

Every year will be an anniversary for someone or something and 2024 is no exception. "All in the April evening" is not only the title of our concert but also the opening line of delightful Edwardian part song by Hugh Roberton born 150 years ago this year. We will pick up on that Easter theme with music by the Irish composer Charles Villiers Stanford, born in 1924, as we sing the rarely performed "As Mary through the garden went" along with a couple of his better known works. Stepping back 200 years we'll mark the birth of Anton Bruckner with his setting of "Locus iste" and then with a huge stride back another 300 years we'll sing "Draw on, sweet night" by the English Renaissance composer John Wilbye.

Anniversaries aside, this will also be a programme of music that reflects the great outdoors, the restorative qualities of the night, some unexpected relationships and a tale of avian true love and sacrifice.

You really *are* sure of a big surprise!

PROGRAMME

Songs of conviction

Locus iste	Anton Bruckner (1824-96)
O magnum mysterium	Morten Lauridsen (1943-)
Do not be afraid	Philip Stopford (1977-)

Songs of Easter

All in the April evening	Hugh Roberton (1874-1952)
The angel rolled that stone	Spiritual arr. James Wild
When Mary thought the garden	Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Songs of love and marriage

Il est bel et bon	Pierre Passereau (fl. 1509-47)
I love my love	Gustav Holst (1874-1934)
The mermaid	John Whitworth (1921-2013)

INTERVAL

Songs of the outdoors

Chillingham	Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)
The blue bird	Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Songs of dusk

The long day closes	Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)
Come to me	Gustav Holst (1874-1934)
Draw on, sweet night	John Wilbye (1574-1638)

Songs of anticipation

Now is the month of maying	Thomas Morley (1557/8-1602)
The Goslings	Frederick Bridge (1844-1924)
The Teddy Bears' Picnic	John Bratton (1867-1947) arr. Carter

Eleanor Graff-Baker

Leicester born Eleanor, gained a music scholarship to Dean Close School, Cheltenham and from there went as the first female Choral Bursar to The Queen's College, Oxford where she read Music and sang with Schola Cantorum. She has freelanced in both performance and education, as a violinist, singer and choral director. In this capacity she has enjoyed a variety of experiences from leading parish church choirs at St Catherine's, Burbage, and St Margaret's, Leicester, to being on the music staff at Leicester Cathedral and directing The Beauchamp Choral Society and Loughborough University Choir. These have given rise to opportunities to perform in historic locations such as Belvoir Castle, Chester and Liverpool Cathedrals and Holy Sepulchre London as well as to direct performances by contemporary composers including the first performance of Paul Ayres' Loughborough Cantata.

As a violinist she has performed with many orchestras including the Royal Ballet Orchestra, Opera International Orchestra and Melachrino Strings and Orchestra. She is a member of the EVE Piano Trio and has combined playing and singing in a number of specially devised words and music events. Her compositions range across choral and works for small orchestra. For many years she taught at Leicester Grammar School. This is Eleanor's first concert at the helm of Charnwood Voices.

Charnwood Voices

Charnwood Voices is a four part SATB choir based in Charnwood, Leicestershire. Founded as the Shepshed Singers in 1977, the choir has gained a well-deserved reputation for performing a range of music, both sacred and secular.

We rehearse weekly on Wednesday evenings throughout most of the year and aim to achieve a high standard in both performance and presentation. A lot of our work is a capella although we do also perform larger works with an orchestra.

Performances since 2015 have included Mozart C Minor Mass, Fauré Requiem, Rutter Feel the Spirit, Duruflé Quatre Motets, Vivaldi Gloria and works by Vaughan Williams, Moeran, Shearing, Whitacre, Gjeilo and Lukaszewski.

Pre-pandemic we toured every two years either to Europe or in Britain. Our most recent was 2019 when we visited Bath and Wells. Post-pandemic we are somewhat smaller in number but not lacking in friendly enthusiasm and are always looking to recruit new members. Anyone interested in joining us can speak to a choir member or contact chairman@charnwoodvoices.org.uk

For more information about the choir go to our website charnwoodvoices.org.uk and follow us on Facebook and X (Twitter).

Soprano

Jane Barrass, Janet Clitheroe, Ros Cole, Chris Cooke, Margaret Dartnall, Anne Morris, Gail Pitman-Gibson, Sue Hutton, Liz Twitchell, Beth Woollacott

Alto

Ingrid Daniels, Nêst Harris, Jean Hayes, Judith Montgomery, Julie O'Dowd

Tenor

Michael Coxon, Peter Finch, Anthony Kay, Malcolm Steward, Kerstin Taylor

Bass

Colin Butler, John Owen, Wyn Parry

SAVE THE DATES

Autumn concert - Saturday 12th October 2024

Christmas concert - Saturday 21st December 2024.

Follow us on social media and our website for further details,



All in the April Evening...



*You're sure of
a big surprise...*

Conducted by Eleanor Graff-Baker

7.30pm Saturday 27th April
St. Paul's Church
Woodhouse Eaves

This concert is dedicated to the memory of
Sue Champneys 14/1/1947-15/1/2024