

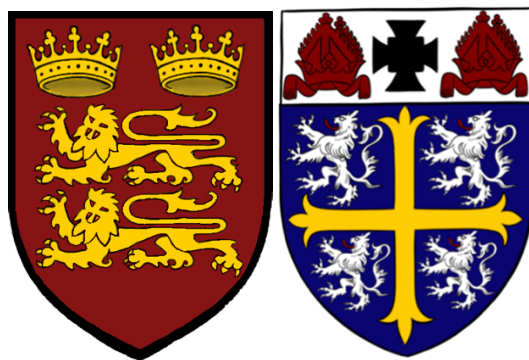


THE CHAPEL CHOIR OF
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, DURHAM

CHORAL CONCERT

*St Bartholomew-the-Great,
London*

Monday 22nd September, 19:00



Director: Barney Howard
Organists: Alan Erdelyi and
Henry Hiscock

Tonight's concert comprises the music recorded on our most recent album with Convivium Records, in memory of former Castleman and member of the chapel choir, David Knowles. David studied a BA in Theology at University College from 2010 to 2014, and an MA in Biblical Studies at the College of St Hild and St Bede from 2014 to 2016. He was a much-loved member of college who went on to join The Telegraph in 2020 and became its head of social media, where he launched the award-winning podcast *Ukraine: The Latest*, which continues to this day. David contributed to a careers event in college in 2023, offering advice for students going into journalism. Whilst working, he sang in the choir of St Bartholomew's, and we are very grateful to them for welcoming us here tonight for this memorial concert. David sadly died last September, and his funeral was held in St Bride's, Fleet Street.



David Knowles (1991-2024)

The process of choosing the music for the recording focused on the three factors of honouring David's time in the choir and college, the musical heritage of the university and recording previously unrecorded music to a high standard.

The concert opens with two pieces by 17th-century English composer Henry Purcell, which were sung at David's funeral as he had requested. The first, *Hear my prayer, O Lord* is written for double choir in eight parts. The second, *Remember not, Lord, our offences*, sets text from the litany, and splits the soprano section with a chamber organ accompaniment.

American composer Amy Beach's music has recently seen a period of rediscovery and popularity in concert halls and churches alike. Her *4 Canticles*, performed here, sum up her late-romantic Wagnerian harmonic style and, despite being a challenging test of vocal stamina for the choir, are as rewarding to sing as they are to listen to.

Dr Francis Jackson (1917-2022) studied music at Durham under the then-head of department Edward Bairstow from 1937 (under whom he had sang as a chorister in York Minster) and received his Doctor of Music (DMus) from the university in 1957. Fittingly, after serving in the Second World War, he replaced Bairstow as Director of Music of York in 1946 and served for 36 years. He was president of the Royal College of Organists from 1972 to 1974 and was made a CBE in 2007 for services to music. Tonight, the choir sings three unrecorded

works from his extensive catalogue of works which, like the pieces by Beach, sum up his compositional style and masterful writing for the voice. The second, *Up to those bright and gladsome hills*, was written for St Bride's, Fleet Street, where David Knowles' funeral was held last year, and was unarchived and typeset for our recording..

After a short interval, the choir sings a newly commissioned work, *Messages*, by former Castle student and friend of David, Ben Rowarth. The piece, written in remembrance especially for this album, sets fragments of text from messages sent about David around the time of his passing. As a choir, we are incredibly grateful to David's parents, Peter and Kaye, and Ben for being instrumental in enabling this project, as recording this piece was a particular highlight of the album.

Sir Edward Cuthbert Bairstow was most certainly the most famous musical alumnus of University College (BA 1894; Doctor of Music 1901). There, he studied organ and theory before becoming Director of Music of York in 1913, being succeeded by Francis Jackson at his death. Here, the choir sings two early Easter anthems of his, *The promise which was made unto the fathers* and the particularly lovely *Know ye not*, both previously unrecorded and with soprano solos, as well as a part-song for lower voices and two so-called 'hymn-anthems': a genre with which Bairstow came to be well acquainted through his career.

This project has been a joy to undertake as a choir, and we would like to extend a particular thanks to those who helped to make this endeavour possible, both financially and musically, in particular:

Peter and Kaye Knowles
Ben Rowarth
The Daily Telegraph
The Senior Common Room of University College, Durham University
The Helen Davis Family Foundation
The Ryan Family
Harrison and Harrison Ltd
and also, to all others who generously donated towards this project.



PROGRAMME

*Previously unrecorded music

Henry Purcell (1659-1695):

Hear my prayer, O Lord (Z.15, c.1682)

Remember not, Lord, our offences (Z.50, c.1680)

Amy Beach (1867-1944):

4 Canticles (Op. 78, 1916):

1. *Bonum est confiteri*

2. *Deus misereatur*

3. *Cantate Domino**

4. *Benedic, anima mea**

Francis Jackson (1917-2022):

*Behold, bless ye the Lord (1975)**

*Up to those bright and gladsome hills (1984)**

*Sing praise to God (1981)**

(Break)

Ben Rowarth

*Messages (2025)**

Sir Edward Bairstow (1874-1946):

*The promise which was made unto the fathers (1903)**

*The day draws on with golden light (1930)**

Music when soft voices die (1929)

*Know ye not (1906)**

The King of love my Shepherd is (1931)

Purcell – Hear my prayer, O Lord

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my crying come unto thee.

Psalm 102

Purcell – Remember not, Lord, our offences

Remember not, Lord our offences,
nor th'offences of our forefathers;
neither take thou vengeance of our
sins, good Lord
But spare us, good Lord.

Spare thy people, whom thou hast
redeem'd with thy most precious
blood,
and be not angry with us forever.
Spare us, good Lord.

The Litany, Book of Common Prayer

Beach – Bonum est confiteri

Soloist: Kate Ryan

It is a good thing to give thanks unto
the Lord, and to sing praises unto
Thy Name, O most Highest;
To tell of Thy loving-kindness early
in the morning, and of Thy truth in
the night-season;
Upon an instrument of ten strings,
and upon the lute, upon a loud
instrument, and upon the harp.
For thou, Lord, hast made me glad
through Thy works, and I will
rejoice in giving praise for the
operations of Thy hands.

Psalm 92: 1-4

Beach – Deus misereatur

God be merciful unto us, and bless
us, and shew us the light of His
countenance, and be merciful unto
us:

That Thy way may be known upon
earth, Thy saving health among all
nations.

Let the people praise thee, O God,
yea, let all the people praise Thee.
O let the nations rejoice and be
glad, for Thou shalt judge the folk
righteously, and govern the nations
upon earth.

Let the people praise Thee, O God,
let all the people praise Thee.

Then shall the earth bring forth her
increase, and God, even our own
God, shall give us His blessing.

God shall bless us, and all the ends
of the world shall fear Him.

Psalm 67

Beach – Cantate Domino

O sing unto the Lord a new song,
for He hath done marvellous things.
With His own right hand, and with
His holy arm, hath He gotten
Himself the victory.

The Lord declared His salvation, his
righteousness hath He openly
shewed in the sight of the heathen.

He hath remembered His mercy
and truth toward the house of
Israel, and all the ends of the world
have seen the salvation of our God.
Shew yourselves joyful unto the
Lord, all ye lands, sing, rejoice, and
give thanks.

Praise the Lord upon the harp, sing
to the harp with a psalm of
thanksgiving.

With trumpets also and shawms, O
shew yourselves joyful before the
Lord the King.

Let the sea make a noise, and all
that therein is, the round world, and
they that dwell therein.

Let the floods clap their hands, and
let the hills be joyful together
before the Lord, for He cometh to
judge the earth.

With righteousness shall He judge
the world, and the people with
equity.

Psalm 98

Beach – Benedic, anima mea

Soloist: Bethany Davis

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and all
that is within me praise His holy
Name.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and
forget not all His benefits;

Who forgiveth all thy sin, and
healeth all thine infirmities;

Who saveth thy life from
destruction, and crowneth thee
with mercy and loving-kindness;

O praise the Lord, ye angels of His,
ye that excel in strength, ye that
fulfil His commandment, and
hearken unto the voice of His
words.

O praise the Lord, all ye His hosts,
ye servants of His that do His
pleasure.

O speak good of the Lord, all ye
works of His, in all places of His

dominion, praise thou the Lord, O
my soul.

Psalm 103: 1-4, 20-22

Jackson – Behold, bless ye the Lord

Behold, bless ye the Lord, all ye
servants of the Lord;

Which by night stand in the House
of the Lord.

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary,
and bless ye the Lord.

The Lord that made heaven and
earth, bless thee out of Zion.

Psalm 134

Jackson – Up to those bright, and
gladsome hills

Up to those bright and gladsome
hills,

Whence flows my weal, and mirth,
I look and sigh for Him who fills,
Unseen, both heaven and earth.

He is alone my help and hope,
That I shall not be moved;
His watchful eye is ever ope,
And guardeth His beloved.

The glorious God is my sole stay,
He is my sun and shade;
The cold by night, the heat by day,
Neither shall me invade.

He keeps me from the spite of foes,
Doth all their plots control;
And is a shield, not reckoning those,
Unto my very soul.

Whether abroad amidst the crowd,
Or else within my door,
He is my pillar and my cloud
Now and for evermore.

Henry Vaughan, based on Psalm 121

Jackson – Sing praise to God

Sing praise to God who reigns
above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul He fills
and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power hath
made
His gracious mercy keepeth:
By morning glow or evening shade
His watchful eye ne'er sleepeth:
Within the kingdom of his might
Lo! All is just, and all is right:
To God all praise and glory!

Then all my gladsome way along,
I sing aloud Thy praises,
That men may hear the grateful
song
my voice unwearied raises:
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory!

Johann Jakob Schütz

Ben Rowarth – Messages

You
you were
you are
humour
kind
caring
loyal
Endless passion
life
A daily friend
humble
Ceaseless
Curiosity
Cheerful
You gave hope
You gave strength
You brought joy to the world
Endless enthusiasm
Passion for life
Puckish sense of humour
(Absolutely fascinating)
The happiest person I've ever
known
You
You were
You are
our memory
You loved life
and the world loved you back

Bairstow – The promise which was
made unto the fathers

Soloist: Edie Tunicliffe

The promise which was made unto
the fathers,
God hath fulfilled the same unto us
their children, in that He raised up
Jesus again. Alleluia!

For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is
over and gone;
The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of the singing of birds is
come.

And let all flesh give thanks unto His
holy Name for ever and ever,
Amen.

Acts 13: 32, 33;
The Song of Solomon 2: 11, 12;
Psalms 145: 21

Bairstow – The day draws on with
golden light

The day draws on with golden light,
Glad songs go echoing through the
height,
The broad earth lifts an answering
cheer,
The deep makes moan with wailing
fear.

For lo, He comes, the mighty King,
To take from death his power and
sting,
To trample down his gloomy reign,
And break the weary prisoner's
chain.

Maker of all, to Thee we pray,
Fulfil in us Thy joy today.
When death assails, grant, Lord,
that we
May share Thy Paschal victory.
Amen.

4th or 5th Century Latin hymn

Bairstow – Music when soft voices
die

Music, when soft voices die,
Vibrates in the memory;
Odours, when sweet violets sicken,
Live within the sense they quicken.

Rose leaves, when the rose is dead,
Are heap'd for the beloved's bed;
And so thy thoughts, when thou art
gone,
Love itself shall slumber on.

Percy Byssche Shelley

Bairstow – Know ye not
Soloist: Sofia Lang

Know ye not, that so many of us as
were baptised into Jesus Christ
were baptised into His death?
Therefore we are buried with Him
by baptism into death: that like as
Christ was raised up from the dead
by the glory of the Father, even so
we also should walk in newness of
life.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek
those things which are above,
where Christ sitteth on the right
hand of God.

Set your affection on things above,
not on things on the earth.
For ye are dead and your life is hid
with Christ in God.

When Christ, who is our life, shall
appear, then shall ye also appear
with Him in glory.

Romans 6: 3, 4; Colossians 3: 1-4

Bairstow – The King of love my
Shepherd is

The King of love my Shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am His,
and He is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul He leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures
grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
Thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight
from Thy pure chalice floweth!

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,
but yet in love He sought me;
and on His shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

And so through all the length of
days,
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy
praise within Thy house forever.

H. W. Baker



The Chapel Choir of University College, Durham, during April's album recording.