

1992

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SING-A-LONG

CREATION

WALSALL TOWN HALL

Programme

Soloists: VOIX CELESTE

Conductor: G. HARDY

Pianist: F. SMITH

FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER at 7.30pm.

1992.

Voix Celeste

Catherine Mason - Soprano

Catherine first began studying at the College of Ripon and York, St. John's, where she obtained a degree in education and music. On returning to Birmingham she continued to study singing under Angela Blake and the late Gordon Clinton. She has gained the Associateship in Singing Performance of the Royal College of Music and has been awarded with distinction, Associateships in Singing, Recital, Teaching and Performance from the Birmingham Conservatoire. She is now completing her post-graduate diploma in opera performance. She is in great demand both for stage work and oratorio.

Christopher Martyn - Tenor

Christopher's vocal training began with Ruth Petter while he was reading for his Master's degree at Leicester University. He has very considerable experience of the solo oratorio repertoire and is in particular demand for works by Bach, Handel, Rossini, Dvorak and Britten. With a number of different opera groups in the West Midlands he has sung major roles from *Così fan tutte*, *La Traviata*, *Pearl Fishers* and *Flying Dutchman*. He will be singing the part of Alfredo in *La Traviata* in the new year with the Royal Sutton opera. In March he will be singing the part of Tony in the first performance of Betty Roe's "A flight of Pilgrims" in London.

Paul Chase - Baritone

Paul began singing with local operatic societies at the age of 18, taking many leading roles. He has gained many first prizes in the National Festival Circuit for Opera, Gilbert and Sullivan, Light Opera and Oratorio. He attended Birmingham Conservatoire on a two year performing course where he became a member of the opera school. He has taken lead roles in *Così fan tutte*, *Rake's Progress* and *Trial by Jury*. He was also soloist in John Rutter's *Wind in the Willows*. He regularly appears as soloist with local choirs in a variety of works, Gilbert and Sullivan, light music recitals and oratorio. He is currently studying with Soprano Margaret Fields.

THE CREATION.

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Part the First.

INTRODUCTION.

REPRESENTATION OF CHAOS.

RECITATIVE.

Raphael.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth; and the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

CHORUS.

And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

RECITATIVE.

Uriel.

And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

AIR.

Now vanish before the holy beams
The gloomy shades of ancient night.
The first of days appears.
Now chaos ends, and order fair prevails.
Affrighted fly hell's spirits black in throngs:
Down they sink in the deep abyss
To endless night.

CHORUS.

Despairing cursing rage attends their rapid fall.

A new-created world springs up at God's command.

RECITATIVE.

Raphael.

And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

Now furious storms tempestuous rage,
Like chaff, by the winds impelled are the clouds,

By sudden fire the sky is inflamed,
And awful thunders are rolling on high.
Now from the floods in steam ascend reviving showers of rain,

The dreary wasteful hail, the light and flaky snow.

AIR—*Gabriel.*

The marvellous work behold amaz'd
The glorious hierarchy of heaven;
And to th' ethereal vaults resound
The praise of God, and of the second day.

CHORUS.

And to th' ethereal vaults resound
The praise of God, and of the second day.

RECITATIVE.

Raphael.

And God said, Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together to one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of waters called he seas: and God saw that it was good.

AIR.

Rolling in foaming billows,
Uplifted, roars the boisterous sea.
Mountains and rocks now emerge,
Their tops among the clouds ascend.
Through th' open plains, outstretching wide,
In serpent error rivers flow.
Softly purling, glides on
Through silent vales the limpid brook.

RECITATIVE.

Gabriel.

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit-tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

AIR.

With verdure clad the fields appear,
Delightful to the ravish'd sense;
By flowers sweet and gay
Enhanced is the charming sight.
Here fragrant herbs their odours shed;
Here shoots the healing plant.
With copious fruit the expanded boughs
are hung;
In leafy arches twine the shady groves;
O'er lofty hills majestic forests wave.

RECITATIVE.

Uriel.

And the heavenly host proclaimed the third day, praising God, and saying,

CHORUS.

Awake the harp, the lyre awake,
And let your joyful song resound,
Rejoice in the Lord, the mighty God;
For he both heaven and earth
Has clothed in stately dress.

RECITATIVE.

Uriel.

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven, to divide the day from the night, and to give the light upon the earth; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and for years. He made the stars also.

RECITATIVE.—(Accompanied.)

In splendour bright is rising now the sun,
And darts his rays; a joyful happy spouse,
A giant proud and glad
To run his measur'd course.
With softer beams, and milder light,
Steps on the silver moon through silent night.
The space immense of th' azure sky
A countless host of radiant orbs adorns.
And the sons of God announced the fourth day,
In song divine, proclaiming thus his power:

CHORUS.

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
The wonder of his work displays the firmament.

TRIO.

To day that is coming speaks it the day,
The night that is gone to following night.

CHORUS.

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
The wonder of his work displays the firmament.

TRIO.

In all the lands resounds the word,
Never unperceived, ever understood.

CHORUS.

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
The wonder of his work displays the firmament.

Part the Second.

RECITATIVE.

Gabriel.

And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

AIR.

On mighty pens uplifted soars
The eagle aloft, and cleaves the air,
In swiftest flight, to the blazing sun.
His welcome bids to morn the merry lark,
And cooing calls the tender dove his mate.
From ev'ry bush and grove resound
The nightingale's delightful notes;
No grief affected yet her breast,
Nor to a mournful tale were tun'd
Her soft enchanting lays.

RECITATIVE.

Raphael.

And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth; and God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful all, and multiply.

Ye winged tribes, be multiplied,
And sing on every tree; multiply,
Ye finny tribes, and fill each wat'ry deep;
Be fruitful, grow, and multiply,
And in your God and Lord rejoice.

And the angels struck their immortal harps,
and the wonders of the fifth day sung.

TRIO.

Gabriel.

Most beautiful appear, with verdure young adorn'd,
The gently sloping hills; their narrow sinuous veins
Distil, in crystal drops, the fountain fresh and bright.

Uriel.

In lofty circles play, and hover in the air,
The cheerful host of birds; and as they flying whirl
Their glittering plumes are dy'd as rainbows by the sun.

Raphael.

See flashing through the deep in thronging swarms
The fish a thousand ways around.
Upheaved from the deep, th' immense Leviathan
Sports on the foaming wave.

Gabriel, Uriel, and Raphael.

How many are thy works, O God!
Who may their number tell?

TRIO AND CHORUS.

The Lord is great, and great his might,
His glory lasts for ever and for evermore.

* * * I N T E R V A L * * *

RECITATIVE.

Raphael.

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth, after his kind.

Straight opening her fertile womb,
The earth obey'd the word.
And teem'd creatures numberless,
In perfect forms, and fully grown.

Cheerful, roaring, stands the tawny lion. With sudden leap
The flexible tiger appears. The nimble stag
Bears up his branching head. With flowing mane,
And fiery look, impatient neighs the noble steed.
The cattle, in herds, already seek their food
On fields and meadows green.
And o'er the ground, as plants, are spread
The fleecy, meek, and bleating flocks.
Unnumber'd as the sands, in swarms arose
The hosts of insects. In long dimension
Creeps, with sinuous trace, the worm.

AIR.

Now heaven in fullest glory shone;
Earth smil'd in all her rich attire;
The room of air with fowl is filled;
The water swell'd by shoals of fish;
By heavy beasts the ground is trod:
But all the work was not complete;
There wanted yet that wondrous being,
That, grateful, should God's power admire,
With heart and voice his goodness praise.

RECITATIVE.

Uriel.

And God created Man in his own image, in the image of God created he him. Male and female created he them.

He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and Man became a living soul.

AIR.

In native worth and honour clad,
With beauty, courage, strength, adorn'd,
Erect, with front serene, he stands
A man, the lord and king of nature all.
His large and arched brow sublime
Of wisdom deep declares the seat!
And in his eyes with brightness shines
The soul, the breath and image of his God.
With fondness leans upon his breast
The partner for him form'd,
A woman, fair and graceful spouse.
Her softly-smiling virgin looks,
Of flow'ry spring the mirror,
Bespeak him love, and joy, and bliss.

RECITATIVE.

Raphael.

And God saw every thing that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And the heavenly choir, in song divine, thus closed the sixth day.

CHORUS.

Achieved is the glorious work;
The Lord beholds it, and is pleas'd.
In lofty strains let us rejoice,
Our song let be the praise of God.

TRIO.

Gabriel and Uriel.

On thee each living soul awaits;
From thee, O Lord, all seek their food;
Thou openest thy hand,
And fillest all with good.

Raphael.

But when thy face, O Lord, is hid,
With sudden terror they are struck;
Thou tak'st their breath away,
They vanish into dust.

Gabriel, Uriel, and Raphael.

Thou sendest forth thy breath again,
And life with vigour fresh returns;
Revived earth unfolds new strength
And new delights.

CHORUS.

Achieved is the glorious work;
Our song let be the praise of God.
Glory to his Name for ever.
He sole on high exalted reigns.
Hallelujah!

Part the Third.

INTRODUCTION.—MORNING.

RECITATIVE.

Uriel.

In rosy mantle appears, by music sweet awak'd,
The morning, young and fair.
From heaven's angelic choir
Pure harmony descends on ravish'd earth.
Behold the blissful pair,
Where hand in hand they go: their glowing looks
Express the thanks that swell their grateful hearts.
A louder praise of God their lips
Shall utter soon; then let our voices ring,
United with their song.

DUET.

Adam and Eve.

By thee with bliss, O bounteous Lord,
Both heaven and earth are stor'd.
This world so great, so wonderful,
Thy mighty hand has fram'd.

CHORUS.

For ever blessed be his power,
His Name be ever magnified.

Adam.

Of stars the fairest, pledge of day,
That crown'st the smiling morn;
And thou, bright sun, that cheer'st the world,
Thou eye and soul of all;

CHORUS.

Proclaim in your extended course
Th' almighty power and praise of God.

Eve.

And thou that rul'st the silent night
And all ye starry hosts,
Ev'rywhere spread wide his praise
In choral songs about.

Adam.

Ye mighty elements, by his power
Your ceaseless changes make;
Ye dusky mists, and dewy streams,
That rise and fall thro' th' air;

CHORUS.

Resound the praise of God our Lord.
Great his name, and great his might.

Eve.

Ye purling fountains, tune his praise;
And wave your tops, ye pines.
Ye plants, exhale, ye flowers, breathe
To him your balmy scent.

Adam.

Ye that on mountains stately tread,
And ye that lowly creep;
Ye birds that sing at heaven's gate,
And ye that swim the stream;

Eve and Adam.

Ye creatures all, extol the Lord;

CHORUS.

Ye creatures all, extol the Lord;
Him celebrate, him magnify.

Eve and Adam.

Ye valleys, hills, and shady woods,
Made vocal by our song,
From morn till eve you shall repeat
Our grateful hymns of praise.

CHORUS.

Hail! bounteous Lord! Almighty, hail!
Thy word call'd forth this wondrous frame,
The heavens and earth thy power adore;
We praise thee now and evermore.

RECITATIVE.

Adam.

Our duty we have now perform'd,
In offering up to God our thanks.
Now follow me, dear partner of my life,
Thy guide I'll be; and every step
Pours new delights into our breasts,
Shows wonders everywhere.
Then mayst thou feel and know the high
Of bliss the Lord allotted us, [degree
And with devoted heart His bounties celebrate.
Come, follow me, thy guide I'll be.

Eve.

O thou for whom I am, my help, my shield,
My all, thy will is law to me;
So God our Lord ordains; and from obedience
Grows my pride and happiness.

DUET.

Adam and Eve.

Adam. Graceful consort, at thy side
Softly fly the golden hours;
Ev'ry moment brings new rapture,
Ev'ry care is lull'd to rest.

Eve. Spouse adored, at thy side
Purest joys o'erflow the heart;
Life and all I have is thine;
My reward thy love shall be.

Both. The dew-dropping morn, O how she
quickens all!
The coolness of even, O how she all
restores!
How grateful is of fruits the savour
sweet!
How pleasing is of fragrant bloom the
smell!
But, without thee, what is to me
The morning dew, the breath of even,
The sav'ry fruit, the fragrant bloom?
With thee is every joy enhanced,
With thee delight is ever new,
With thee is life incessant bliss,
Thine, thine it all shall be.

RECITATIVE.

Uriel.

O happy pair! and happy still might be
If not misled by false conceit.
Ye strive at more than granted is;
And more desire to know, than know ye should.

CHORUS.

Sing the Lord, ye voices all,
Magnify his name thro' all creation,
Celebrate his power and glory,
Let his name resound on high.
Praise the Lord. Utter thanks.
Jehovah's praise for ever shall endure. Amen.

WOLVERHAMPTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

LEADER: MARTYN BLYTHE

The orchestra is now in its twentieth season, having been founded in the autumn of 1973 by Hugh Watkins, a Wolverhampton music teacher of that time.

Since then it has had six resident conductors, the last of whom was Philip Brooke, a local Walsall teacher who left the area last summer. The orchestra is thus in the process of appointing a successor.

There is a regular membership of about 40 players, all amateurs, representing a variety of ages, backgrounds and walks of life. New members, particularly string players, are always welcome.

Thank you for your support on behalf of Children in Need.

The Friday Choir rehearses almost every Friday evening at St. John's Church, Victoria Avenue, Bloxwich. New members are always welcome.

The Friday Choir will be joining with the Walsall Symphony Orchestra for its Carol Concert at the Central Hall, Abchurch Lane, Walsall on Sunday 6th December at 2.30 p.m.

The Choir's Concert takes place at St. John's Church, Victoria Avenue, Bloxwich on Friday 18th December at 7.30 p.m.

Also, join the Choir for Carol Singing in Old Square on Saturday 19th December, 11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. We will be raising money for the Yugoslavian Convoy Appeal.