



Coming up

In Celebration of the Coronation
7.30 pm, Saturday March 25th 2023

Conducted by Max Barley
Accompanied by Andrew Lenon

Handel: Coronation Anthems
Chilcott: Aesop's Fables

Eltham Parish Church (St John the Baptist)

Or

Why not hear us singing carols in Passey Place, Eltham,
11.00 am, Saturday December 17th

A Christmas Concert



Eltham Choral Society

Deansfield Primary School Chamber Choir

Conducted by Max Barley

7.30 pm, Saturday December 10th 2022



Our Christmas concert is always a highlight of our calendar, and we are delighted to be performing two contrasting celebratory works alongside traditional carols and songs. Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise*, an imposing Lutheran cantata, and the light, dance based *Messe de Minuit de Noël* by Charpentier, from seventeenth century Paris and Louis XIV.

We are pleased to welcome the chamber choir of Deansfield Primary School, who sang with us at Christmas 2021 and will be singing some pieces on their own tonight as well as joining us in the carols.

We would like to thank Max Barley, our music director, and Andrew Lenon, our accompanist, both in rehearsals and in tonight's concert, the ECS Choir Committee for their work in organising this event and throughout the year, and finally, you, our audience, without whom no performance would be complete.

We hope you enjoy the concert and wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Registered charity no 1023904

President: Sir Willard White

Vice Presidents: Clive Efford MP, Nick Jenkins

Hon members: Chris Almond, Margaret Almond, Miriam Coe, Francis Eastwood, Michael McQuillan, Martin North, Win Parker, Abi Wakeem

Cover photo: All Saints' Church, Newton on Ouse, North Yorkshire, by D. Brining

Eltham Choral Society (ECS) is a charity affiliated to Making Music. A mixed choir of around 80 voices, ECS has been singing and performing in the Eltham area and beyond for well over

100 years. The choir has built up a very wide repertoire of music which ranges from the 16th to the 21st century, and regularly commissions new work from well-known and emerging contemporary composers. We perform up to four times a year and frequently engage professional soloists and musicians for our concerts. We are a friendly and welcoming choir and if you enjoy singing do think about joining us. There are no auditions.

Visit our website at www.elthamchoral.org.uk for more details or just come along to one of our weekly rehearsals. From January 2023, we will be meeting at **Eltham United Reformed Church, Court Road, SE9 5AD** every Thursday during school term time from 1930 to 2130.

ECS Support for Young Singers

Eltham Choral Society would love more young people to join the choir. The Anita Bursary, set up by the family of Anita Johnson with the aim of encouraging young people to sing, can offer those under 25 financial help with the fees.

More details on www.elthamchoral.org.uk

Deansfield Primary School Chamber Choir (director David Moore) consists of children in Years 5 and 6 at Deansfield Primary School, Eltham, and performs a wide range of choral music, both classic and contemporary in venues including the Royal Albert Hall and the Royal Festival Hall.

Max Barley – Musical Director

Max was a chorister at King's College, Cambridge and Organ Scholar at St John's College, Oxford, where he read Modern Languages. He studied conducting in Munich, where he was a scholar at the Stiftung Maximilianeum and now pursues a busy freelance career as choral conductor and accompanist. As well as being Musical Director of Eltham Choral Society, he is Musical Director of Choir of the 21st Century and Wimbledon Youth Choir, Principal Conductor of the Guildford Chamber Choir and Director of Music at Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square. Max was the Director of Rundfunkchor Berlin's Liederbörse (education programme) 2021/22 which culminated in May 2022 with two concerts conducted in the Berlin Philharmonie. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists and recently gained a Distinction for his MA in Choral Conducting at the Royal Academy of Music.



Andrew Lenon - accompanist

Andrew learned to play the organ at the Sidcup church where his father was the vicar. He was later Organ Scholar at Lincoln College, Oxford. As part of his modern language degree course, he spent a year in France studying piano at the Toulouse Conservatoire. Andrew is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. He is currently organist of St Mary's, Wimbledon and regularly accompanies the Choir of the 21st Century.



Programme

Marc-Antoine Charpentier

Messe de Minuit de Noël

Felix Mendelssohn

Hymn of Praise Op 52

INTERVAL

Songs and carols for choirs and audience

Sopranos: Becky Ryland-Jones, Tegan Eldridge

Tenor: William Revill

Bass: Euan Chalners

Deansfield Primary School Chamber Choir

Viola Lenzi (piano), David Moore (conductor)

Eltham Choral Society

Andrew Lenon (organ), Max Barley (conductor)



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Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704), the dominant figure at the court of Louis XIV, was prolific in all genres, but particularly in choral religious works. His Midnight Mass for Christmas was written in 1690, possibly for the Jesuit church of Saint Louis in Paris, where he was Master of Music until 1698. The work sets the text of the Latin Mass to popular, traditional French carols, or *noëls*. Many of these carols are based on popular dances such as the gavotte and the minuet and lend the piece a light, 'rustic' quality. This performance omits the Credo. The *noëls* are grouped below:

Kyrie: Joseph est bien marié

Or, nous dites: Marie

Une jeune pucelle

Gloria: Les Bourgeois de Chastres

Ou s'en vont ces guays bergers

Sanctus: O Dieu que n'étais-je en vie

Agnus: A minuit fut fait un reveil

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47) composed his symphony-cantata Lobgesang, or Hymn of Praise, to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Gutenberg's movable type printing system. It consists of three orchestral movements and a final movement with chorus and soloists. After his death, the piece was published as his Second Symphony Op. 52. We are performing the final movement, which consists of ten movements:

1. All men, all things, all that have life and breath (chorus)
2. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord (soprano and semi-chorus)
3. Sing ye Praise (tenor recitative and aria)
4. All ye that cried unto the Lord (chorus)
5. I waited for the Lord (soprano duet and chorus)
6. The sorrows of Death (tenor aria)
7. The Night is Departing (chorus)
8. Let all men praise the Lord (chorale, "Nun danket alle Gott")
9. My song shall be always Thy Mercy (soprano and tenor duet)
10. Ye nations, offer to the Lord (chorus)

Seasonal songs and carols

Once in Royal David's City (v 1: solo, v 2: combined choirs, vv 3&4: all)

King Jesus hath a Garden (ECS)

Walking in the air (Howard Blake) (Deansfield)

Good King Wenceslas (all)

Rocking (combined choirs)

Holiday Lights (Sally Albrecht) (Deansfield)

Hark the Herald Angels Sing (choir and audience)

Away in a Manger (ECS)

Diamond Bright (Lin Marsh) (Deansfield)

Sussex Carol (ECS)

O Come, all ye Faithful (choir and audience)

We wish you a merry Christmas (combined choirs)