

Feel the Spirit!

Come & Sing Workshop
with Brian Kay

Saturday 11 May 2019,
9.30am–5.00pm
St John the Evangelist Church,
Oxford

This jazz-themed workshop will focus on John Rutter's *Feel the Spirit* – his vivid arrangements of seven well-loved American spirituals – and jazz legend George Shearing's *Songs and Sonnets*, a wonderful cycle of Shakespeare settings. The workshop will be led by Brian Kay, founder member of the King's Singers, well-known broadcaster, and regular conductor of massed voices from London to Beijing!

Tickets: £20 (students £10) including music hire

Available from:
workshop@oxfordbachchoir.org

Handel: Athalia

Saturday 8 June 2019, 7.30pm, Sheldonian Theatre

Conductor: Benjamin Nicholas

Orchestra: Florilegium

Elin Manahan Thomas *Soprano*; Alison Ponsford-Hill *Soprano*;

Simon Ponsford *Countertenor*; James Gilchrist *Tenor*;

Nicholas Morton *Bass*

The Sheldonian Theatre was opened in 1669, 350 years ago, and the OBC celebrates this anniversary with one of the greatest pieces premiered there, Handel's oratorio *Athalia*. Not only is this the only oratorio conducted by Handel in Oxford, but the Sheldonian is almost certainly the only surviving building where we know he performed any of his oratorios. *Athalia* itself tells the dramatic tale of the downfall of the evil usurper Athalia, Queen of Judah, daughter of Jezebel and worshipper of Baal, with appropriately colourful and exciting music for soloists and chorus alike.

Tickets:
£42, £30,
£20, £15



HOW TO BUY TICKETS

THROUGH THE CHOIR

All tickets are available from the Choir Box Office either online at tickets.oxfordbachchoir.org or by telephone on **01865 980220** (All cards and PayPal payment accepted).

IN PERSON

Tickets for all concerts are available in person at **Tickets Oxford**, Oxford Playhouse Theatre, Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2LW or by telephone on **01865 305305**

MUSIC AT OXFORD

Tickets for the June 2019 concert (Handel's *Athalia*) are also available from Music at Oxford www.musicatoxford.com. Telephone: **01865 244806**

TICKET DISCOUNTS

(only one discount will be applied per ticket)

Students: £5 discount

Under 18s: 50% discount

(We regret that children under 6 years old cannot be admitted except for the **Carols for All** concert)

Groups of 10 or more: 15% discount

Disabled person's carer: Free

POSTAGE

We post tickets to the UK only up to 7 days before the event, after which tickets will need to be collected from the venue box office up to 3 hours before the advertised start time.

REFUNDS

Tickets can only be refunded when a concert is sold out and your ticket is resold. There may be a handling fee of £1.

WHY NOT JOIN US?

The **Oxford Bach Choir** always welcomes new members, offering discounted subscriptions to students and the under-30s. The choir has around 120 singers and rehearsals are held during University terms, mainly on Monday evenings. If you are interested in singing with us, please email the Membership Secretary for details and dates of auditions. membership@oxfordbachchoir.org

A CHOIR FOR ALL OCCASIONS!

Members of the **Oxford Bach Choir** would be delighted to sing for your special occasion and are available for weddings, funerals, birthdays, anniversaries, and any other special event.

Perhaps there is a piece of choral music with special significance to you or your family? The choir's repertoire is extremely varied and versatile. To discuss your event and for help in choosing music please contact Liz Stock at events@oxfordbachchoir.org

OBC

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BACH CHOIR

2018–19
CONCERT
SEASON



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Welcome to our 2018-19 season...



The **Oxford Bach Choir** has an extraordinary 122-year history and I'm delighted that for my first concerts with the choir, we will be looking back to the OBC's very special relationship with Hubert Parry. Having recently collaborated with the Philharmonia and Gloucester Choral Society for a celebration of Parry's music, we include his choral masterpieces **Songs of Farewell** in a programme of music by composers whose output was significantly affected by the First World War. In 1917, on Parry's last ever visit to Oxford, he heard the OBC give the first performance of *Lord, let me know mine end* ("they sang beautifully", Parry recalled) and just a year later, joining with the Bach Choir, the OBC sang *There is an old belief* at Parry's funeral in St Paul's Cathedral. Some exceptional students from Oxford University will join us as soloists in the Parry concerts and, in another example of our important links with the local community, our ever-popular **Carols for All** will feature singers and instrumentalists from the Oxfordshire County Music Service.

Continuing the theme of composers' 'last works', **Mozart's Requiem** features in March in a concert which includes a rare performance of Bach's great **Trauer-Ode**. Bach's rich orchestration for flutes, oboes, gambas, lutes and strings creates an utterly unique sound-world, and it is a particular pleasure to welcome the UK's longest established chamber orchestra – the London Mozart Players – back to Oxford for this concert.

The season closes with a very special performance of **Handel's Athalia**, labelled by Winton Dean in his classic study of Handel oratorios as 'the first great English oratorio'. The early-music ensemble Florilegium and an outstanding group of soloists, renowned for their ability to project the drama of the music, join with the choir to perform this striking work in the very hall in which the composer once conducted the work.

I hope that you will join us throughout the 2018/19 season and that you will be inspired to come and make music with us at our Come and Sing event **Feel the Spirit!**

Benjamin Nicholas, Principal Conductor

Celebrating Parry

21-25 November 2018

The **Oxford Bach Choir** and **Merton College** combine to mark the 100th anniversary of Hubert Parry's death with a festival of evensongs, recitals, talks and concerts celebrating the music of Parry and friends.

Wednesday 21 November 2018, Merton College

6:15pm Evensong, Merton College

7:30pm 'Parry's Choral Odyssey': Lecture by Jeremy Dibble, Professor of Musicology, University of Durham.
TS Eliot Lecture Theatre, Merton College

Thursday 22 November 2018, Merton College

1:15pm Organ Recital: Music by Parry and friends
Organ: Benjamin Nicholas

6:15pm Evensong

Parry: Songs of Farewell Oxford Bach Choir

**Friday 23 November 2018, 7.30pm,
St John the Evangelist Church, Oxford**

Conductor: Benjamin Nicholas
Stephen Clarke *Organ*; Athena Hawksley-Walker *Violin*;
Tom Herring *Baritone*; Francesca Millar *Soprano*

Our first concert of the season concludes the Parry festival and marks both the centenary of the Armistice and the death of Hubert Parry, who had a close association with OBC over many years.

We therefore perform Parry's *Songs of Farewell*, composed during the First World War, of which the OBC gave the world premiere as a complete cycle. The concert also includes music reflecting on the war by Stanford, Ireland, Vaughan Williams and Elgar, as well as *The Wind on the Downs* from Jonathan Dove's 2014 cantata *For an Unknown Soldier*, recently recorded by OBC.

The music will be interspersed with readings appropriate to the theme of war and remembrance.

Tickets: £30, £20, £12



The concert
will be repeated
on Sunday
25 November at
St Helen's Church,
Abingdon at 3pm.
All tickets £15.

Carols for All

**Saturday 15 December 2018,
7.30pm**

**Sheldonian Theatre,
Oxford**

The choir celebrates Christmas in style with a fun programme of seasonal music for all the family. We will be joined again by singers and instrumentalists from the Oxfordshire County Music Service for our annual Christmas concert.

Tickets: £20, £18, £14, £12



Mozart: Requiem JS Bach: Trauer-Ode

**Sunday 10 March 2019, 5.00pm,
Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford**

Conductor: Benjamin Nicholas

London Mozart Players

Cecilia Osmond *Soprano*
Alex Chance *Countertenor*
Ruairi Bowen *Tenor*
Henry Neill *Bass*

The Oxford Bach Choir sings two much-loved late classics by Mozart: his gentle motet *Ave verum Corpus*, and his great *Requiem*, his last work, left unfinished on his death. The programme also includes JS Bach's *Trauer-Ode*, a magnificent and heartfelt elegy written on the death of a much-loved Saxon queen. The *Trauer-Ode* holds a special secret: Bach reused much of its music, including its imposing and moving opening and closing choruses, for his *St Mark Passion*, which is now lost. We therefore look forward to giving our audience tantalising glimpses of a major lost work by Bach!

Tickets: £42, £30, £20, £15

