

Sat 18th May 2013

7.00pm

PARISH CHURCH OF
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

Church Lane, Knaresborough
HG5 9AR

Handel: Samson

Handel set to with a will to compose *Samson* immediately following the triumphant success of *Messiah* in Dublin in 1742. The moving biblical account is shot through with immortal themes of love and betrayal and the conflict between the Israelites and the Philistines proves highly dramatic in part two of the work. Magnificent choruses and memorable solo numbers abound and the brilliant orchestral accompaniment enhances the drama.

St Peter's Singers

National Festival Orchestra

Sally Robinson leader

Sarah Potter soprano

Helen Strange soprano

Paul Dutton tenor

Quentin Brown bass

Philip Wilcox bass

Alan Horsey harpsichord

David Houlder chamber organ

Dr Simon Lindley director

**Tickets: £12 (£8 concessions,
Knaresborough schoolchildren free)**

Available from 1st April from
Knaresborough Parish Church,
Leeds City Centre Box Office,
The Carriageworks, Millennium Square,
Leeds LS2 3AD – 0113 224 3801
and at the door.

Please also visit the St Peter's Singers website:

www.stpeters-singers.org.uk



St Peter's Singers of Leeds



@SPSLeeds



All are regularly updated with more details of these and the Singers' other 2012/2013 concerts, recitals and services.

Sat 22nd June 2013

7.30pm

NORCLIFFE CHAPEL

Styal, Cheshire SK9 4LH

A programme of

Contemporary Sacred Choral Music and Organ Solos

St Peter's Singers

David Houlder organ

Dr Simon Lindley director

Further details available in early 2013.

“..the excellent
St Peter's Singers –
forty flexible and
precisely tuned
voices who made
the English text
speak directly to
the audience”

Airedale and Wharfedale Observer,
April 2012

About St Peter's Singers



Chairman:

Tim Burleigh

timburleigh@btinternet.com

Secretary:

Patricia Rose

rosep01@leedslearning.net

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Music Director:

Dr Simon Lindley

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Founded by Harry Fearnley in the Spring of 1977, St Peter's Singers is one of England's leading Chamber Choirs. Based at Leeds Minster, the Singers strive to combine excellence and enterprise.

The Choir comprises adult singers, mostly amateur musicians, but including a number of professional singers in its ranks. Students and young people are always welcome and St Peter's Singers takes pride in its role as a cultural bridge between 'town' and 'gown'.

The Singers sustain an enviable reputation for performances of Bach and Handel, with Continental polyphony and English music also at the heart of the Choir's repertoire. Music by Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Mendelssohn, Purcell and S S Wesley has featured in recent commemoration concerts.

In the 2010/2011 season the Singers took part in the award-winning live BBC TV production of *Frankenstein's Wedding* at Kirkstall Abbey as well as recording Dominic Haslam's music for the acclaimed West Yorkshire Playhouse production of John Ford's *'Tis pity she's a whore*. Critics' assessment of each production paid warm tribute to the Singers' involvement. Former SPS member Jessi Pywell served as choral director for *Frankenstein's Wedding*.

In addition to regular commitments in and around Leeds, St Peter's Singers have in recent years performed at the Minsters of York, Halifax, Doncaster and Dewsbury, and the Cathedrals of Derby, Ely, Guildford, Leicester, London's St Paul's, Ripon and Worcester. Overseas tours to Romania, Mallorca and Brittany attracted large audiences and considerable acclaim. The Singers also appear at the special Harvey Nichols seasonal events held within Leeds' spectacular Victoria Quarter.



Dr Simon Lindley

Leeds-based conductor and organist Dr Simon Lindley (Master of the Music at Leeds Minster and Leeds City Organist) is Music Director of St Peter's Singers – a position he has held since the Choir's foundation 35 years ago. Before moving to Leeds in 1975, Dr Lindley served at Westminster and St Albans Cathedrals and in the City of London. He was the first full-time assistant to Dr Peter Hurford at St Albans. Simon still retains very strong links with the City, where his career began. Additional to his work with the Choir of Leeds Minster and St Peter's Singers, Simon is Conductor of Sheffield Bach Choir and Doncaster Choral Society. In July 2012 he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Huddersfield for services to choral music locally, nationally and internationally.



David Houlder

David is strongly committed to the regular work of St Peter's Singers and is our valued and highly esteemed organist and accompanist. David moved to Leeds in 2003 after twenty years of music-making on Merseyside as Director of Music to Liverpool's historic Bluecoat School and Sub-Organist of Liverpool Cathedral. In November 2011 David conducted the Singers in an acclaimed programme of British music for Remembrancetide including Vaughan Williams' searingly beautiful *Dona nobis pacem*.

St Peter's Chamber Orchestra

St Peter's Chamber Orchestra, leader Mary Huby, accompanies many St Peter's Singers events. The Orchestra was involved in the earliest concerts arranged by the Singers in 1977 and 1978.

Cover photo © Andy Paraskos



St Peter's Singers is a Registered Charity No 507174

www.stpeters-singers.org.uk

ST PETER'S SINGERS OF LEEDS

A Chamber Choir founded in 1977 by Harry Fearnley



Concert Season 2012/2013

The Singers' 36th season includes performances of Bach and Handel sacred oratorios in Halifax, Leeds and Knaresborough.

The choir's now traditional Good Friday concert at Leeds Minster features superb choral music by Brahms, culminating in the magnificent *German Requiem*. English composers are represented by liturgical performances of Herbert Howells' *Requiem* and Charles Wood's *St Mark Passion*.

David Houlder
organist

Dr Simon Lindley
director

www.stpeters-singers.org.uk

Mon 27th August 2012

2.30pm

THE MORAVIAN CHURCH, FULNECK

Pudsey, Leeds LS28 8NT
by kind invitation

Haydn: Nelson Mass

This year, music by Haydn and Mozart takes us to the period immediately following the glories of the Baroque – to the time of the earliest days of Fulneck's historic Moravian Settlement, in fact. A sub-title might be "Where the Baroque went"!

St Peter's Singers

St Peter's Chamber Orchestra

Mary Huby leader

Kristina James soprano

Lucy Appleyard mezzo soprano

Toby Ward tenor

Philip Wilcox bass

Alan Horsey organ

Dr Simon Lindley director

Haydn *Insanae et vanae curae*

Mozart *Splendente te, Deus*

Mozart *Ave verum corpus*

Haydn *Missa in angustiis*
(the 'Nelson' Mass)

Free admission (Retiring Collection)

Sun 2nd September 2012

3.00pm

LEEDS MINSTER

Kirkgate, Leeds LS2 7DJ

Service of

Dedication and Thanksgiving

'Minster-making' is led by the Bishop of Ripon and Leeds, who gives the address at this historic occasion. We welcome warmly Dr Donald Hunt OBE, Director of Music at Leeds from 1957 to 1975, to take part in the music of the service and conduct the celebratory *Te Deum*.

**The Choirs
of Leeds Minster**

St Peter's Singers

David Houlder organist

Dr Simon Lindley director

To assist with catering, please let the Parish Office know if you will be attending and how many, including yourself in the total, will be with us – admin@leedsparishchurch.com or phone 0113 245 2036 and quote "SPS leaflet". You will then be sent tickets.

Tues 18th September 2012

7.30pm

**THE PARISH CHURCH
OF ST HILDA**

Cross Green Lane, Leeds LS9 0DG

Solemn Mass

with the Archdeacon of Leeds,
The Venerable **Paul Hooper**

Like the 'king's daughter' in the psalm, St Hilda's Church is 'all glorious within'. Leeds Minster musicians have sustained a historic connection with St Hilda's over the years and are delighted to be providing music for this year's Dedication Festival Mass. Mozart's youthful exuberance is well to the fore in his K275 Mass, probably written around 1777 for performance at Salzburg. The final movement is, remarkably, a choral *gavotte* to the words *Dona nobis pacem* and closes in hushed tones.

St Peter's Singers

St Peter's Chamber Orchestra

Mary Huby leader

Claire Strafford soprano

Derek Ford,

Gareth Price countertenor

Philip Steel tenor

Quentin Brown bass

Dr Simon Lindley director

Mozart *Missa Brevis*
in B flat, K275

Mozart *Ave verum corpus*

Victoria *Ave Maria*

(double choir setting)

Sun 14th October 2012

3.00pm

LEEDS MINSTER

Kirkgate, Leeds LS2 7DJ

Friends of the Music Festival Evensong

**The Choirs
of Leeds Minster**

St Peter's Singers

David Houlder organist

Dr Simon Lindley director

Stewart *Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis* in C sharp minor

Rose Responses

Moore All wisdom cometh
from the Lord

Address by **Mr Philip Moore,**
Organist Emeritus of York Minster

Sun 4th November 2012

6.30pm

LEEDS MINSTER

Kirkgate, Leeds LS2 7DJ

Howells: Requiem

sung within the context of the
liturgy of All Souls, for departed
benefactors and faithful.

One of the jewels of the 20th century English musical crown, Howells' deeply-felt *Requiem* – written during the early 1930s in memory of the composer's son Michael – remained unpublished for half a century. St Peter's Singers gave one of the very earliest performances of the work thirty years ago.

St Peter's Singers

Anita Wiencewski soprano

Quentin Brown bass

David Houlder organ

Dr Simon Lindley director

Sat 24th November 2012

7.00pm

HALIFAX MINSTER

Church Street, Halifax HX1 1QL
by kind permission

Bach: Christmas Oratorio

Bach's cantata cycle known and loved as the *Christmas Oratorio* was designed for the major services of the 'twelve days of Christmas' leading from the feast of the Nativity to that of the Epiphany. This magical music is wonderfully compelling, energised and entirely memorable. Sung in the traditional English translation, our performance in the magnificent setting of historic Halifax Minster provides a very rare chance for those present to join in the singing of the traditional chorale hymns.

St Peter's Singers

St Peter's Chamber Orchestra

Mary Huby leader

Sarah Potter soprano

Anita Wiencewski soprano

Lucy Appleyard alto

Stephen Newlove tenor

Philip Wilcox bass

Alan Horsey continuo

David Houlder chamber organ

Dr Simon Lindley director

**Tickets: £12 (£8 concessions,
Halifax schoolchildren free)**

Available from 1st October by post from The Secretary, St Peter's Singers, c/o 5 St Peter's House, Kirkgate, Leeds LS2 7DJ, from Halifax Minster and at the door.

Wed 12th December 2012 7.00pm

LEEDS MINSTER Kirkgate, Leeds LS2 7DJ

Carols for a Choral Future

The Minster's annual Carol Concert – in aid of the Minster's *Bridging the Gap* initiative.

St Peter's Singers

The Choir of Leeds Minster

Leeds College of Music

Community Choral Society

Rothwell Temperance Band

David Houlder organist

Dr Simon Lindley director

Tickets: £5 adults, £2.50 under 16s

Available 1st October from Leeds City Centre Box Office, The Carriageworks, Millennium Square, Leeds LS2 3AD – **0113 224 3801** and at the door.

Mon 18th February 2013

12.00 noon and 1.05pm

LEEDS TOWN HALL

The Headrow, Leeds LS1 3AD

Bach: St John Passion

The 'St John' is the earliest of Bach's two surviving works in the *Passion-Oratorio* tradition of the Baroque. Narrative and highly dramatic by turns, with the chorus strategically involved as representative of the crowd as the events of the first Holy Week unfolded in Jerusalem, the St John Passion will be sung in English with a chance for people to sing the traditional hymns as the work proceeds. The work's first half takes around 45 minutes, with the second part concluding at about 2.25pm.

Stephen Newlove tenor
(Evangelist)

Philip Wilcox bass (Christus)

Kristina James soprano

Lucy Appleyard alto

Paul Dutton tenor

Quentin Brown bass

Alasdair Jamieson bass

Alan Horsey harpsichord

David Houlder chamber organ

Dr Simon Lindley director

Free admission (Retiring Collection)

Sun 10th March 2013

6.30pm

LEEDS MINSTER

Kirkgate, Leeds LS2 7DJ

Wood: The Passion according to Saint Mark

Cambridge-based musician Dr Charles Wood, who succeeded Sir Charles Stanford as University Professor of Music, was born here in the West Riding in 1866. Wood's deeply-felt St Mark Passion of 1920 was composed at the express request of Eric Milner-White, then Dean of King's College, for use at King's. The work provided from the first a startling contrast to the headier Victorian expression of Stainer's *Crucifixion*, while containing many of the same elements deployed by Stainer, including hymns for all to sing. St Peter's Singers have performed the work regularly over the years.

St Peter's Singers

Paul Dutton tenor

Quentin Brown bass

Philip Wilcox bass

David Houlder organ

Dr Simon Lindley director

Free admission (Retiring Collection)

Good Friday

Fri 29th March 2013

7.00pm

LEEDS MINSTER

Kirkgate, Leeds LS2 7DJ

Brahms: German Requiem

and sacred choral music for
Passiontide

The works chosen for the Singers' Good Friday concert from the pen of Johannes Brahms written within a twenty year span in middle life, will all be sung in the original German texts, with full translations provided within the programme book. The glorious *German Requiem* makes wonderful use of biblical texts from both Old and New Testaments as opposed to the more frequently-set Latin of the *Missa pro defunctis*.

St Peter's Singers

National Festival Orchestra

Sally Robinson leader

Kristina James soprano

Lucy Appleyard alto

Quentin Brown bass

David Houlder organ

Dr Simon Lindley director

Brahms *Alto Rhapsody* (1870)

Geistliches Lied (1856)

Warum ist das Licht gegeben?
(1879)

Ein deutsches Requiem (1865-8)

Tickets: £12, (£8 concessions)

Available from 1st February from Leeds City Centre Box Office, The Carriageworks, Millennium Square, Leeds LS2 3AD – **0113 224 3801** and at the door.

Sun 28th April 2013

8.15pm

LEEDS MINSTER

Kirkgate, Leeds LS2 7DJ

Music with Minster Connections

An evening of music by composers particularly associated with Leeds Minster over the 171 years since the consecration of the present building in 1841. Francis Jackson's *Stabat Mater* was commissioned by St Peter's Singers in 1997 for the Choir's twentieth anniversary season and Donald Hunt's *Hymnus Paschalis* was written during his tenure at Worcester Cathedral.

St Peter's Singers

David Houlder organist

Dr Simon Lindley director

Wesley *Magnificat* & *Nunc dimittis* in E (1845)

Cast me not away (1848)

Bairstow *Let all mortal flesh keep silence* (1906)

If the Lord had not helped me
(1910)

Cook *Antiphon of Darkness and Light* (1973)

St Patrick's Breastplate (1947)

Jackson *Stabat Mater* (1997)

Lindley *Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house* (1979)

Ave Maria (1980)

Hunt *Hymnus Paschalis* (1995)

Free admission (Retiring Collection)

"Inspired by Simon Lindley's animated, focused direction the responsive choir with their bright soprano tone and clear articulation were in fine voice"

Halifax Courier, March 2012