Wareham Choral Society

"Wareham's choir since 1947"

Jubilee Concert

Saturday 18th June 2022 7pm Lady St Mary Church Wareham BH20 4ND

Our 75th Anniversary

Wareham Choral Society
Conductor
Hazel Ricketts
Organist Paul Ellis

Mezzo Soprano Grace Lovelass

Top Notes Leader Emma Aldir

Wareham Town Band Band Master Stuart Rodgers

Lady St Mary Bellringers Captain Phil Stephens





Join Wareham Choral Society and friends to celebrate the Jubilee in a concert with a patriotic theme! **WELCOME**

Choir & band All People that on Earth do Vaughan Williams

Dwell

Choir O Thou the Central Orb Wood

Top Notes Songs from Oliver! Bart

The White Cliffs of Dover Burton Soprano

Soprano The Lord's my Shepherd

Wareham Town Band Highland Cathedral Korb

Mary Donnelly Top Notes One Fine Day Choir & band In Our Service **Hewitt Jones**

Choir & band Stanford Te Deum in B flat

INTERVAL

King David

Choir Jubilate in C **Britten**

Choir Zadok the Priest Handel

Wareham Town Band Lancaster The Lonely Mill

Where e'er vou walk Handel Soprano **Howells**

Choir & soprano O Taste and See **Vaughan Williams**

Mine Eyes for Beauty Pine Choir Howells Choir **Walford Davies**

God be in my Head AII I Vow to Thee, my Country Holst

Land of Hope and Glory ΑII Elgar

Rule Britannia AII Arne

(verse soprano solo)

ΑII Jerusalem Parry

AII **National Anthem**

CLOSING WORDS

Please now collect a glass of prosecco or soft drink and move to the

Church Green to hear

Soprano

LSM Bellringers Jubilee bellringing

Note: audience words on back page

Programme Notes

Our programme tonight is, of course, in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Some of the music has a definite link to either the Queen or royalty, some is 'patriotic' in feel, and some of it simply reflects our Monarch's favourite music, or her obvious deep Christian faith.

"All People that on Earth Do Dwell" was used, in this arrangement, at the coronation, along with Handel's "Zadok the Priest". Whilst Vaughan Williams composed "O Taste and See" especially for the occasion, "I vow to thee my country" was not actually sung, although "Jupiter" from "The Planets", from which this piece evolved, was played.

The Te Deum and Jubilate texts are from the service of Matins, and it was for this that Stanford's setting in Bb was originally composed, although it was used for the coronation in 1902, for which Stanford added the introduction. The Duke of Edinburgh commissioned Britten to write this Jubilate setting (in C) for the choir of St George's Chapel, Windsor, and it was used for his funeral in the same building.

It seems appropriate that the Top Notes choir are singing some songs from musicals – our Queen is well known for enjoying musicals, and Grace Lovelass's solo "White Cliffs of Dover" reflects this too. "The Lord's my Shepherd" is sung to the now well known tune Crimond, which became especially popular after it was used at the wedding of the then Princess Elizabeth to Prince Philip.

Also in the first half is "In our Service" commissioned by the Royal School of Church Music for the Platinum Jubilee. Thomas Hewitt Jones has used words which the Queen has spoken through the years as the text, and set this to music. It has been crafted to be sung and played by many different combinations of voices and instruments so that all over the country this summer all sorts of choirs – sacred or secular - in churches, communities, cathedrals, schools etc can unite and celebrate together through singing the same music and we are pleased to be part of this powerful musical message of unity.

Our second half includes pieces by Handel and Howells; centuries apart but very important composers for our nation! This is also a more reflective part of our programme. King David is about how a nightingale's song soothes the King when troubled, and leads into

three gentle pieces sung by the choir. "My eyes for beauty pine", again by Howells, is a beautiful short piece about the soul longing for "Goddes Grace", and how the soul is lit with the fire of love.

"God be in my head" is a prayer for God's guidance in all areas of life, and these pieces have been included to reflect our Queen's unswerving Christian faith. How often must she have prayed "God be with me..." in difficult circumstances over the years?

We invite you to join your voices with ours in our final selection of music, which has a "last night of the proms" feel. Do join in with us and no excuses of not knowing the words as we have provided them below! As is traditional, the verses of Rule Britannia will be sung by our soprano soloist, and in case you're unfamiliar with Land of Hope and Glory, Grace will sing this first, and we will join her in the repeat!

I'm sure you will not all need to be reminded to stand for our final item – The National Anthem.

Hazel Ricketts, WCS Music Director, studied music at the University of Surrey, with piano as her first instrument, and gained her MA in Musicology from the University of Southampton. She has sung in choirs since the age of 6, and started accompanying them and leading occasional rehearsals at the age of 14.

During her MA she was appointed Director of Music at Holy Trinity Church in Fareham, and has been regularly conducting choirs ever since.

She also plays the clarinet, and in recent years has rediscovered the organ. Since moving to Salisbury she has led several



singing groups including Castle Singers in Winchester, and smaller church groups, as well as being the Musical Director of Wareham Choral Society since 2018. She has recently been appointed co-Director of Music at St Mary's Church Fordingbridge where she has the chance to both play and conduct the choir as well as making musical links beyond the church.

Hazel is a well established piano and clarinet teacher working mainly in schools, previously through Hampshire Music Service, and now as a

Teaching Member of Salisbury Area Music Co-operative, as well as teaching piano at Burgate School in Fordingbridge.



Paul Ellis, our accompanist, was born in Nottinghamshire and studied at Manchester University and the Royal Northern College of Music, where his main instrument was the organ. He developed a love of choral music whilst at university and choral conducting has been a major part of his career ever since. He has worked with many choirs throughout the South West, earning a reputation for high standards of performance and innovative programming of an extensive range of music, from Renaissance to contemporary. He was Director of

Music at Sherborne Abbey from 2006 until his retirement, and is now Wareham Choral Society's regular accompanist.

Grace Lovelass is an operatic mezzo soprano whose roles include Adalgisa (Norma), Olga (Eugene Onegin) and Tisbe (La Cenerentola). She is a concert soloist, appearing regularly alongside choral societies and recently premiering the role of Mary Magdalene in a new Passion setting under the baton of David Ogden and the City of Bristol Choir.



An energetic entertainer, Grace has just previewed her first one-woman show *Graceful!* to a sell-out crowd. She recently combined her singing and acting talents in a return to fringe theatre, having debuted last year as the Queen Bee in Brighton Theatre's *Exit the Queen*.

Grace has also sung in the Dorset Opera Festival, appeared in *Die Zauberflöte* with Hurn Court Opera and joined the cast for the Virtual Opera Project's award-winning production of *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* during the coronavirus pandemic – a collaboration with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Grace has performed under the direction of Pamela Howard OBE in a celebration of Bernstein in Chichester and singspiel scenario *The Ballad of the Cosmo Café*.

Grace studied opera at the Associated Studios and has a degree in Classics from King's College London. She is also an artist and illustrator, dancer, rower and triathlete, completing her first Ironman last August in Vichy, France. She will be heading to the French countryside again this summer to sing with Opera de Baugé in the Merry Widow, Faust and La Traviata.

Top Notes is a youth theatre company based in Wareham, founded in 2014 by **Emma Aldir.**



Emma trained at Buckinghamshire New University, graduating in 2011 with a degree in Musical Theatre. Her professional credits include:

Nancy (Oliver!), Smitty (How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying), Lilli Vanessi (Kiss Me, Kate), Yum-Yum (The Hot Mikado), Jenny Lind (Barnum), Aladdin (Aladdin) and Cinderella (Cinderella).as well as the world premiere of the hit musical, The Birth of a King (Questa Teatro), the 2013 UK Tour of Verdi's Opera, Aida (Moldovan National Opera), Beauty For Ashes (Top Notes Youth

Teatro), From Mozart to the the official opening of The

Theatre), Come Fly With Me (Questa Teatro), From Mozart to the Musicals (Matthew Clarke Music) and the official opening of The Amphitheatre at Holme Gardens.

As a result of achieving the Bishop's Award in choral singing, Emma was invited to sing with Wells, Exeter and Salisbury Cathedral choirs, participated in BBC's Songs of Praise, *The Big Sing* and performed in Handel's *Messiah* at The Royal Albert Hall.

Find out more at http://www.topnotes.co.uk/

Wareham Town Band is a community wind band which plays at fetes, concerts and civic occasions in Purbeck.



The band has been in existence since at least 1855, but little is known of its earlier history.

However, it has always contained a mixture of brass and reed instruments, which may indicate that the band's roots lie in some earlier village band. It certainly predates many of the other bands in the Purbeck area, which were formed during the 1860's as brass bands.

Learn more about the band at http://warehamtownband.co.uk

Wareham Choral Society has been in existence since 1947

We have vacancies in all parts Why not join us?

Why not join us?
We rehearse in

Lady St Mary Church Wareham, Monday evenings at 7:30pm

Interested?

Call 01929 552272 or 01202 632678 or visit

www,warehamchoral.co.uk for more details!

Our next event on Saturday November 5th is a Come-and-Sing day when we will rehearse and perform Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man with Sam Ryall directing us.

I Vow to Thee, my Country

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above

Entire and whole and perfect the service of my love.

The love that asks no questions, the love that stands the test,

That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best.

The love that never falters, the love that pays the price

The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country I've heard of long ago
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know.

We may not count her armies, we may not see her King.

Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering,

And, soul by soul and silently, her shining bounds increase, And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace

Land of Hope and Glory

Land of hope and glory, mother of the free,

How shall we extol thee, who are born of thee?

Wider still and wider shall thy bounds be set.

God who made thee mighty, make thee mightier yet!

Rule Britannia (audience sings chorus only)

Rule Britannia, Britannia, rule the waves

Britons never will be slaves

Rule Britannia, Britannia, rule the waves

Britons never will be slaves

Jerusalem

And did those feet in ancient time walk upon England's mountains green?

And was the Holy Lamb of God on England's pleasant pastures seen? And did the countenance divine shine forth upon our clouded hills?

And was Jerusalem builded here among these dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold! Bring me my arrows of desire! Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold! Bring me my chariot of fire! I will not cease from mental fight, nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,

Till we have built Jerusalem in England's green and pleasant land.

National Anthem

God save our gracious Queen, Long live our noble Queen, God save the Queen!

Send her victorious, Happy and glorious,

Long to reign over us,

God save the Queen!

Thy choicest gifts in store, On her be pleased to pour,

Long may she reign! May she defend our laws,

And ever give us cause, To sing with heart and voice,

God save the Queen!