

SILCHSTER PARISH CHURCH

are delighted to welcome the return of

THE HURST SINGERS

Musical director Elaine Cox

(with pianist Alison Lloyd)

who present 'SONGS FOR A SUMMER EVENING'

on 29th June, 2019

PROGRAMME

Rhythm of Life Music: Cy Coleman (USA) (1929 to 2004)

A song from musical *Sweet Charity* (book by Neil Simon), which opened on Broadway in 1966. The musical is based on the screenplay for the Italian film *Nights of Cabiria*. A character in the musical is Daddy Johann Sebastian Brubeck - the leader of the Rhythm of Life Church.

The Way You Look Tonight Music: Jerome Kern (USA) (1885 to 1905)

A Song from film *Swing Time*, performed by Fred Astaire, won 1936 Academy Award for best original song. In the film, Astaire sings to Ginger Rogers, whilst she is washing her hair in an adjacent room.

Hallelujah Words and music: Leonard Cohen (Canadian) (1934 to 2016)

Written in 1984, Cohen's view that "many different Hallelujahs exist" is reflected in the many covers for the song – 'uplifting, joyous, fragile, melancholic'.

MADRIGALS

He That Hath A Pleasant Face Music: J.L. Hatton (English)(1809 to 1886)

Weep O Mine Eyes John Bennett (1599)

Will Ye Go, Lassie? Arr: Jeff Bauman

This Celtic folksong is also known as *Wild Mountain Thyme*, or *Purple Heather*. The lyrics and melody are a variety of the song *Braes* (hillsides) of *Balquhither* by Scottish composer Robert Archibald Smith (1780-1829).

Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree Words and music: Charlie Tobias, Lew Brown, Sam Stept. Arr: Alan Billingsley

A popular song made famous by Glen Miller and the Andrews Sisters during World War II. The melody is an updated version of a 19th century English folk song *Long Long Ago*. The lyrics took their current form after the US entered the war in 1941, adding the chorus "till I come marching home".

Excerpts from Fiddler on the Roof - Sabbath Prayer and Sunrise Sunset *Music: Jerry Bock.(USA)*
(1928 to
2010)

Set in imperial Russia in 1905, the book by Joseph Stein is based on *Tevye the Dairyman* and other tales, by Sholem Aleichem. It centres on Tevye, the father of five daughters, and his attempts to maintain his Jewish religious and cultural traditions as he sees outside influences, e.g. marriage, increasingly encroach upon the family's lives. The musical opened in Broadway in 1964.

Sing a Song of Sixpence *Setting by J. Michael Diack (1869 – 1947)*

Diack was director of a Glasgow music publishing house and well-known for his arrangements, most notably nursery rhymes set in the style of Handel. This rhyme dates from the 18th Century. Its origins are uncertain and the words have evolved over time. *Naughty boys* were replaced by *blackbirds*, at a time when pies were baked so that birds flew out when opened. The blackbirds have been seen as an allusion to monks during the period of the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII; in one folklorish tradition, the blackbird taking the maid's nose represents a demon stealing her soul.

.....Interval.....

All In The April Evening *Hugh S. Robertson (1874 to 1952)*

Born in Glasgow, Robertson founded and conducted the Glasgow Orpheus Choir, and this heartfelt reflection of a rural dusk in April was written for that choir.

Indigo Requiem - Kyrie, Paradesum *Len David*

Len David is a pianist and composer, resident in Reading. He has written four Requiems, each named after an evocative colour. He chose the Requiem format out of admiration for the scope of variety of expression which the words offer to a composer. The Indigo is influenced by Len's love of Jazz and Blues.

MADRIGALS

Adieu Sweet Amarillis *John Wilby (English) (1574 to 1598)*

April Is in My Mistress' Face *Thomas Morley (English) (1594 to 1638)*

Les Miserables (medley) *Music: Claude-Michel Schönberg. Words: Alain Boublil, Jean-Marc Natel and Herbert Kretzmer. Arr: Ed Lojeski*

The novel *Les Misérables* was written in 1862 whilst Victor Hugo was in exile. It starkly condemns the social injustices of 19th-century France. The main characters are: Marius, a student; Cosette, Marius's love; Valjean, a reformed ex-convict; and Javert, a policeman in pursuit of Valjean. The story includes a

tussle of morality between Javert and Valjean. Marius agrees to fight in the looming revolution, but, realising how deeply Marius loves Cosette, Valjean prays for his safety. He offers to die instead in the coming battle, and implores God to "bring him home".

The stage musical is a highly descriptive account of dreams of a better life, and the drama involved in Victor Hugo's plot.

Little Jack Horner *Setting by J. Michael Diack HE NDXT SILCHESTER CONCERT WILL*

This rhyme's lyrics date from a 1725 satire by Henry Carey, and the melody from 1870. The rhyme was associated with acts of opportunism, particularly in politics, and a later version mocks Civil Service bureaucracy.

Siyahamba - "*we are walking in the light of God*"

This chant originated in South Africa, probably as a Zulu folk song. It was rewritten as a Christian hymn and became popular in North American churches in the 1990s. Many arrangements exist.

The Hurst Singers was formed in 1975 by a group of people with a common interest in four-part harmony singing of music from a wide spectrum of styles.

For enquiries about membership of the Hurst Singers, contact Mari Fleming on 01189 332805; mariatseasons@aol.com