



THE  
THAMES VALE SINGERS

present

*Spring Choral Concert*

Musical Director: Alex Taylor

Organist: Peter Bernard

*There will be a retiring collection*

## THAMES VALE SINGERS

### Spring Choral Concert

Welcome to our performance this evening. We are a busy and active Choir meeting every Tuesday evening in Purley Memorial Hall for rehearsal, aiming to provide our members and our audiences with a variety of different music. If you have enjoyed the concert, and feel it is something which you would like to join in with, then come along any Tuesday at 8.00pm and try for yourself.

Tonight we shall be singing:-

#### Handel - Zadok the Priest

George Frederic Handel (1685-1759) composed four anthems for the coronation of George II in Westminster Abbey on 11 October 1729, among them *Zadok the Priest*. The entire hymn is a supreme example of Handel's power to make a unique statement with a minimum of technical means. It became extremely popular during Handel's lifetime and was constantly performed at festivals, benefit and charity concerts.

#### Mozart - Coronation Mass in C

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 - 1791) wrote this work, and indeed the bulk of his sacred music, whilst employed in the service of the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg. The Mass (K317) was written for the Easter celebration of 1779 and for a long time was thought to be associated with a Church outside Salzburg, where a statue of the Virgin Mary was crowned each year. It now seems, however, that it owes its "Coronation" nickname to the fact that it was performed in Vienna during celebrations for the coronation of either Emperor Leopold II in 1790 or Franz II in 1792.

It follows in the Classic Mass form. *Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, Benedictus, Agnus Dei.*

Our Guest Soloists this evening are:-

Angela Francis ~ Soprano  
Jennifer Le Coq ~ Alto  
Norman Bagshaw ~ Tenor  
David Orton ~ Bass

#### Byrd - Ave verum corpus

William Byrd (1543-1623) published the first book of *Gradualia*, containing 63 motets, in 1605. *Ave verum corpus* is one of the best known from this collection. A superb example of the English polyphonic school, it is set for four voices and is remarkable for its simple beauty.

#### Vivaldi - Gloria

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) spent most of his working life as a director of music at one of the four famous Venetian orphanages for girls, the Ospedale della Pieta. He was ordained priest in 1703, but illness (possibly Asthma) prevented him from celebrating Mass. So in the same year he took the appointment of chorus master at the Pieta and eventually became its violin leader and musical director, writing much of his sacred music between 1713 and 1719 for the chapel there. The *Gloria* in D major was probably intended for this institution and significantly, perhaps, does not include any solo parts for male voices; but it would seem that the girls were expected to sing the lower choral parts, though presumably, in the case of the bass line, an octave higher!

We hope that you enjoy our concert and should you want any further information about us, or on joining the choir, please contact me, the Chairman, on (0118) 984 2845.

John Cathrew.