



# Festival Singers

Musical Director – Ingrid Schoenfeld

Accompanist – Jonathan Berkahn

## High Summer Holds the Earth

2:30pm Sunday 1 December 2019

St John's Anglican Church

18 Bassett Road, Johnsonville, Wellington 6037

### Programme

***Sumer is a cumin in***

Music: W. de Wycombe. c. 1270  
Words: John of Fornsete (?) c. 1226

***Summertime***

George Gershwin (1898-1937)  
Arr. Sylvain Lelievre

***Sun Festival Carols***

Jenny McLeod (b. 1941)

1. Vulcan
2. Ochre
3. Azure
4. Henna
5. Gentian
6. Indigo I
7. Jade
8. Indigo II

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INTERVAL

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***Sure on this Shining Night***

Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

***Tomorrow Shall Be***

***My Dancing Day***

John Gardner (1917-2011)

***Ave Maria***

Franz Biebl (1906-2001)

***Dances of Time***

Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

2. Today
4. To every thing  
there is a season
5. Life has loveliness to sell

***Abendlied***

Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

## About the concert

Summer! A time of flowers, starlit nights, and of course, Christmas. Join us through various depictions of summer, from the 13th-century round that opens the concert, through to the ethereal Rheinburger *Abendlied* depicting the close of day.

No summer-themed concert would be complete without a rendition of Gershwin's classic, while Jenny McLeod's iconic *Sun Festival Carols* provide a fresh perspective on summer and Christmas. Written for the 1983 Wellington Sun Festival, they inhabit a partly imaginary medieval world, illustrating a legend of seven stars with a musical palette heavily influenced by McLeod's study of 15th-century Christmas carols.

Gardner's effervescent *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day* is followed by another iconic setting of a famous text – the *Ave Maria*. "I am just a composer of little songs," claimed Franz Biebl, not knowing that this exquisite "little song" would become one of the most famous and beloved choral works of the 20th century.

Bob Chilcott's works reflecting on the passage of time seem appropriate as the year closes. Celebrating the luminous quality of a perfect summer day, the rightness of all things having a season, and embracing the beauty that life has to offer, his generally consonant harmonic language is punctuated by just enough insightful twists to intrigue the listener.

In its second verse, "All is healed, all is health. **High summer holds the earth,** hearts all whole," Lauridsen's *Sure on this Shining Night* gave the concert not only its title, but its theme. The thought of a night so beautiful that it is capable of holding all that has happened, and healing whatever might be broken, spoke deeply to me. As I chose the pieces for this concert, I

looked for works with a kind of beauty that communicated wholeness, and I hope that whether it's the Rheinberger or the Chilcott, the Gershwin, the Biebl, or another piece entirely, you catch a glimpse of something as exquisite as the whole earth held by a perfect summer's night.

*Ingrid Schoenfeld*

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### Sumer is icumen in

Summer has arrived, Loudly sing, cuckoo!  
The seed is growing, And the meadow is  
blooming, And the wood is coming into leaf  
now, Sing, cuckoo!

The ewe is bleating after her lamb,  
The cow is lowing after her calf;  
The bullock is prancing,  
The billy-goat farting  
Sing merrily, cuckoo!

Cuckoo, cuckoo, You sing well, cuckoo,  
Never stop now. Sing, cuckoo, now; sing,  
cuckoo; Sing, cuckoo; sing, cuckoo, now!

*Translated from the Middle English text*

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### Sure on this shining night

Sure on this shining night  
Of star made shadows round,  
Kindness must watch for me  
This side the ground.  
The late year lies down the north.  
All is healed, all is health.  
High summer holds the earth.  
Hearts all whole.  
Sure on this shining night I weep for wonder  
wand'ring far alone  
Of shadows on the stars.

*James Agee (1909-1955)*

## **Ave Maria**

The angel of God visited Maria  
and she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, Full of grace,  
the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Maria said: See the servant of the Lord.  
May it happen to me  
according to your word.

And the Word became flesh  
and lived among us.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
Holy Mary, pray for us now and in the hour  
of our death. Amen.

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## **Dances of Time**

### **2. Today**

So here hath been dawning,  
Another blue day;  
Think wilt thou let it  
Slip senseless away.  
Out of Eternity This new Day is born;  
Into Eternity, At night will return.  
Behold it aforetime  
No eye ever did;  
So soon it forever  
from all eyes is hid.  
So here hath been dawning  
another blue day.

*Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881)*

### **4. To every thing there is a season**

To ev'ry thing there is a season,  
And a time to ev'ry purpose  
under heaven,

A time to be born, and a time to die;  
A time to plant, and a time to pluck up that  
which is planted;  
A time to kill, and a time to heal;  
A time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
A time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
A time to cast away stones,  
and a time to gather stones together;  
A time to embrace,  
and a time to refrain from embracing;  
A time to get, and a time to lose;  
A time to keep, and a time to cast away;  
A time to rend, and a time to sew;  
A time to keep silence,  
and a time to speak;  
A time to love, and a time to hate;  
A time of war, and a time of peace.

To ev'ry thing there is a season,  
And a time to ev'ry purpose under heaven.

*Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8.*

## **5. Life has loveliness to sell**

Life has loveliness to sell,  
All beautiful and splendid things,  
Blues waves whitened on a cliff,  
Soaring fire that sways and sings,  
An children's faces looking up,  
Holding wonder in a cup.

Life has loveliness to sell,  
Music like a curve of gold,  
Scent of pine trees in the rain,  
Eyes that love you, arms that hold,  
And for your spirit's still delight,  
Holy thoughts that star the night.

Spend all you have for loveliness,  
Buy it and never count the cost;  
For one white singing hour of peace  
Count many a year of strife well lost,  
And for a breath of ecstasy  
Give all you have been, or could be.

*Sara Teasdale (1844-1933)*

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## **Abendlied**

Bide with us, for evening shadows darken,  
And the day will soon be over, soon be over,  
O bide with us, for evening shadows darken.

## Festival Singers

### Sopranos:

Ngairé Bartlett, Robyn Bridge, Heather Elder, Heather Garside, Diana Helen, Janice Hopkins, Carol Inge, Lalene Roberts, Mary Margaret Schuck, Pam Southey, Abbey Tyler, Helen Willberg, Cynthia Wratt.

### Altos:

Rosemary Biss, Cathy Edge, Karen Espersen, Jan Hamill, Wendy Nelson, Margaret Pearson, Chalene Scott, Margaret Seconi, Irene Swadling, Rebecca Tyler, Rita Urry, Megan Ward.

### Tenors:

Michael David, Joe Fecteau<sup>#</sup>, Garam Jung, Paul Kilford,<sup>#</sup> Michael Roberts, Robin Willink.

**Basses:** Jim Baltaxe, Samuel Berkahn\*, Tim Housel\*

Philip Garside<sup>#</sup>, Ian Livingstone, Brian Patchett, Allen Sutton\*

\*Guest singers. #Solos

### Front of House:

George Seconi, Tony Biss, Will Brotherson.

## Want to sing with us in 2020?

Contact:

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Or

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Website:

**www.festivalsingers.wordpress.com**

Follow us on Facebook:

**www.facebook.com/FestivalSingers**

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Special thanks to:

Alexander Garside for the use of his photo of Breaker Bay on our poster.

## Our CDs – on sale today

\$20

### *People of the Light*

#### Music by Jonathan Berkahn.

Songs for Advent and Christmas are followed by *Go to dark Gethsemane* prepares us for the 12 pieces of an Easter cantata, *The Third Day*. The cantata is followed by *Such love* and choral settings for the traditional words of the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*. The CD ends with a *Blessing* based on Ps 27.

### *Spirited People*

This CD shares an inspired pairing of two significant and complementary longer compositions: Colin Gibson's cantata, *The Spirit Within* and Jonathan Berkahn's *Te Deum*, supported by individual items from Colin, Jonathan, Philip Garside and Rosemary Russell.

### *Tell My People*

A celebration of 25 years of singing Christian music. The CD reflects the timeless arranging skills, breadth, deep faith and vision of our founder,

Dr Guy E Jansen who died earlier this year. Tracks vary from traditional hymns through a range of hymns from NZ writers to *Ave Maria* by Igor Stravinsky. John Rutter's *Jesus Child* and his setting of *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* that respectively begin and end the CD are particularly noteworthy as is Jenny McLeod's *Indigo II*.

Jonathan's music books  
***Songs of expectation & Somehow, the light comes to me***  
are also available to buy today  
at discounted prices.