



# ECLECTICA

**MUSIC FROM OUR FIRST 21 YEARS**

**Sunday, 7 February 2016, 4.30pm**  
**St George's Church, Bloomsbury**

**Matthew Altham**      *Director*  
**Martin Toyer**      *Organ*



**ST GEORGE'S**  
B L O O M S B U R Y

## *Programme*

God is Gone Up	Gerald Finzi
Hear my Prayer	Henry Purcell
The Blue Bird	Charles Villiers Stanford
The Cloud-Capp'd Towers	Ralph Vaughan Williams (from Three Shakespeare Songs)
Requiem Aeternam & I Heard a Voice from Heaven	Herbert Howells (from Requiem)
Kyrie	Josef Rheinberger (from Mass in E flat for double choir)
Sanctus & Benedictus	Frank Martin (from Mass for Double Choir)
Sarba Dance on a Chair	Alexandru Pascanu

### *Five-minute pause*

El Grito & Malagueña	Einojuhani Rautavaara (from Suite de Lorca)
A Prayer of St Bernard of Clairvaux	Gabriel Jackson
A Baby Asleep after Pain	Francis Grier
For the Fallen	Douglas Guest
La Voix du Bien-aimé	Jean-Yves Daniel-Lesur (from Le Cantique des Cantiques)
Bois Meurtri	Francis Poulenc (from Un Soir de Neige)
Bogoroditse	Sergei Rachmaninov (from The All-night Vigil)
O Magnum Mysterium	Morton Lauridsen
Let's Do It	Cole Porter

*We respectfully ask you to reserve your applause until the end of each half of the programme. There will be a retiring collection after the concert to help defray the costs for the church and the choir.*

For the first concert of our 21st anniversary year, members of Pegasus have chosen 21 of their favourite pieces from our repertoire, and we are pleased to share them with you. Since numerous friends of the choir in this afternoon's audience will have heard many of these pieces before, rather than telling you much about the pieces themselves we thought we would share their significance to Pegasus.

We love English music, and the Finzi (with organ) and Purcell (the oldest piece in this programme) are strongly contrasting works – the Finzi joyous and exuberant, whereas the Purcell begins almost in silence, reaches a powerful climax and fades away.

We have enjoyed singing at weddings and civil partnerships of Pegasus members, and *The Blue Bird* has made its appearance more than once on these happy occasions. The words of *The Cloud-Capp'd Towers* are from *The Tempest*, which holds a particular resonance as

last Christmas we sang for the first time in the indoor theatre at Shakespeare's Globe. We first performed the Howells *Requiem* in 1999, the year that Matthew joined as our director, in a concert particularly memorable for a fainting alto!

Although we are musical Anglophiles, we look to Europe and beyond in our singing, and have enjoyed our many visits to the Continent. Rheinberger and Martin came from the smallish countries of Austria and Switzerland respectively, but their sacred writing has a monumental quality and both their masses are written for double choir.

The Pascanu is a Pegasus perennial and shows a rather different side to the choir with its extraneous sound effects and stamping – we hope you enjoy it as much as we do!

We are proud of our work with many different charity partners and music societies over the years, ranging from Princess Alice Hospice to Shelter. Rautavaara's *El Grito* was the very first piece we sang for Tilford Bach Society: the audience was rather shell-shocked at the time, but thankfully recovered, and we have a continuing association with the society and its famous Bach Festival.

We are committed to showcasing the talent of living composers, and the next three pieces demonstrate this, starting with the serene Jackson Grier's *A Baby Asleep* is a setting of a poem by D.H. Lawrence and was commissioned by the choir in 2013. *For the Fallen* will feature on our forthcoming CD of that name, with music by composers affected by the First World War.

We have sung many of the works in our programme in competitions in the UK, Italy, Spain and France. The Daniel-Lesur, written for 12-part choir and featuring many solo voices, was prepared for the very first competition we entered – BBC Choir of the Year in 2004, when we reached the semi-finals. The Poulenc brought us victory in the chamber choir category at Tours in 2013.

*Bogoroditse* is from the famous Rachmaninov *All-Night Vigil* which we sang at our debut recital here at St George's in 2007 – the Russian expansiveness is particularly well suited to this glorious acoustic. As is the magnificent American Lauridsen – a favourite with choirs and audiences alike. Our abiding memory of this piece is singing it live on the stage of the Coliseum with Carlos Acosta in 2010/11.

We conclude with the immortal Cole Porter in a witty close harmony arrangement, a firm favourite more likely to be heard in the pub afterwards...

*Programme notes by Samir Savant*

**Pegasus** is one of London's most versatile chamber choirs, with a repertoire embracing sacred and secular music from the Renaissance to contemporary commissions. The choir performs with leading instrumental ensembles, vocal soloists and conductors, and has had regular collaborations with the London Handel Orchestra, most recently in Handel's *Ode to St Cecilia* under Laurence Cummings. Other recent concerts have included Fauré's *Requiem* at St Clement Dane's Church and a Winter Wassail at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare's Globe. In 2013 the choir won the chamber choir prize at the Florilège Vocal de Tours International Choral Competition in France, along with a special award for its performance of the music of Poulenc. Pegasus has featured on BBC television and radio, Channel 4 and Classic FM. You can find out more about Pegasus and join our mailing list at [www.pegasuschoir.org.uk](http://www.pegasuschoir.org.uk). Visit us on [facebook.com/pegasuschoir](https://www.facebook.com/pegasuschoir) or follow us on Twitter @pegasuschoir. Pegasus's CD, *Twelve Days – A Celebration of Christmas*, is available on the internet.

## *Pegasus Are:*

### *Soprano*

Emily Benson  
Alice Fay  
Judith Kerr  
Anna Kirby  
Katy McAdam  
Martha Oddy  
Madeline Smith  
Danielle Toyer  
Serena Wilson

### *Alto*

David Gabbe  
Kirstin Gillon  
Alison Grant  
Philippa Ouvry  
Rhiann Phillips  
Natasha Woodward

### *Tenor*

Niall Bird  
Colin Fleming  
Samir Savant  
Martin Toyer

### *Bass*

James Baer  
David Benedict  
Dave Brittain  
Adrian Collister  
Richard Ford  
Graham Kirk  
Peter Hatch  
Graham Wood

### **COMING UP FROM PEGASUS...**

#### **Handel and Bach Masterworks, with the London Handel Orchestra**

Friday, 11 March, 7pm

St George's Church, Hanover Square

#### **Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610***

Saturday, 14 May, 7.30pm

St Andrew's Church, Farnham

#### **J.S. Bach's *Mass in B minor*, with the London Handel Orchestra**

Sunday, 12 June, 7.30pm – All Saints Church, Tilford

Monday, 13 June, 7.30pm – St John's, Smith Square, London

**Further details at**

**[www.pegasuschoir.org.uk](http://www.pegasuschoir.org.uk)**

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**Follow us on Twitter @pegasuschoir**

**Special thanks to St. George's Church**

Fr David Peebles, *Rector*

Mark Summerbell, *Arts & Concerts Programmer*