

# Songs of Life and Love

**Conductor: John Forsyth MBE**

**Accompanist: Andrew Christer**

**Heather Jill Burns (*mezzo-soprano*), Austin Gunn (*tenor*)**

**Cleveland Philharmonic Choir and Youth Choir**

Cleveland Philharmonic Choir (CPC) is both happy and relieved to be back in St Mary's Cathedral for our fourth summer concert here after two years' Covid-related absence. We and our Music Director John Forsyth MBE are delighted to be joined tonight by soloists Heather Jill Burns and Austin Gunn and by our astonishingly versatile accompanist Andrew Christer. We all thank you for being our audience – whether this is your first meeting with us or you've heard us in various venues before.

In our summer concerts, we like to let our choral hair down a bit to bring together a mix of music of various kinds, particularly those that don't require the use of a full orchestra. Previously we've celebrated the music of a particular geography each year: Italy, France and the combined countries of the British Isles. This time we've replaced geography by emotions and passion -- please sit back and enjoy an evening of *Songs of Life and Love*. Don't forget to take advantage of a free glass of wine or a soft drink during the interval – more information about that below.

*Cleveland Philharmonic Choir would like to thank Cathedral staff for their help, and all the volunteers from the choir and their families, who are such great supporters.*

**\*\*\* As a continuing experiment, this two-page summary programme will be freely available in printed form at the concert itself. A more complete version, including full biographies, will be available on our website ([www.clevelandphilharmonicchoir.com](http://www.clevelandphilharmonicchoir.com)) at least a week before the concert. \*\*\***

*Please switch off all mobile phones, pagers and electronic alarms. No recordings may be made or photographs taken without the prior permission of the choir secretary.*

## PART 1

<u><i>Singer(s)</i></u>	<u><i>Title(s)</i></u>	<u><i>Composer/Arranger</i></u>
CPC	<i>Haste on, my joys</i> <i>My spirit sang all day</i>	Gerald Finzi (1901—56)
Songs from our soloists:	<i>King David</i>	Herbert Howells (1892—1983)
Heather Jill Burns ( <i>HJB</i> )	<i>Ma bonny lad</i>	Arr. René Atkinson
and	<i>To wine and beauty</i>	Roger Quilter (1877—1953)
Austin Gunn ( <i>AG</i> )	<i>Bonny at morn</i>	Arr. Austin Gunn
CPC	<i>My love dwelt in a northern land</i> <i>The dance</i>	Edward Elgar (1857—1934)
HJB and CPC	<i>When I am laid in earth</i> <i>With drooping wings</i>	Henry Purcell (1659—95)
CPC Youth Choir	<i>Cantemus Domino</i> <i>I got rhythm</i>	Domenico Brunetti (d. c.1635) George Gershwin (1898—1937)
CPC	<i>Ain't misbehavin'</i>	Waller/Brooks, arr. Peter Gritton

### \*\*\*\* INTERVAL \*\*\*\*

A complimentary glass of white wine or juice is available for you in the hall or in the foyer.  
Please do not take drinks into the Cathedral or outside the building.

## PART 2

<u>Singer(s)</u>	<u>Title(s)</u>	<u>Composer/Arranger</u>
CPC	<i>Autumn leaves</i> <i>The Continental</i>	Joseph Kosma, arr. Andrew Carter Conrad/Magidson, arr. David Blackwell
AG	<i>Lunge da lei ... de miei bollenti spiriti</i> (from <i>La Traviata</i> )	Giuseppe Verdi (1830—1901)
AG and HJB	<i>O false one, you have deceived me</i> (from <i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> )	Arthur Sullivan (1842—1900)
AG	<i>Be my love</i>	Nicholas Brodszky (1905—58)
CPC, HJB and AG	<i>Brindisi</i> (from <i>La Traviata</i> ; sung in Italian)	Giuseppe Verdi
All singers	<i>The rhythm of life</i>	Cy Coleman (1929—2004), arr. Richard Barnes

### TONIGHT'S SOLOISTS *(biographies much shortened for space reasons – please see the introductory section overleaf)*

#### **Heather Jill Burns (mezzo-soprano)**

Heather's operatic roles include Santuzza *Cavalliera Rusticana* (Buxton Festival), Asteria *Tamerlano* (Newcastle Early Music Festival), Carmen *Carmen* (OperaLab, Black Cat Opera and Rocket Opera at Sage Gateshead), Erda in LiveArtShow's 'Off West End Theatre award'-nominated production of *Rhinegold*, Dido *Dido & Aeneas* (Berwick Festival Opera), Marcellina *Figaro* (Great Boxing Booth Revival), and Lehrsbe Die *Meistersinger von Nürnberg* at the Edinburgh International Festival.

Concert performances include Elgar *Sea Pictures* with the Northumberland Orchestral Society and at Newcastle Cathedral, Schumann *Frauenliebe und Leben* at the Paisley Voices Festival, a concert of light opera favourites at Sage Gateshead with the Royal Northern Sinfonia, and gala concerts for InterOpera, Berwick Festival Opera and the Royal British Legion's 90th Anniversary. Oratorio performances include Verdi *Requiem*, Rossini *Petite Messe Solenne* and Mozart *Requiem* and Mendelssohn *Elijah* for choral societies throughout the UK.

#### **Austin Gunn (tenor)**

Austin Gunn made his professional operatic debut as Vorsinger *Zaide* with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras in the Edinburgh International Festival. Other notable EIF performances include 1st Tenor Soloist *Curlew River* and Zweite Lehrsbe Die *Meistersinger von Nürnberg* with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. English National Opera performances in various venues include roles in *A Pilgrim's Progress*, *The Perfect American*, *The Way Back Home* and *Between Worlds*, and as Tamino *Magic Flute*, Alfredo *La Traviata*, Nanki-Poo *The Mikado*, Don Ottavio *Don Giovanni* and Don Basilio *Le Nozze di Figaro*.

Further operatic roles performed include Don Jose *Carmen*, Nemorino *L'elisir d'amore*, Frederick *Pirates of Penzance*, Bardolfo *Falstaff* and Goffredo *Rinaldo*. Austin appears regularly throughout the UK and in France, Sweden and Italy in concert in a vast array of repertoire.

Austin teaches singing at Leeds and Durham universities and is professor of singing at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance. He was a judge for the 2020 International School Musician of the Year Award and has given masterclasses at various universities, the Cité internationale des arts in Paris, the national Student Opera Society and Leeds Youth Opera, and for OperaLab in Brussels.

### OUR NEXT CONCERT: Saturday 19 November 2022, 7:30pm, Middlesbrough Town Hall

**Vaughan Williams:** Serenade to Music; **Rachmaninov:** Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini (soloist **Alison Gill**);

**Rutter:** Mass of the Children

Emma Morwood (*soprano*), Ed Danon (*baritone*), Tia Radix-Callixte (*mezzo-soprano*), Nathanael Thomas-Atkin (*tenor*)  
Children's Choir ----- Cleveland Philharmonic Choir ----- The Mowbray Orchestra ----- **Conductor:** John Forsyth MBE

*Tickets on sale from September 2022 (see [www.clevelandphilharmonicchoir.com/Concerts](http://www.clevelandphilharmonicchoir.com/Concerts))*