



# BILLINGSHURST CHORAL SOCIETY

Thank you for coming to our concert this evening. We would like to welcome our soloists Poppy Shotts, Helen May, John Twitchen and Jack Lawrence-Jones, harpist Milo Harper, organist Cornelis Taekema and members of Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra Ensemble. We have been working very hard with Marcio for our performance, and we sincerely hope you have a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

## MARCIO DA SILVA MUSIC DIRECTOR



Marcio was born in Brazil in 1983 and began his music studies at the age of 9 with piano lessons and choral singing. He travelled to the United States where he studied in Arizona for six months, graduating from the renowned Phoenix Boys Choir in 1998. In 2006 Marcio received his Diplôme d'études Musicales in voice from the Conservatoire de Toulouse, France. He moved to Germany in April 2008 to join the Musikhochschule, Freiburg, where he studied choral and orchestral conducting under Professor Scott Sandmeier. He obtained his Bachelor of Music in July 2011 and, moving to London, secured his Master's degree in July 2013 at the Royal College of Music.

Marcio is the founder and artistic director of the Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra and Ensemble OrQuesta. He took up the baton for BCS in 2021 and also conducts the Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra Singers and the Hastings Philharmonic. He works extensively as a vocal coach and continues to enjoy performing both as baritone and countertenor.

[www.marciodasilva.com](http://www.marciodasilva.com)

## MILO HARPER HARPIST

[www.miloharper.com](http://www.miloharper.com)



## CORNELIS TAEKEMA ORGANIST

[www.wealdenconsort.org.uk/musical-director](http://www.wealdenconsort.org.uk/musical-director)

## HASTINGS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA ENSEMBLE

[www.hastingsphilharmonic.com](http://www.hastingsphilharmonic.com)

## POPPY SHOTTS SOPRANO

[www.poppysbotts.com](http://www.poppysbotts.com)



## HELEN MAY MEZZO - SOPRANO

[www.helenmaysoprano.com](http://www.helenmaysoprano.com)

## JOHN TWITCHEN TENOR

[www.johntwitchentenor.co.uk](http://www.johntwitchentenor.co.uk)



## JACK LAWRENCE- JONES BARITONE

[www.jacklawrencejones.com](http://www.jacklawrencejones.com)

## TONIGHT'S CONCERT

### SCHUBERT ~ *Mass in G*

- |          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| 1 KYRIE  | 4 SANCTUS    |
| 2 GLORIA | 5 BENEDICTUS |
| 3 CREDO  | 6 AGNUS DEI  |

~ INTERVAL ~

### DEBUSSY ~ *Danse Sacrée et Profane*

### SAINT-SAËNS ~ *Oratorio de Noël*

- 1 PRELUDE
- 2 ET PASTORES ERANT; GLORIA
- 3 EXPECTANS EXPECTAVI DOMINUM
- 4 DOMINE, EGO CREDIDI
- 5 BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT
- 6 QUARE FREMUERUNT GENTES
- 7 TECUM PRINCIPIUM
- 8 ALLELUIA
- 9 CONSURGE, FILIA SION
- 10 TOLLITE HOSTIAS

For more information on tonight's concert please scan this QR code.



## FRANZ SCHUBERT - MASS IN G

The *Mass in G* is an astonishingly great work of the eighteen-year-old Schubert. The gentlest of masses, the work opens with a lyrical and tuneful *Kyrie*. The *Christe* with soprano solo darkens the texture, but sunlight reappears in the repeat of the *Kyrie*. The *Gloria* is in D Major, triumphant in tone, but still permeated with a kind of sweetness, rare in Mass settings. Probably the greatest section of this Mass is the hypnotic *Credo*. Schubert finds a rapt weightless tone for this movement that even carries through the *Crucifixus* section. This is without a doubt, the least dogmatic *Credo* ever set. The *Sanctus* is brief, with a tiny *Pleni sunt coeli* and a little fugal *Hosanna*. The *Benedictus* is patterned on a quartet from Beethoven's *Fidelio*. Even at this young age, Schubert was 'au courant' with the latest of Viennese musical developments. The *Agnus Dei* is, appropriately, of a darker cast, but the *Dona nobis pacem* revives the joy of the *Gloria*. A truly beautiful setting of the Mass.



## CLAUDE DEBUSSY - DANCE SACRÉE ET PROFANE

The customary double-action harp is fashioned with seven pedals, which can make each of the seven notes of the diatonic scale either flat, natural, or sharp. In 1897 the famous Paris instrument-making firm of Pleyel introduced a new chromatic harp, which contained a string for every half step, thus almost doubling the number of strings. In 1903 Pleyel invited Debussy to compose a test piece, which was to be used for a class that was being initiated in the new instrument at the Brussels Conservatory. The resulting work, *Deux Danses (Danse Sacrée et Profane)*, for harp and string orchestra has long since become a beloved part of the repertoire, while sadly the chromatic harp has become a museum piece.

## CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS - ORATORIO DE NOËL

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835–1921) was just 23 years old when he composed the first six movements of his *Oratorio de Noël* in a few days in December 1858. It received its first performance, probably at Midnight Mass, in the church of La Madeleine in Paris. He added four further movements over the following five years, inspired by the reception Beethoven's music received. There was a great fondness for German music in France at this time, especially that of Johann Sebastian Bach. The parallels between Saint-Saëns' composition and Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* are clear, not just because of the subtitle on the first page of the printed score (*Dans le style de Séb. Bach*). In contrast with Bach, the Christmas story in Saint-Saëns' version is not narrated by an evangelist, rather the composer divides the accounts between different soloists. Saint-Saëns also set no special texts: he used exclusively texts from the Vulgate and the Catholic liturgy.



## SUPPORTING CHESTNUT TREE HOUSE

Chestnut Tree House is a children's charity providing hospice care services and community support for children and young people with progressive life-shortening conditions in East and West Sussex and South East Hampshire.

Chestnut Tree House offers support for the whole family including psychological and bereavement support, end of life and short break care and sibling support. At Chestnut Tree House the goal is to provide the best quality of life for children, young people and their families, and to offer a total package of practical, social and spiritual support throughout each child's life, however short it may be.



There will be a collection as you leave. Please give as generously as you can. Cash or card is most welcome.

[www.chestnut-tree-house.org.uk](http://www.chestnut-tree-house.org.uk)

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Christmas Concert with Brass Quintet

BILLINGSHURST COMMUNITY CENTRE  
SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER 2022 5.30PM

### Opera Gala

FISHERS FARM THEATRE WISBOROUGH GREEN  
SATURDAY 29 APRIL 2023

### *Elijah* - Mendelssohn

ST.GABRIEL'S CHURCH BILLINGSHURST  
SATURDAY 1 JULY 2023

Further information is available from  
our website:

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

