

Cleveland Philharmonic Choirs
**songs of life
and love**



***OPERA, OPERETTA, BALLADS,
FOLK SONG, CLASSICS***

FRIDAY 24 JUNE 2022, 7.30pm

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

COULBY NEWHAM

St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham

Saturday 24 June 2022, 7.30 pm

Songs of Life and Love

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

Cleveland Philharmonic Choir and Youth Choir

Andrew Christer (*accompanist*)

Conductor: John Forsyth MBE



Photo: ©John Carter

www.clevelandphilharmonicchoir.com



Cleveland Philharmonic Choir is a member of **Making Music**, the National Federation of Music Societies, and is grateful for their information, support and guidance, and the provision of insurance.

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.

TONIGHT'S CONCERT

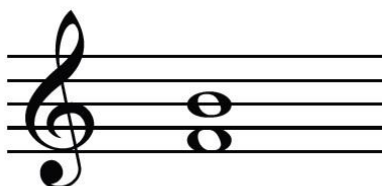
Cleveland Philharmonic Choir (CPC) is both happy and relieved to be back in St Mary's Cathedral for our fourth summer concert here after having had to miss two appearances during the pandemic. The photo on the previous page was taken at our last visit in 2019.

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.

PART 1

<u>Singer(s)</u>	<u>Title(s)</u>	<u>Composer/Arranger</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 (HJB)	<i>Ma bonny lad</i>	<i>Arr. René Atkinson</i>
and	<i>To wine and beauty</i>	Roger Quilter (1877—1953)
Austin Gunn (AG)	<i>Bonny at morn</i>	<i>Arr. Austin Gunn</i>
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>)	Giuseppe Verdi
All singers	<i>The rhythm of life</i>	Cy Coleman (1929—2004), arr. Richard Barnes

TONIGHT'S SOLOISTS

Heather Jill Burns (*mezzo-soprano*)



Heather Jill Burns's operatic roles include Santuzza *Cavalliera Rusticana* (Buxton Festival), Arsilda *Arsilda*, *Regina di Ponto*, 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), Patrick *The Poor Soldier* (William Shield Festival), Marcellina *Figaro* (Great Boxing Booth Revival), Counsel for the Plaintiff *Trial by Jury*, Edith *Pirates of Penzance* (Berwick Festival Opera), Pitti-Sing *The Mikado* (Berwick Festival Opera), and Lehrbube *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* at the Edinburgh International Festival with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. For the English National Opera artist training programme ENO Opera Works, her roles include Eduige *Rodelinda*, Miss Jessel *The Turn of the Screw* and Lucretia *The Rape of Lucretia*, and she has since returned to ENO to lead the alto section and perform ensemble in the ENO Baylis *Know the Show Magic Flute* workshops and performances.

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, gala concerts *Opera Gold* and *Festive Treats* with InterOpera conducted by Alistair Dawes, Metal Baroque at Berwick Festival Opera, and the Royal British Legion's 90th Anniversary concert with the Band of the Royal Marines. Oratorio performances in repertoire include Verdi *Requiem*, Rossini *Petite Messe Solenne* and Mozart *Requiem* and Mendelssohn *Elijah* for for choral societies throughout the UK.

Heather studied at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Newcastle University and English National Opera's artist training programme ENO Opera Works.

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 (EIF). Other notable EIF performances include 1st Tenor Soloist *Curlew River* and Zweite Lehrbube *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. His Scottish Opera debut was Don Ottavio cover *Don Giovanni* directed by Sir Thomas Allen and conducted by Speranza Scapucci, and he performed the role in the unwrap performances throughout Scotland.

His English National Opera debut was Guest *John Cage Dinner Party* for ENO MusiCircus, and he has returned to ENO many times since. ENO performances include Pliable/Superstition/Celestial Voice cover *A Pilgrim's Progress*, Dantine cover *The Perfect American*, in preproduction workshops and showcases between ENO, The Barbican and the Young Vic as Gizmo 3 *The Way Back Home* and Security Guard *Between Worlds* and an ENO Late Shift Recital at the National Portrait Gallery. He is core tenor for ENO Baylis Know the Show events as Tamino *Magic Flute* and Alfredo *La Traviata*, a member of ENO Opera Squad 2015, 2016 & 2017 singing Nanki-Poo *The Mikado*, Don Ottavio *Don Giovanni* and Don Basilio *Le Nozze di Figaro* in schools performances and has appeared as guest soloist with the ENO Community Choir.

Austin made his Portuguese debut in 2017 as Martin in the premiere staging of *Hummus* by Zad Moultaqa and Manager in *The Waiter's Revenge* by Stephen Oliver at the Musica Na Fabrica Festival, Lisbon, directed by Max Hoehn, and his Swiss debut in 2018 as the Spectre in Dvorak's *The Spectre's Bride* in Zürich conducted by Philipp Mestrinel.

Operatic roles performed include Don Jose *Carmen* (Black Cat Opera c. Peter Ford, OperaLab d. Gilles Denizot, Sage Gateshead, Berwick Festival Opera, Grimsby Philharmonic), Nemorino *L'elisir d'amore* (Rocket Opera c. Stephen Higgins), Don Ottavio *Don Giovanni* (ENO Opera Squad d. Martin Constantine, Scottish Opera d. Sir Thomas Allen c. Speranza Scapucci, Longborough Festival Opera d. Martin Constantine, Berwick Festival Opera c. Peter Ford), Beppe *Rita* (Berwick Festival Opera c. Peter Ford), Aubrey *Der Vampyr* (Berwick Festival Opera c. Michael Bawtree), Dormont *La Scala di Seta* (Berwick Festival Opera c. Stephen Higgins), Manager *The Waiter's Revenge* (Musica Na Fabrica Festival, Lisbon d. Max Hoehn), Frederick *Pirates of Penzance* (Opera Anywhere, Rocket Opera, Berwick Festival Opera c. Stephen Higgins) Nanki-Poo *The Mikado* (ENO Opera Squad d. Martin Constantine, Opera Anywhere, Berwick Festival Opera c. Peter Ford), Bardolfo *Falstaff* (Kings Theatre Edinburgh d. Martin Lloyd Evans), and Goffredo *Rinaldo* (Edinburgh Festival Theatre d. Annilese Miskimmon c. Christian Curnyn) and he appears regularly throughout the UK and in France, Sweden and Italy in concert in a vast array of repertoire.

Recording and film credits to date include Montague *John Cage Dinner Party*, Maxwell Davies *Solstice of Light*, 1st Tenor Soloist *Curlew River*, Zweite Lehrbube *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* all for BBC Radio 3, a recital of song for American television network PBS, and as the singing voice of a German soldier in the television series 'Band of Brothers' directed by Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks.

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.

TONIGHT'S ACCOMPANIST

Andrew Christer



Andrew Christer is one of the foremost organ virtuoso performers in the North of England. He was the Director of Music and Organist of St John the Evangelist Church, Darlington, for over 40 years and is Sub-Organist at St Mary's, Richmond. Andrew's teachers have included Dr Francis Jackson, David Hill, Ian Shaw and Keith Wright and – 'Mr Bach' himself – John Scott Whitely at York. His own pupils have had considerable success in the ABRSM diploma examinations.

Andrew has been the accompanist with Cleveland Philharmonic Choir for more than a dozen years and is also the regular accompanist for Darlington Choral Society and Richmondshire Choral Society. In addition, he is in demand as an accompanist for choir and choral societies throughout the region and is accompanist for Durham County Council, playing for all examinations organised by Durham Music Support.

Interests outside music include cycling, playing squash, the odd pint of real ale and fly fishing.

TONIGHT'S CONDUCTOR

John Forsyth FRSA (Music Director, CPC)



John was formerly County Music Adviser for Cleveland; Head of the County Music Service, West Sussex; Regional Director of Music, Berkshire; and Director of Music and Performing Arts, St Aidan's School, Harrogate. He studied classical guitar with John Williams and Julian Bream and gained an MA (Distinction) from Leeds University and Performer's Diplomas in both Violin and Classical Guitar.

Throughout this period he taught violin and guitar and performed with groups such as The Aulos Ensemble, Yorkshire Camerata and The London Contemporary Dance Theatre Ensemble. He established and conducted Harrogate Pro Musica and The Cavalli Singers and sang professionally with The White Rose Consort and The Mastersingers. He was Choral Director at music festivals in Norway and Strasbourg, Choral Fellow at Oregon State University, Guest Lecturer at the European Guitar Teachers' Summer Conference and Musical Director at BBC *Music Live* Weekends.

John has been a consultant for The National Youth Choirs of Great Britain; a course leader and mentor for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music Professional Development programme; an Ofsted Inspector; and a Lecturer in Primary Music Education, Durham University.

In 1992 he established the Tees Valley Youth Choir, which performed in some of the finest venues in Europe, including Venice, Hungary and Spain, and was runner-up in the 2006 BBC *Choir of the Year*.

John also initiated two other choirs: Locomotion, a Darlington-based boys' choir, and Vox, for young Teesside adults. Both continue to thrive. In 2010 he founded the North East Youth Chorale, who performed and recorded *Elijah* in the 2011 Proms with the Gabrieli Ensemble under Paul McCreech, and in 2013 joined Chetham's School Chamber Choir and the Gabrieli in a recording of *War Requiem*. In 2012 John's opera for young people, *The Kingfisher's Tale*, received universal acclaim following its premiere.

Since 2012 John has developed his guitar recital/accompanying programme, including with the sopranos Rowan Pierce and Suzi Saperia.

In October 2021, John added a new venture to his musical life when he was appointed Musical Director of Durham University Choral Society. He continues to be CPC's Music Director, a position he has held with distinction since 1999. In 2006, he was invited to be a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts; in 2009 received the Mayor of Middlesbrough's Award in recognition of his services to music regionally and nationally; and in 2011 was made an MBE.

Cleveland Philharmonic Choir (CPC) was founded in 1968 by Edwin Raymond for a performance of Haydn's *Creation* with Sir Charles Groves and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra at the second Teesside Eisteddfod. During the thirty-one years of his leadership, Edwin directed the choir with great musical enthusiasm and distinction through an impressive range of the choral repertoire.

From 1999 when John Forsyth became Music Director, the choir has presented a wide range of works, from Renaissance music with period instruments to challenging 20th-century pieces, and from those well known and loved to those rarely heard. Distinguished soloists have included Sir Thomas Allen, Honorary President of the choir (Brahms' *German Requiem*), Alan Opie (Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*) and Jeffrey Lloyd-Roberts (Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*). A later highlight celebrated the arrival in Hartlepool of the Tall Ships Race. This featured two singers who had represented their countries in the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World – Anna Stéphanie and Dawid Kimberg – and included Vaughan Williams's *Sea Symphony* in its centenary year.

November 2014 saw the choir's début at Sage Gateshead with Northern Spirit, Quay Lads and Lasses, and Sir Thomas Allen as soloist in *Belshazzar's Feast*. Sir Thomas also selected the soloists for a semi-staged *Carmina Burana*. The evening was pronounced a 'fabulous occasion' with 'notoriously challenging works' 'stunningly performed'.

The choir, this time with members of Egglecliffe School Senior Choir, returned to the Sage two years later to sing Verdi's *Requiem*, earning plaudits such as 'a superb choir in great form' and 'an amazing concert'. John Forsyth's 70th birthday was celebrated by choir and orchestra in April 2017 with a concert of music chosen by him – Stravinsky, Shostakovich and Rutter – in the Princess Alexandra Auditorium in Yarm.

In November 2018, Newcastle Choral Society and Northern Spirit Singers, together with our own young choir and choristers from Durham Cathedral and St Peter's Church, Stockton, joined CPC to mark the centenary of the World War I Armistice with a performance of Britten's *War Requiem* at Sage Gateshead – undoubtedly the most challenging project the choir has undertaken. Eminent soloists Mark Padmore, Roderick Williams and Rachel Nicholls contributed to a performance that the audience found 'stunning' and 'most moving'.

In March 2020, the Covid pandemic halted live rehearsals and performances. Zoom rehearsals and virtual concerts led by Assistant Music Director Isaac Conroy helped to keep the choir singing and in touch with one another.

In September 2021 the choir eventually gathered together to sing, albeit with many safety precautions. A long-postponed concert took place in November 2021, conducted by Thomas Neal, who grew up locally and now runs his own choirs.

The choir has developed an informal themed concert of enjoyable music on a summer Friday evening at St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, and a Family Christmas Carol Concert with brass band, and members have also sung at weddings and for performances arranged by other organisations.

CPC takes every opportunity to give performance opportunities to outstanding young local musicians and conductors and has arranged masterclasses with eminent soloists for vocal studies students.

Cleveland Philharmonic Youth Choir: Always keen to involve young people in high-quality singing, CPC currently runs a 4-part Youth Choir (singing here tonight), for students from year 8 upwards. New singers are very welcome. For further information, see www.clevelandphilharmonicchoir.com/youth-choir.

Cleveland Philharmonic Choir welcomes new members in all sections. If you would enjoy singing with us, why not come along to a rehearsal? We meet every Tuesday evening in term time, 7.15–9.00pm in the GoSport Building at Conyers School, Green Lane, Yarm TS15 9ET. We are now taking a summer break, but will resume rehearsals on 6 September for our next two concerts (see the next page!).

For information, email enquiries@clevelandphilharmonicchoir.com, phone Joan Carter (Chair) on 01642 656273 or see our website at www.clevelandphilharmonicchoir.com, which will tell you about changes to our rehearsal arrangements as soon as we know ourselves.

Cleveland Philharmonic Choir would like to thank:

- Staff of St Mary's Cathedral for their help
- Sylvia Richardson for her programme cover and poster designs
- Our splendidly loyal front-of-house volunteers and those serving interval drinks
- Jean Jones for making the bouquets, funded from a bequest from the estate of Anne Finney.

Friends of Cleveland Philharmonic Choir

Miss Julia Armstrong	Mr John Fletcher & Mrs	Mrs Sarah Hillier
Mr John Carter	Suzanne Fletcher MBE	Mr Ron & Mrs Betty Hobbs
Mrs Priscilla Chatfield	Mr John Forsyth MBE & Mrs	Dr Joyce Jordan
Mrs Ailsa Dijkman	Audrey Forsyth	Mrs Elsa Raymond
	Mrs Margaret Goudge	Mrs Claire Vaughan

To become a Friend and gain, for example, access to priority bookings, please contact Sue Jones (sjraven56@hotmail.com, 01642 712401) or any choir member.

FUTURE CONCERTS

Saturday 9 July 2022, 6:30pm, Middlesbrough Town Hall

Cleveland Philharmonic Choir has funded and helped to organise the performance of the musical ***Rats!***, working in partnership with four schools. John Forsyth will conduct and direct and our impressive Youth Choir will also take part. The tuneful show tells the story of the Pied Piper of Hamelin, but the rats are punks and the Piper a charismatic rock singer! It's fun for all the family, and, as a bonus, Egglecliffe School Big Band, conducted by Isaac Conroy, will play in the first part of the evening.

A poster with all the details forms the back cover of this programme.

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

Soloists: Emma Morwood (*soprano*), Edmund 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)

Sunday 26 February 2023, 5:00pm, Sage Gatehead

Elgar: The Dream of Gerontius

Soloists: Jeffrey Lloyd-Roberts (*tenor*), Anna Huntley (*mezzo-soprano*), Morgan Pearse (*baritone*)

Cleveland Philharmonic Choir
The Mowbray Orchestra

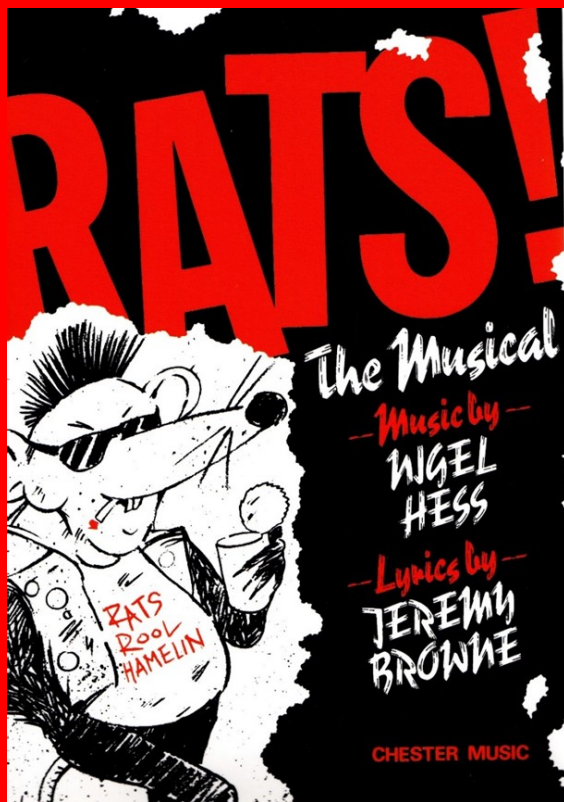
Conductor: John Forsyth MBE

Tickets on sale from September 2022 (see www.clevelandphilharmonicchoir.com/Concerts)

Audience feedback about tonight's concert and suggestions of music for future concerts are most welcome – email secretary@clevelandphilharmonicchoir.com

To join Cleveland Philharmonic Choir's mailing list, phone Joan Carter (01642 656273); to join the emailing list, contact secretary@clevelandphilharmonicchoir.com

**Cleveland Philharmonic Youth Choir
Egglescliffe School Junior Choir
Egglescliffe Primary School Choir
Junction Farm Primary School Choir
Saltburn Primary School Choir**



Saturday 9 July 2022, 6.30pm

Middlesbrough Town Hall

Tickets £5 adult , £1 child/student

Booking fee 50p per ticket

www.middlesbroughtownhall.co.uk/events/rats

01642 729729