

Eltham Choral Society



Eltham Choral Society (ECS) is an independent, non-auditioning choir of around 100 voices from the Royal Borough of Greenwich in SE London. ECS, which was first recorded in the late nineteenth century, has established a reputation as a choir with a wide repertoire ranging from the Baroque, through the Classical and Romantic periods, to twentieth century work and beyond. ECS has also commissioned a number of works over the years.

Musical Director **Max Barley** was a chorister at King's College, Cambridge and Organ Scholar at St. John's College, Oxford and studied conducting at the Stiftung Maximilianeum in Munich. Max now pursues a busy career as a freelance conductor and accompanist and is a regular director of a number of choirs and choruses. His most recent performance as conductor with ECS, together with two other choirs and orchestra, was in the Requiem by Giuseppe Verdi in Southwark Cathedral, London.

Our organist and accompanist, **Andrew Lenon**, was Organ Scholar at Lincoln College, Oxford and also studied piano at the Toulouse Conservatoire in France while reading for a degree in modern languages. Andrew is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists and holds several accompanying roles while pursuing an active professional career outside music.

Eltham Choral Society has performed in many of the great cities of Europe, including Paris, Barcelona, Florence, Koblenz and Amsterdam in a series of tours to the Continent undertaken every couple of years since 2000. ECS is thrilled to be visiting the beautiful city of Lisbon and to performing in the Basilica de Sao Vicente de Fora and Basilica dos Martires in 2018.

Music to Remember

Eltham Choral Society

Conducted by Max Barley

Accompanist Andrew Lenon (organ)

Basilica de São Vicente de Fora

Wednesday, 30 May at 19.00

Basilica dos Mártires.

Thursday, 31 May at 16.00

Music to Remember

As 2018 marks the centenary of the end of the Great War of 1914-1918, Eltham Choral Society wishes to commemorate all those, including British and Portuguese troops and civilians, who suffered in those years. We present a program of music in their honour.

John Ireland (1879-1962) - Greater Love hath no Man

John Ireland is probably best known among choirs for his anthem *Greater love hath no Man*, a setting from John c.15 often sung in services that commemorate the victims of war

William Byrd (1543-1623) - Ave Verum Corpus

Ave verum corpus is a short Eucharistic hymn that has been set to music by various composers. Byrd's setting was part of two large volumes of sacred compositions he composed between 1605 and 1607.

Gareth Treseder - In Flanders Fields

In Flanders Fields

Soldiers from the War

In Flanders Fields was commissioned by ECS to commemorate the centenary of the start of the Great War of 1914-1918 and given its world premiere in March 2017. Gareth Treseder has set poems by several poets who served and, in some cases, died in that war.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) - Requiem

Lacrymosa

This setting of the *Lacrymosa* from the Requiem by Mozart is one of the most enduring and universally loved settings of the text.

George Guest (1924-2002) - For the fallen

This setting of part of Laurence Binyon's *For the Fallen* (1914) was composed in 1971 for the annual Remembrance Day Service in Westminster Abbey, London, which commemorates all who lost their lives during the two world wars. Members of ECS sang the piece at the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres, Belgium, in 2014.

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) – Well Tempered Clavier

Prelude and Fugue in C

Andrew Lenon, organ

Edgar Bainton (1880-1956) - And I saw a new Heaven

Edgar Bainton was attending the Beyreuth Festival in Germany in 1914 where, at the outbreak of the Great War, he was taken captive and held for four years. The text is taken from the Book of Revelations.

Karl Jenkins (b.1944) - The Armed man

Sanctus and Benedictus

The Armed Man, a contemporary setting of the Mass, is based on the 15th century French song, *L'homme armé* and was commissioned by Britain's Royal Armouries Museum to commemorate the start of the present millennium.

George Frederick Handel (1685-1759) - Zadok the Priest

After having established a successful career as a composer in London, Handel was commissioned to write his *Coronation Anthems* for the coronation of King George II in 1727. *Zadok the Priest* was the first of these anthems and has been performed at British coronations ever since.