

Wingham Church

Shepway Singers

Sop's: Jenny Bayford, Becky Berridge, Hilarie Hill, Belinda Lewis, Isolde Swinfin

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

Tenors: Robert Aylward-Lopez, Patrick Bayford, Peter Bettley*, Timothy Hill, Brin Hughes, Harry Strachan

Basses: Michael Lewis, Duncan Lord, Roger Parker, Tim Parsons, Kenneth Tee, John Wright*, Simon Wright

Conductor Berkeley Hill

* 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 repertory 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.

Monarchs and Coronations

Shepway Singers

Tim Parsons – organ

7.30 Saturday 1 June 2013

I was glad when they said unto me – C H H Parry (1848-1918)
(Coronation of Edward VII, 1902)

Used in all coronations since it was composed, the intention of having a grand stereophonic affect by using two choirs, one in procession and the other in the Choir of Westminster Abbey, proved too difficult to carry out in reality. Tonight we include the Acclamations shouted by the Scholars of Westminster School.

O Lord the maker of all thing – once believed to have been composed by Henry VIII (r 1509-47)(or Mundy)

Probably not written by Henry, but he could have done so.

Madrigals written in homage to Elizabeth I (r. 1558-1603) as ‘The triumphs of Oriana’

- All creatures are merry minded – John Benet (1601)
- The lady Oriana – John Wilbye (1601)

Rejoice in the Lord alway – John Redford (16th Century)
(Coronation of Elizabeth II, 1953)

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace – S S Wesley (1810-76)
(Coronation of George VI, 1937)

Zadok the priest – G F Handel (Coronation of George II, 1727)
Another regular at coronations since it was first used, it has a famous build-up before the choir enters.

The Mermaid (trad English) arr, John Whitworth
This is included tonight because of its strong links with what follows.

Rule Britannia – Thomas Arne, from ‘Alfred’ (1750) (King Alfred was King of Wessex 871-899)
A hit from from the outset, please join in the chorus!

Interval

I was glad – Henry Purcell (Coronation of James II, 1685)

Thou knowest Lord – Henry Purcell (after Morley) Funeral music for Queen Mary II (1695)

Henry Purcell (1659-1695) was born in Westminster, joined the Chapel Royal as a treble and later became one of its Gentleman. His brief life nevertheless provides ample evidence of Henry’s genius as a composer for the church (in diverse styles) and the stage.

Choral dances from the opera by Benjamin Britten ‘Gloriana’ (words by William Plomer) (Queens Elizabeth I and II)

These short ‘courtly dances’ are taken from Britten’s opera *Gloriana* (the name by which Elizabeth the First was popularly known). It was composed to mark the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 and depicts the relationship between the first Queen Elizabeth and the Earl of Essex, Our present Queen is said to have been disappointed by the opera, which presents the first Elizabeth as a sympathetic, but flawed, character motivated largely by vanity and desire.

1 Time 2 Concord 3 Time and Concord 4 Country Girls
5 Rustics and Fishermen 6 Final Dance of Homage

–
Blest Pair of Sirens – C H H Parry (Marriage of Prince William 2011)

The present Prince of Wales was influential in having this piece included at the recent Royal Wedding. Elgar much admired this masterly piece of eight-part choral writing.

Song - Land of Hope and Glory (1902) - Edward Elgar (1857-1934) (Coronation Ode for Edward VII r 1901-10)

The ‘big tune’ from the Pomp and Circumstance March No.1 was turned into a song by Elgar. Please join in the choruses.

Jerusalem – C H H Parry – please join in it all!

National Anthem (two verses)