

Dunsford Singers

A Teign Valley Choir

present

Music for a Summer Evening

Conducted by Tim Pithers

Accompanist Harry George

Saturday 8 June 7.30pm
Chudleigh Parish Church

Saturday 15 June 7.30pm
Dunsford Parish Church



A very warm welcome to our summer concert

We hope that the beautiful music you hear tonight will leave you feeling uplifted and well-entertained.

Dunsford Singers

Dunsford Singers grew out of a WI choir, when the men wanted to join in! Over the years the choir became an established part of life in the village of Dunsford, with various enthusiastic local conductors who worked hard to develop our skills. We are delighted to announce that June Squire, a former conductor, and member of the choir for many years, has just agreed to become our Honorary President.

Since Tim Pithers became our MD in January 2017, our membership has expanded to nearly sixty keen singers from villages throughout the Teign Valley and beyond. We are a true community choir: non-auditioning and aiming to encourage singing excellence within the spirit of friendship and tolerance. We try to create community concerts of high repute, offering a wide and varied repertoire. Where possible we like to offer our own talented singers the chance to perform a solo or two. It comes as no surprise that singing is now officially recognised as an important health benefit! It improves your heart rate, helps your lung capacity and releases 'feel-good' endorphins. It makes you think about posture, helps to build confidence and self esteem, and even helps you sleep more soundly!

If you would like to join us for next September, please contact our Secretary, Jane Inwood on 01647 252519, or send us a message via Facebook or our website www.dunsfordsingers.co.uk. All voices welcome.

We are most grateful to our accompanist **Harry George**
for all his hard work during our preparation

PROGRAMME

European Sacred Music

Tonight we are performing a selection of classic sacred songs, written by some of the world's most renowned and influential composers. They are all exquisite 'stand alone' pieces. We have chosen to sing them in their original languages.

Ave Verum Corpus (*Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart* 1756 - 91) Sung in Latin

Hail, true body, born of the Virgin Mary, who truly suffered and was sacrificed on the cross for humanity; whose side was pierced, from whence flowed water and blood; be for us a foretaste of heaven during our ordeal of death.

O Jesu Christ, meins Leben Licht (*JS Bach* 1685 - 1750) Sung in German

Lord Jesus Christ, my life and light, my strength, my stay, my day-star bright; on earth I have no home or rest, by all my grievous sin oppressed.

Os Justi (*Anton Bruckner* 1824 - 96) Sung in Latin

The just man in his heart shall see wisdom from the Lord; his tongue will ever speak judgement and righteousness. God's statutes rule in his heart as a just law; his footsteps shall not falter; sure is his way.

Verleih uns Freiden (*Felix Mendelssohn* 1809 - 47) Sung in Latin

Lord, in thy mercy, grant us peace throughout all generations. You alone are our sword and shield, Lord who guides the nations. Defend us, O God, we pray.

HARRY GEORGE

Sonata No 26 in E flat major, 'Les Adieux' (First Movement)

Ludvig van Beethoven

Napoleon Bonaparte's attack on Vienna, in 1809, forced Beethoven's sponsor and piano student, Archduke Rudolph, to flee the city. The three opening chords seem to outline the three syllables of '*Lebe Wohl*' or '*Fare thee well*'.

POEM: 'We Refugees' by Benjamin Zephaniah

Read by Francis Miles

Christe, adorus te (*Claudio Monteverdi* 1567 - 1643) Sung in Latin

Christ, we adore and bless you, who by your holy cross and passion, have redeemed the world. Lord, we pray, look mercifully upon us.

Ach, Arme Welt (*Johannes Brahms* 1833 - 97) Sung in German

Alas, vain world I see your snares, with guile they take us unawares, yet in your power I languish. In time, false world, your empty show will pass away, as well I know, in woe and bitter anguish. Your pomp, your wealth, last but a day; in death and need they fade away. Your gold is naught but worthless clay. God grant the peace I cherish.

Otche Nash (*Antony Arensky* 1861-1906) The Lord's Prayer. Sung in Russian

Panis Angelicus (*Cesar Frank* 1822 - 90) Sung in Latin

Bread of the angel host, sent down from God above; body of Our Lord in token of his love. O gift most wonderful! Christ as our sacrament: humble, lowly, all share his sacred feast.

INTERVAL/REFRESHMENTS (20 minutes)

A WORD ABOUT OUR CHOSEN CHARITY: REFUGEE SUPPORT DEVON

THE GREATEST SHOW from the film *The Greatest Showman*

Words and music by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul Arr. Mark Brymer

AFRICA by Toto 1983

Words and music by David Paich and Jeff Porcaro Arr. Lawson

HARRY GEORGE

ONE SUMMER'S DAY from '*Spirited Away*' by Joe Hisaishi

Harry has chosen to introduce us to the work of Joe Hisaishi (b 1950) a Japanese composer known for over 100 film scores and solo albums, as well as the music for video games! We understand he's really BIG in Japan!

POEM: From 'Home' by Warsan Shire

Read by Jan Middleton

LET THE RIVER RUN from the film *Working Girl*

Words and music by Carly Simon Arr Kirby Shaw

MAMMA MIA! Highlights from the film soundtrack

I Have a Dream, Mamma Mia, SOS, Take a Chance on Me, Thank You for the Music, Dancing Queen, Waterloo

Words and Music by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus Arr. Mac Huff

Soloists: Sarah Maybin and Jan Middleton

Musical Director: Tim Pithers

Tim began conducting in his teens and went on to read Music and French at the University of Exeter. He studied violin with Mary Eade, composition with Joe Duddell and specialised in musical direction with Ian Mitchell. Subsequent to his graduation with a double first-class degree, he has conducted a wide variety of vocal and instrumental ensembles. He particularly enjoys working with ensembles of varying degrees of experience and is a firm believer that classical music should be made as accessible as possible to both performers and the wider audience.

Tim is delighted to have been the Dunsford Singers' Musical director for very nearly two years. During this time the choir has tackled a diverse programme of works from Rutter's *Requiem* to Gjeilo's *Northern Lights*; Vivaldi's *Gloria* to Claude Schoeneberg's *Miss Saigon* and *Les Miserables*.

In addition to the Dunsford Singers, Tim is Musical Director of the Exeter University Symphony Orchestra; the Dartmouth Orchestra; Chagford Singers; orchestra+, the South West's first LGBT symphony orchestra; and the EX4 Chamber Orchestra, which he founded in August 2014.

Recent podium highlights have included performances of Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*; Schubert's *Mass in G*; Haydn's *Missa in Angustiis*; Chopin's 1st and 2nd Piano Concertos; Brahms' 1st and 2nd Symphonies and Beethoven's 5th and 6th Symphonies. Upcoming engagements include: 22 June Chagford Singers and 11 July Dartmouth Orchestra.

Accompanist: Harry George

Harry is a graduate of Exeter University. As a student he was principal pianist with the university Jazz Orchestra and has performed in venues ranging from the Northcott Theatre to Ronnie Scott's! Recently, he was hired by the Royal Opera House as an accompanist. Harry teaches piano in Exeter, offering training in a wide variety of genres including classical, jazz, funk and pop. He has also played with the jazz/soul band *Orlata*.

Harry combines youthful energy and fun with consummate expertise and professionalism. He has been a really wonderful accompanist. This September, Harry embarks upon a post-graduate course in Composition at Bristol University. We wish him well, and hope that one day we'll be able to say, 'We knew that famous film composer, Harry George, when he played for Dunsford Singers!'

For these concerts Dunsford Singers chosen charity is:

Refugee Support Devon

Helping Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Devon

Our vision for Devon is to be a county where people who have had to flee from their homes in other parts of the world can find the protection they need, rebuild their lives in safety and dignity, and achieve their full potential.