechua culture

## **11 Alfonsina y el Mar (Alfonsina and the Sea)**

An Argentinian song telling the story of the death of early 20th century Argentinian poet Alfonsina Storni. The beautiful text by Felix Luna describes the magic of the sea world where Alfonsina drowned herself. The song was created in 1969 by composer Ariel Ramirez (best known for the Misa Criolla) and arranged by Esteban A Tozzi with traditional Argentinian music on a Zamba rhythm.

## **12 Teresica Hermana (Little Sister Theresa)**

A song from the Spanish Renaissance, composed by Mateo Flecha (1481-1553). It is a love song which describes the torment and danger of love and is from the collection of work 'cancionero de Upsala', published at the court of Ferdinand of Aragon, Duke of Calabre, in 1556.

## **13 La Flor de la Canela (The Cinnamon Flower)**

A blend of the European waltz with Afro-Peruvian rhythms, this "vals peruano" is amongst the best known and most representative of the genre. The song describes the delicate beauty of a young woman in historical Lima. It was written by the author-composer Chabuca Granda in 1950 and arranged by Alfredo Morales.

## **14 Ojos Garços a la Niña (The Brown Eyes of the Lady)**

Another song from the Spanish Renaissance, this is a love song which describes the beauty of a lady's brown eyes. The 16th century composer is not known but it is thought to be either Juan del Encina or Juan Vasquez.



## **15 Carnavalito Humahuaqueño (I'm going to the festival in Humahuaqueño)**

This piece is part of Argentinian folklore and uses Carnavalito rhythm, which is a musical form and traditional dance found in the North of Argentina, in Bolivia and in Peru. The composers are the brothers Ablos (around 1939) and the musical arrangement is by Raimundi Coello.

## **16 Se Equivocó la Paloma (The Dove was Wrong)**

The text of the song is a poem by the Spanish poet Rafael Alberti, written during his exile in France between 1929 and 1940 at the time of the Spanish civil war. It was arranged in 1941 by his friend, Carlos Guastavino, one of the foremost Argentinian composers who made a major contribution to choral music, linking popular and classical music.

## **17 Dirait-on (So they say)**

This allegorical poem about a rose is based on the myth of Narcissus. It is an extract from a longer poem, *Chant des Roses* (Song of Roses), written in French by the German poet, Rainer Maria Rilke and published posthumously in 1927. The musical arrangement (piano and voice) is by the American composer Marten Lauridsen in 1993.

## **18 Belle Qui Tient ma Vie (Beautiful one who holds my life)**

This is a parvane (music for a stately dance). It accompanied by a tambourine. Composed by Jean Tabourot, aka. Thoinot Arbeau, (1520-1595) and published in 1589 in his treatise on dance *Orchesographie*. The lyrics speak of the courtly love between a man and his beloved

## **19 All You Need is Love**

An arrangement of the Beatles classic, written by John Lennon in 1967 reflecting the optimistic mood of the Summer of Love. It was Britain's contribution to "Our World", the first live global television broadcast linking 25 countries.

# The Royal Free Music Society



The Royal Free Music Society Choir was formed in 1995 by a group of healthcare professionals working in the Royal Free Hospital. It has grown into a large and vibrant choir with members from the hospital and the local area. The choir performs three concerts a year and recent performances have included Haydn's *Nelson Mass* and Bach's *Magnificat in D*. Last November, we performed a new composition by Benjamin Wolf, our musical director, in collaboration with the Zemel Choir. This autumn we are looking forward to performing Mozart's *Coronation Mass* and the Hampstead Sinfonietta will play Beethoven's *Symphony No.3*. We are also planning a trip in the autumn to sing in Rome. For more information about the choir, please visit our website: [www.royalfreemusicsociety.org.uk](http://www.royalfreemusicsociety.org.uk).

## **Conductor: Benjamin Wolf**

Benjamin Wolf works as a conductor, pianist, composer, singer and academic. He is Music Director of the Royal Free Music Society, the Zemel Choir, the Wallace Ensemble and the Belsize Square Synagogue. He is a regular conductor of the Quorum chamber choir.

Performances with the Zemel Choir have included appearances at the European Jewish Choral Festivals, Holocaust memorial services for the Mayor of London, a broadcast for the BBC's Songs of Praise and tours to Europe, Israel, the USA, Germany and Russia.

Activities with the Wallace Ensemble have included performances at the Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room, while the professional choir of Belsize Square Synagogue has been featured on BBC radio and television.

Recent performances with the Belsize choir have included Westminster Abbey's 'Service of Solemn Remembrance and Hope on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kristallnacht' and performances for the International Louis Lewandowski Festival in Berlin. In February 2015, he conducted both the Zemel and Belsize choirs at a service at Westminster Abbey commemorating the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Performances with the Royal Free Music Society have included large-scale oratorios such as Mozart's Requiem and Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and tours to Italy in 2015 and 2016 and France in 2017.

## **FUTURE RFMS CONCERTS:**

**Autumn concert: Sunday 17th November 2019**

**with The Hampstead Sinfonietta,**

**Mozart's Coronation Mass & Beethoven's Symphony no.3**

**Spring concert: March 2020**

**with The Hampstead Sinfonietta,**

**Mozart's Requiem**

# Groupe Vocal Antara



The Groupe Vocal Antara is a Paris-based amateur choir established 20 years ago with a commitment to quality, a clear artistic direction and a rich programme of concerts.

Antara works on a wide range of carefully selected Hispanic and South American Indian songs, traditional, classical and modern. Our choir master goes to Latin America each year to search for original scores. The choir has around 20 members, all seduced by Hispanic music.

Our concerts also include instrumental pieces performed by one or more guest professional musicians.

## **Conductor : César Alzamora**

César Alzamora comes from Peru. He teaches singing and Spanish. He trained as a choral conductor at the Paris Conservatoire National de Lima, then at the Centre d'Art Polyphonique de Paris

## **Would you consider becoming a Patron of the Royal Free Music Society?**

The vital contribution made by our patrons enables our choir to offer subsidised membership to those on low incomes and supports our charitable efforts in the community - singing for St Mungo's charity, for the Royal Free Hospital Charity and in St Mark's Community Carol service.

If you enjoyed tonight's concert and can help the choir flourish, a minimum annual donation of £100 entitles you to free tickets for our concerts. Your name will also be added to our Patrons list and will be on our website.

If you would like to know more, please speak to one of the Chairs or email us at [info@royalfreemusicsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@royalfreemusicsociety.org.uk).

# **Singing in tonight's concert**

## **Royal Free Music Society**

### **Soprano**

Ann Lloyd, Catherine Hughes, Danielle Cahill, Dorothy Connell,  
Edna Young, Elizabeth Bogard, Elizabeth Segu, Emily Hurrell,  
Jane Hassid, Janice Tunney, Justine Cohen, Kat Mountford,  
Leonida De Montford, Lucy Swart-Mallett, Maggie Sinclair,  
Mary Goyder, Roszie Omoregie, Sara Henley,  
Teresa Elkins, Veronica Soskin

### **Alto**

Annie Sedley, Emma Dunning, Jacquie Hamel,  
Katharine Hodgson, Libby Harris, Lucinda Sturgis,  
Mireille Levy, Shanta Row, Sophie Jackson, Tricia Pank

### **Tenor**

Ann Miller, Barbara Bryant, Barbara Foster, Peter Davies,  
Richard Haydon, Robert Salmon, Sarah Carrier

### **Bass**

Ashitey Ollennu, Bill Aldridge, James Kennedy, Max Zanotti,  
Nick Jackson, Paul Styles

# **Singing in tonight's concert**

## **Groupe Vocal Antara**

### **Soprano**

Fabienne Marq, Sylvie Thiébaud, Paula Rice, Gala Libercier  
Emeline Vila, Laurence Mengin, Rosa Sabido,

### **Alto**

Françoise Carré, Agnès Genon,  
Mathilde Baeza, Sylvie Desportes, Pauline Caby,  
Mireille Brioude

### **Tenor**

Alain Brignou, Simone Piffaretti, Joaquín Arbelo

### **Bass**

Daniel Ravon, Thierry Hergueta, Frédéric Desportes,  
Michel Hanquier