

Hythe Methodist Church

Music of Celebration

*Choral works from many
traditions – England,
Germany, Italy etc.*

Shepway Singers

**7.30 Friday 30 September
2011**

Shepway Singers

Sop's: Jenny Bayford, Becky Berridge, Hilarie Hill, Anne Johnson,
Belinda Lewis, Isolde Swinfin, Monica Titterdon

Mezzos: Ruth Golding, Elizabeth Hopkin, Janet Hughes, Margaret
Ritchie, Jane Spencer, Bridget Wight

Tenors: Robert Aylward-Lopez, Patrick Bayford, Peter Bettley,
Timothy Hill, Brin Hughes, Rodney Ricketts

Basses: Robert Dennis, Duncan Lord*, Roger Parker, Tim Parsons,
Kenneth Tee, John Wright, Simon Wright

Conductor Berkeley Hill

Organ Janet Hughes

* Not singing today.

The Shepway Singers, based in Hythe, is a choral group formed (under another name) in the mid-1970s to perform choral music requiring about twenty singers. Some five concerts are given each year, usually in response to invitations from various parts of Kent. The Singers' range of pieces extends from 15th Century church music to the contemporary and includes both sacred and secular, obscure and familiar. Though specialising in *a cappella* pieces, the repertoire includes works written for organ or piano accompaniment. In 2010 three performances of the *St Mark Passion* by Charles Wood were given in the weeks before Easter, and a concert performed in November containing music by composers with names beginning with B (Britten, Bach, Bruckner etc.). In April 2011 the Shepway Singers sang an Evensong in Canterbury Cathedral.

The Shepway Singers have also performed with professional orchestras where the composers had this size of choir in mind. J S Bach's *Mass in B minor*, Handel's *Messiah* and choral works by Scarlatti and Pergolesi have been presented in recent years.

To celebrate a church

- **CHH Parry (1848-1918)** - I was glad when they said unto me (Psalm 122)

The English Protestant tradition

- **Maurice Greene (1695-1755)** - O clap your hands ye people
- **SS Wesley (1810-76)** - Ascribe unto the Lord (part)
- **Charles Wood (1866-1926)** - Hail gladdening light

Modern English music - Three motets to ancient Catholic Latin texts

Rodney Ricketts (2005) - Three Aves

- **Ave verum corpus** . Hail, true body, born of the Virgin Mary. Truly suffered, died on the cross for mankind. From whose pierced side flowed water and blood. Be for us a foretaste of death in the last hour. O gentle Jesus. O holy Jesus. O Jesus, Son of Mary. Have mercy on me. Amen.
- **Ave Maria** Hail Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.
- **Ave Regina Coelorum**. Hail, O Queen of Heaven. Hail, O Lady of Angels. Hail! thou root, hail! thou gate. From whom unto the world, a light has arisen: Rejoice, O glorious Virgin, Lovely beyond all others, Farewell, most beautiful maiden, And pray for us to Christ. Amen

The Austrian / German tradition

- **Anton Bruckner (1824-96) - Locus iste (ECM p82)** (composed in 1869 for the dedication of a chapel in Linz Cathedral). *This place was made by God, a priceless mystery, it is beyond reproach.*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

- Chorale - Jesu, joy of man's desiring

INTERVAL

The Italian tradition

- **Lodovico Viadana (1564-1645) - Exsultate justi (ECM 344)**
Shout for joy, ye righteous, before the Lord; it becomes the just to give him thanks. Praise the Lord and rejoice in him with tuneful harp. Bring the lute and be joyful before him. Offer your praises, sing ye a new song unto the Lord God. Raise you song to the highest, with heart and voice sing and praise him..
- **Tomas Luis de Victoria (1548-1611) - O quam gloriosum (ESM 355)**
O how glorious is the kingdom wherein the saints dwell with Christ. Clothed with white robes they follow the Lamb,

Afro-American tradition - Spirituals

- **Swing low sweet chariot (arr. Hugh Robertson)**
- **De battle ob Jerico (arr Lang)**
- **Were you there (arr Hill).**

The British tradition

- **Edward Elgar (1857 - 1934) Lux aeterna** (arranged from 'Nimrod' in the Enigma Variations)
- **C V Stanford (1852-1924) Te Deum** (from the service setting in B flat).