

Heathfield
Choral Society
presents:

with The South East
Sinfonia

A walk to the Paradise Garden

*A celebration of English music by Bridge,
Vaughan Williams, Delius and Carr*

Sian Dicker *soprano* René Bloice-Sanders *Baritone*

Sebastian Charlesworth *conductor*

Saturday 14th May 2022 7.30pm

PROGRAMME

Charity No. 295293

Foresters

Successfully selling
Country Homes
in Sussex for
over 35 years

01435 865477

www.foresters.agency

17 High Street, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 8LU

Programme

The words for this evening's music can be found on p12-13.

The walk to the Paradise Garden	Frederick Delius (orch. Lee Reynolds)
Serenade to Music	Ralph Vaughan Williams
A Prayer	Frank Bridge (orch. S Charlesworth)

~~ Interval ~~

Requiem for an Angel	Paul Carr
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Requiem Aeternam2. Pie Jesu3. Let mine eyes see Thee4. Sanctus5. Agnus Dei6. Do I Love You7. Kyrie8. Lux aeterna	

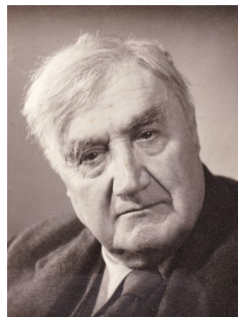
We would like to dedicate this evening's performance to the memory of our friend and member Viv Lindley, who sang with the choir for many years and who died in December 2021. There will be a retiring collection for her favourite charity Children with Cancer - Polegate at the end of the concert. Please give generously!



Frank Bridge (1879 - 1941) was born in Brighton to a musical family. After learning the violin and piano from his father, he entered the Royal College of Music at the age of 17, and went on to develop a career as player, conductor, composer and teacher. Highly regarded as an exceptional musician, he was often brought in as a replacement conductor for the likes of Thomas Beecham and Sir Henry Wood, a role he much disliked! He also tutored a young Benjamin Britten, who later paid homage to his mentor with

his “Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge”. Bridge spent his later years living near the East Sussex village of Friston, and died suddenly of heart failure in 1941 just hours after complaining of feeling ill. His music slipped into obscurity for over 20 years until it was resurrected, largely due to the efforts of the Frank Bridge Trust, and recordings brought his music to a wider audience than had been possible during his lifetime.

“A Prayer” is Bridge’s only choral work, and is a setting of words by St Thomas à Kempis. The work is largely peaceful and contemplative, with the exception of one climactic emotional outburst in the middle of the work - *“Grant me thy grace most merciful Jesus”*. It’s a devotional work and burns with a religious conviction which Bridge himself lacked.



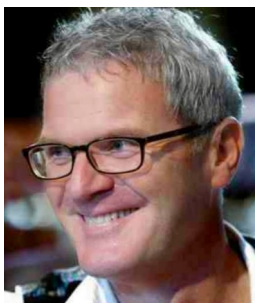
Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 - 1958) is one of the pillars of the English musical establishment. Born in Gloucestershire, he studied the piano and violin at both the Royal College of Music and Trinity College, Cambridge. He was heavily influenced by the First World War, in which he served on active duty despite his age. Although perhaps best known as a symphonist, he wrote a number of choral works, several of which the choir has sung in previous years. He died in 1958.

“Serenade to Music” was written in 1938 as a tribute to Sir Henry Wood. A combination of chorus and solo passages based on text from Shakespeare’s “The Merchant of Venice”, it was composed for sixteen specific individual voices, each marked in the score by their initials. As Vaughan Williams helpfully anticipated in his notes, the original singers have long since passed away, so these parts are shared out between the soloists and the chorus.



Fredrick Delius (1862 - 1934) was born in Bradford and immediately set about rebelling against his family's plans to make him a man of business. Despite being sent to manage an orange plantation in Florida at the age of 22, he returned to Europe to pursue a career as a composer, training in Germany, and later settling in France. His final years were marked by a prolonged battle with syphilis that left him paralysed and blind, but he managed to continue composing with the help of an amanuensis. Despite being promoted by Thomas Beecham in the early 1900's, his music has still not received the recognition afforded to peers such as Vaughan Williams, even though he developed his own unique style of orchestration.

"The Walk to the Paradise Garden" is an entr'acte from an early Delius opera, "A Village Romeo and Juliet". Although the opera is almost never staged, "The Walk" is often performed by itself as an orchestral work, and has been recorded many times.



Paul Carr (1961 -) was born in Cornwall. He studied voice and piano at The Guildhall School of Music & Drama, but as a composer is largely self-taught. He was first published at the age of 17 with a set of *Dance Pieces* written for the legendary clarinettist, Dame Thea King. Over the years Paul has written much chamber music, various concertos and orchestral pieces, but is perhaps best known for his choral music. In 2011, Classic FM championed Paul's recording of "Requiem for an Angel", taking his music to a much wider audience and helping make the Requiem his most frequently performed work with over 35 performances to date in this country and abroad. In 2014, Paul was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Music from Nottingham Trent University for his "significant contribution to music at a national level".

Paul Carr writes about "Requiem for an Angel":

It is inevitable that at some point in our lives we are faced with situations and events which may alter our daily routines as we have known them, and so change the way we feel and think about our own existence. This has been

the case with me following the death of my mother in March 2005. A few months prior, I had received a commission for a large scale choral work from the Athenaeum Singers of Warminster – an amateur choir to which my brother Gavin had recently been appointed conductor. Not being a religious person in the formal sense of the word, I didn't really want to write a work on religious themes, and I would wish this requiem to be seen as one of love and compassion rather than one simply adhering to the formalities of the liturgy. It is a strange paradox then, that at this particular time I should have felt drawn to writing a Requiem Mass; perhaps using texts from the Mass as a starting point helped me in writing a work identifiable to everyone. My mother was the Australian soprano Una Hale, who had been a much-loved principal at Covent Garden in the 1950's and 60's. Writing this requiem in dedication to her undoubtedly helped me through the period of grief surrounding her death, and it afforded me the opportunity of expressing my love and gratitude to a woman who had given me everything. As was the case with Fauré in writing his Requiem, I too wished to avoid the terrors set out in sections of the Last Judgement, and preferred my work to be an intimate one. I have not followed the standard settings for the requiem mass, and have included lines translated into English, a Psalm in Hebrew, as well as words from other literary sources including the poems of Emily Dickinson, St Teresa Avila, and the American poet Jack Larson – two verses from his seven octets dedicated to his life-long companion, the film director James Bridges, and each beginning with the line "Do I love you".



Spinto soprano **Siân Dicker** is in demand for her rich, full-bodied voice and dramatic flair. A regular on the competition platform, Siân won the Singers Prize in the 2020 Royal Over-Seas League Annual Music Competition. She is proud to be an Oxford Lieder Ambassador for Song, having won the 2020 Oxford Lieder Young Artist Platform with duo partner, Krystal Tunnicliffe. Siân is a City Music Foundation Artist and is delighted to be a 2021/22 Britten Pears Young Artist.

Siân has recently worked with the Royal Opera House on *Lost and Found*; a project of newly commissioned operas premiered in St Pancras Station in March 2022. Siân's recent roles include Contessa Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro* - Opera Holland Park Young Artist Production), Flaminia (*Fool Moon* -

Bampton Classical Opera), *Amaranta (La fedeltà premiata* - Guildhall Opera), *Venus (Venus and Adonis* - Guildhall Opera), *Erste Dame (Die Zauberflöte* - Hurn Court Opera) and *Observer 1 (The Angel Esmeralda* - Guildhall Opera – world premiere).

Siân is a Live Music Now musician and also works regularly with Britten Pears Arts Community team to deliver workshops to older people in the local Suffolk community. She is looking forward to delivering dementia-friendly performances at both Aldeburgh and Ryedale Festivals this summer.



René's Bloice-Sanders' vocal training began in Canterbury Cathedral Choir and he joined the National Youth Choir of Great Britain in 2004. In 2010 he graduated from The University of Nottingham with a BA (Hons) and received a Distinction for his Masters in Vocal Studies at the Royal Academy of Music in 2013. There he studied under the tutelage of Ryland Davies and Audrey Hyland and received the Nora Carstairs Bland Award 2012/2013. Working professionally in London and around the UK, René now studies with David Barrell.

On the operatic stage René was proud to reach the semi-final of the inaugural 2019 "Opera: By Voice Alone" competition and has performed the roles of Figaro (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*), Raimbaud (*Le Comte Ory*), Eugene Onegin (*Eugene Onegin*), Marcello (*La Boheme*), Belcore (*L'elisir d'amore*), Morales/Dancairo (*Carmen*), Larkens (*La Fanciulla del West*), Marco (*Gianni Schicchi*), Salieri (*Mozart and Salieri*), Orfeo (*L'Orfeo*), Malatesta (*Don Pasquale*), Baron Duphol (*La Traviata*), and Valet II (*Don Quichotte*). He has worked with companies such as The Grange Festival, Garsington Opera Festival, Wexford Festival Opera, Opera Holland Park, Iford Opera and Opera South East.

This summer René will take on the title role in *Don Giovanni* with Surrey Opera and Papageno in *The Magic Flute* with Opera Alegria.



Sebastian Charlesworth was delighted to be appointed Musical Director of Heathfield Choral Society in May 2019. He is a graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where he initially trained as a bassoonist. On graduating, and deciding that the best thing to do with a degree in bassoon was to pursue a career in singing he has, for the last decade, been working as a professional chorister and soloist on both the concert and opera stages. As a session singer, he can be heard on many recent blockbusters including multiple scores for composers including Danny Elfman and the late Scott Walker. In recent years, conducting/musical direction has become a mainstay of his work and, alongside HCS, he is MD for the chamber choir New Sussex Singers and has worked as guest conductor with Musicians of All Saints, Lewes. He is a teacher of both singing and bassoon across 5 different schools and travels the world with the company Moving Performance, facilitating transformational leadership programmes within businesses. In his 'spare' time, he enjoys fine dining, home improvement and spending as much time as possible with his wife Hannah, and young son Hugh.



Gavin Stevens has been accompanist for Heathfield Choral Society since 1999. He works as a teacher of piano and guitar. As a composer, Gavin has written a wide range of works for piano and a growing number of pieces for guitar, among works for other instruments and voices. Gavin gives frequent piano recitals and he likes to include works by 20th century British composers in these concerts alongside his own music and more standard repertoire.

The South East Sinfonia is made up of some of the finest freelance players in London. Among their number are players who are members of, or play regularly with, all the major UK orchestras including BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the Academy of Ancient Music, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra to name but a few.

Tom Elliott (*leader*) was a student at the Royal Academy of Music where he studied for four years with Clarence Myerscough. Tom then embarked on a freelance career that combined orchestral playing with chamber music and teaching. He was a member of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields from 2000-2008 during which time he played at many of the world's most famous concert halls. Tom now focusses on teaching the violin, and lives in Kent with his wife, the flautist, Katherine Baker and their four children.

The South East Sinfonia

Violin 1:

Tom Elliott (Leader)
Jane Gomm
Anna Szabo
Abigail Dance
Sophia Bartlette

Violin 2:

Adrian Charlesworth
Hannah Charlesworth
Eloise MacDonald
Vieda Mercer

Viola:

Simon McKenzie
Stephen Giles

Cello:

Christopher Hedges
Benedict Swindells

D Bass:

Francesca Urquhart

Flute:

Anna Thomas

Clarinet / Alto Sax:

Hannah Lawrence

Obo / Cor Anglais:

Olivia Fraser

Bassoon:

Ben Exell

French Horn:

Laetitia Stott

Trumpet:

Marcus Plant

Percussion/Timpani:

Fabian Edwards

Organ:

Gavin Stevens



Dawson Hart
SOLICITORS



*Proud to support the Heathfield
Choral Society*

YOUR LEGAL TEAM

www.dawson-hart.co.uk 01825 762281

Heathfield Choral Society -

our next concerts:

Saturday June 18th, Holy Cross Priory

*A concert of music for the Queen's Jubilee, plus
Songs from the Shows*

Saturday December 10th, State Hall Heathfield

*Bob Chilcott's "On Christmas Night",
and other festive music*

Please reserve the dates!

The Choir

Sopranos

Sue Carter
Sarah Christie
Kathryn Dewhurst
Barbara Edwards
Kathy Fisher
Francesca Hunt
Carol Kemp
Jacqui Locker
Ruth McDermott
Sarah Norris
Heather Pryce
Colleen Robinson
Gillian Stevens
Caroline Thompson
Mary Wilce
Hillary Wilson
Jeni Woodhouse

Altos

Helen Baldwin
Jenny Crisford
Linda Davis
Linda Dearsley
Liz Delves
Rosemary Docker
Shineen Galloway
Pat Harwood
Moira James
Ann Kenward
Jenny Mayhew
Kate Peckham
Liza Stewart
Jane Thomas
Susan Tranter

Tenors

Phillip Brooks
Nick Howard
Rod McDermott
Brian Newman
Nick Rees

Basses

Howard Burgess
Michael Chapman
Mike Goss
Ray James
Howard Jones
Christian Mitchell
Richard Penticost
Chris Thompson
Steve Tolhurst
Richard White

The choir are joined this evening by three guest singers, Louise Ashdown (alto); Daniel Kringer (tenor); and Larry Charlesworth (bass). Their support is gratefully acknowledged.

Publishers:

Serenade to Music: Oxford University Press
Requiem for an Angel: Goodmusic Publishing
Walk to the Paradise Garden: Lee Reynolds
A Prayer: Stainer & Bell / S Charlesworth

Heathfield Choral Society

is a member of:



SUPPORTING &
CHAMPIONING
VOLUNTARY MUSIC

Words.

Serenade to Music

From The Merchant of Venice, by William Shakespeare

How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!	I am never merry when I hear sweet music.
Here will we sit, and let the sounds of music	The reason is, your spirits are attentive:
Creep in our ears: soft stillness and the night	The man that hath no music in himself,
Become the touches of sweet harmony.	Nor is not mov'd with concord of sweet sounds,
Look, how the floor of heaven	Is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils;
Is thick inlaid with patines of bright gold:	The motions of his spirit are dull as night,
There's not the smallest orb that thou behold'st	And his affections dark as Erebus:
But in his motion like an angel sings	Let no such man be trusted... Music! hark!
Still quiring to the young-eyed cherubins;	How many things by season season'd are.
Such harmony is in immortal souls;	To their right praise and true perfection!
But, whilst this muddy vesture of decay	Peace, ho! the moon sleeps with Endymion,
Doth grossly close it in, we cannot hear it.	And would not be awak'd.
Come, ho! and wake Diana with a hymn:	(Soft stillness and the night
With sweetest touches pierce your mistress' ear,	Become the touches of sweet harmony.)
And draw her home with music.	

A Prayer

From words by Thomas à Kempis

Grant me Thy grace, most merciful Jesus, that it may be with me, and may labour with me, and continue with me to the end.

Grant me always to will and desire that which is most acceptable to Thee, and which pleaseth Thee best. Let Thy will be mine, and let my will always follow Thine and agree perfectly therewith.

Grant that I may die to all things in the world, and for Thy sake love to be despised and not known to the world.

Grant that I may rest in Thee above all things that can be desired, and that my heart may be at peace in Thee.

Thou art the true peace of the heart, Thou art its only rest, out of Thee all things are irksome and restless.

In this very peace which is in Thee, the one supreme Eternal God, I will sleep and take my rest.

Requiem for an Angel

1. Requiem Aeternam

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine:
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Te decet hymnus, Deus in Sion:
et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem.

Exaudi orationem meam, ad te omnis caro veniet.

Father forgive us, Jesus forgive us, Father forgive us.

2. Pie Jesu

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem,
dona eis sempiternam requiem.

Because I could not stop for Death
He kindly stopped for me
The carriage held but just Ourselves
and Immortality. (Emily Dickinson)

3. Chorale - "Let Mine Eyes See Thee"

(St. Teresa of Avila - translation by Arthur William Symons)

Let mine eyes see Thee, Sweet Jesus of Nazareth,
Let mine eyes see Thee, and then see Death.
Let them see that care. Roses and Jessamine: seeing
Thy face most fair, all blossoms are therein.
Flower of Seraphim, Sweet Jesus of Nazareth,
Let mine eyes see Thee, and then see Death.
Nothing I require where my Jesus is;
Anguish all desire, saving only this;
all my help is His, he only succoureth.
Let mine eyes see Thee, Sweet Jesus of Nazareth,
Let mine eyes see Thee, and then see Death.

4. Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Domine Deus Sabaoth.

Pleni sunt caeli et terra Gloria tua.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domine.

Hosanna in excelsis.

5. Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona eis requiem.

The World feels dusty when

We stop to Die. (Emily Dickinson)

6. Song - "Do I Love You" (Jack Larson ©)

Do I love you more than a day?

Days used to be faint hours to endure.

Now through our love,

I feel each hour on this spinned world about the sun.

Embodied time, I live creation.

Through You. And I love you more than a day.

Do I love you more than the air?

Air used to seem just nothingness.

Through our love, now it seems no less

Than God's air airing your life's breath.

Too rich for space, Too dear for death.

Through you. And I love you more than the air.

7. Kyrie

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Forgive us Lord, we know not what we do.

8. Lux Aeterna

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine:

cum sanctis tuis in aeternam, quia pius es.

Hineh mah tov, umah naim,

shevet aḥim gam yaḥad. (*Psalm 133, v.1*)

How good it is, and just how pleasant,

for us all to live together in unity.

Requiem aeternam.

Amen.



BRITISH
PROPERTY
AWARDS

2021



GOLD WINNER

ESTATE AGENT
IN HEATHFIELD



BRITISH
PROPERTY
AWARDS

2022



GOLD WINNER

ESTATE AGENT
IN HEATHFIELD



2022

SOUTH EAST
SALES
GOLD WINNER
Wood & Pilcher

Sponsored by
The Telegraph



Let us help orchestrate your next move
Wood & Pilcher are here for all your Residential Property needs

PROUD TO BE INDEPENDENT

WOODANDPILCHER.CO.UK

Offices in Heathfield, Crowborough, Tunbridge Wells, Southborough, Tonbridge. Sales,
Lettings, Land & New Homes. Associated London Office

heathfield@woodandpilcher.co.uk

01435 862211

Heathfield Choral Society was formed in 1945 and now has a membership of around 60 singers drawn from Heathfield and the surrounding towns and villages. It is recognized as one of the most enterprising choirs in the area, performing regularly with professional orchestras and soloists. Its concerts have included a wide variety of sacred and secular works and first performances in the area. In 2009 the choir gave the first performance in East Sussex of Howard Goodall's work, *Eternal Light*, and in November 2016 joined an international group to perform this work in New York's Carnegie Hall – a great honour for the choir, of whom around 25 were able to take part.

As a founder member of the Eastbourne and District Choirs' Association, the Society has played a pivotal role in extending the work of choirs in the area, by promoting open rehearsals, combined concerts and co-operation between member choirs. The choir supported South Downs Opera's productions of *Tosca* (2012) and *Aida* (2015).

The Society welcomes new singers, and is very happy for you to try a couple of rehearsals before joining. **There are no auditions!** Please contact Kathryn at membership@heathfieldchoral.org.uk for more information, or speak to a choir member.

*If you would like to be included on our mailing list, please email
publicity@heathfieldchoral.org.uk or visit our website
www.heathfieldchoral.org.uk*

We would like to thank: Mike Woodhouse, Colin Harwood and Steve Fisher for Front of House support; and Howard Jones and Jeni Woodhouse for Concert Management. Also all our advertisers for their support.

Hughes

SOLICITORS



Putting your interests first



- Private client services
- Wills and trusts
- Estate administration
- Residential property

19 High Street, Heathfield TN21 8LU

01435 890101

info@hugheslaw.co.uk

www.hugheslaw.co.uk



@HughesLawSussex