



# Festival Singers

## Digital Album Launch

### *A Hopkins Gloria*

by Jonathan Berkahn

7:00 pm Friday 4 December 2020

at St James' Anglican Church, Lower Hutt

**Musical Director – Ingrid Schoenfeld**

**Accompanist – Jonathan Berkahn**

**Alto – Eleanor McGechie**

**Saxophone – Genevieve Davidson**

### **Programme**

Videos by Alexander Garside:

*Pied Beauty*

*The making of the album*

We perform:

*A Hopkins Gloria*

*Blessing of the album*

*Supper*

## Composer's note

*A Hopkins Gloria* was initially premièred at a concert that included two other Glorias, by Vivaldi and by John Rutter. In the back of my mind were Classical and Baroque “cantata-masses” like Vivaldi’s Gloria, where each fragment of the (Latin) text is spun out into a complete movement. I was tempted in this direction, but decided at length to set the text in English (mostly the version in *A New Zealand Prayer Book*) – partly because most of the rest of the concert was in Latin. And as soon as I had made that decision, I felt that I couldn’t repeat each clause indefinitely, treating them as tokens to fill out abstract musical designs, but had to regard the text (or at least larger sections of it) as meaningful wholes.

Then I had an idea. Gerard Manley Hopkins’ *Pied Beauty* (“Glory be to God for dappled things...”) came into my head, which I had attempted without success to set at various times over the last twenty-five years. I thought of ‘inhabiting’ this canonical text with other, related texts (“and the birds of the air shall make their homes in its branches...”). It occurred to me that one of Hopkins’ *Terrible Sonnets*, written out of his blackest depression, could make a useful counterpoint to the *Agnus Dei* sections; then I wondered if the second half of his “That Nature is a Heraclitean Fire and of the comfort of the Resurrection” might work as a way of bringing about a return to the joyful mood of the whole.

So there is a kind of spiritual drama, a dark night of the soul, at the heart of the piece. And it may be worth saying that the emotional dynamic of this section – the attempt to soothe and manage dark imaginings in the early hours of the morning by repetition of the *Agnus Dei* prayer – is, quite literally, something that has been a regular part of my spiritual life. I do believe, somehow, that joy will have the final word; but suffering and resurrection have to happen first.

## *A Hopkins Gloria*

### *Gloria*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to all people on earth,  
peace and goodwill.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

### *Pied Beauty*

Glory be to God for dappled things—  
For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;  
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim:  
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches’ wings;  
Landscape plotted and pieced  
—fold, fallow, and plough;  
And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.  
  
All things counter, original, spare, strange;  
Whatever is fickle, freckled  
(who knows how?)  
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;  
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:  
Praise him.

### *Agnus Dei*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us.

I wake and feel the fell of dark, not day.  
What hours, O what black hours we  
have spent  
This night! what sights you, heart, saw;  
ways you went!  
And more must, in yet longer light’s delay.  
With witness I speak this. But where I say  
Hours I mean years, mean life.

And my lament  
 Is cries countless, cries like dead letters sent  
 To dearest him that lives alas! away  
 I am gall, I am heartburn.  
 God's most deep decree  
 Bitter would have me taste: my taste was me;  
 Bones built in me, flesh filled,  
 blood brimmed the curse.  
 Selfyeast of spirit a dull dough sours. I see  
 The lost are like this, and their scourge to be  
 As I am mine, their sweating selves; but worse.

You are seated at the right hand  
 of the Father: receive our prayer.

Enough! the Resurrection,  
 A heart's-clarion! Away grief's gasping,  
 | joyless days, dejection.  
 Across my foundering deck shone  
 A beacon, an eternal beam.  
 | Flesh fade, and mortal trash  
 Fall to the residuary worm;  
 | world's wildfire, leave but ash:  
 In a flash, at a trumpet crash,  
 I am all at once what Christ is,  
 | since he was what I am, and  
 This Jack, joke, poor potsherd,  
 | patch, matchwood, immortal diamond,  
 Is immortal diamond.

*From: That Nature is a Heraclitean Fire  
 and of the comfort of the Resurrection*

### **Quoniam**

Glory, glory, glory.  
 For you alone are the Holy One,  
 you alone are the Lord,  
 you alone are the Most High,  
 Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
 in the glory of God the Father.  
 Amen.

Glory to God in the highest,  
 and peace to all people on earth.

### **Eleanor McGechie – Alto**



Eleanor graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Classical Performance (Voice) and a Bachelor of Music (Honours) in Music Studies and Conducting. She is a member of the New Zealand Youth Choir and the Tudor Consort.

She enjoys singing a broad range of styles around the Wellington region, from choral music to acoustic sets. Eleanor works full time in a graduate policy programme.

### **Genevieve Davidson – Saxophone**



Genevieve is a Wellington based saxophonist. She studied at Otago University, completing a double degree in law (LLB) and classical saxophone performance

(MusB). As a dedicated and enthusiastic chamber musician, Genevieve collaborates with a range of diverse instrumentalists such as 'Duo Eolienne' with Michelle Velvin (harp), 'Duo Isetta' with pianist Ingrid Schoenfeld, 'Saxcess' (saxophone quartet, playing tenor) and 'Tomomi & Genevieve' soprano and alto saxophone duo with saxophonist Tomomi Johnston.

# Festival Singers

**Musical Director:** Ingrid Schoenfeld

**Accompanist:** Jonathan Berkahn

**Sopranos:** Ngairé Bartlett, Robyn Bridge, Heather Easting\*, Heather Garside, Diana Helen, Christine Hudson, Carol Inge, Anna Prasannan, Chalene Scott, Pam Southey, Abby Tyler, Helen Willberg

**Altos:** Rosemary Biss, Cathy Edge, Karen Espersen, Wendy Nelson, Margaret Pearson, Margaret Seconi, Rebecca Tyler, Rita Urry, Megan Ward.

**Tenors:** Joe Fecteau, Paul Kilford

**Basses:** Philip Garside, Alex Jeune, Ian Livingstone, Brian Patchett

\* Guest singer

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## Festival Singers' Choral Workshop

10am to 4pm, Saturday 30 January 2021  
at St Hilda's Anglican Church, Island Bay

Following on from our successful workshop earlier this year, all singers are invited to join us for our 2021 workshop.

More details will follow on our website and Facebook Page soon.

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Website:

[www.festivalsingersnz.org](http://www.festivalsingersnz.org)

Follow us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/FestivalSingers](https://www.facebook.com/FestivalSingers)

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The voucher that you received at the door tells you the page on our website where you can download your music files, & the password to open that page.

If you need help, please email Philip Garside:  
[books@pgpl.co.nz](mailto:books@pgpl.co.nz)

## Our CDs — on sale tonight



### People of the Light – Music by Jonathan Berkahn.

The music follows the Church year, beginning with songs for Advent and Christmas. *Go to dark Gethsemane* prepares us for the 12 pieces of an Easter cantata, *The Third Day*, in which the musical settings and words heighten the pain and poignancy of the familiar sequence of events. 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 Berkhan'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. The selection of music varies from traditional hymns such as *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* through a range of hymns from New Zealand 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*.

**The CDs are \$20 each**