

The Choir of
Loughborough
Grammar School

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Tuesday 21 October
1986 : 7.30 p.m.

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Emmanuel Church

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A Choral Evening

Directed by Bryan Anderson
with Graham Hall : timpani and percussion



Benjamin Britten : Rejoice in the Lamb
Michael Hurd : Jonah ~ Man ~ Jazz
Anthems by Noel Rawsthorne
and Arthur Baynon

: Rejoice in the Lamb :

The death of Benjamin Britten ten years ago deprived English music of one of its most distinguished composers. His festival cantata, *Rejoice in the Lamb*, was composed during the Summer of 1943, in response to a commission from the church of St. Matthew in Northampton, where the composer directed the first performance in September of that year.

The text is taken from the *Jubilate Agno* of the eighteenth-century poet Christopher Smart, and was written while the author was in an asylum. The poem celebrates God's presence in all things, and shows how every creature praises God in its own characteristic manner. The first section, recited to a single note, sets the theme of praise, and leads to a jubilant chorus relating the praises of characters from the Old Testament. After a serene "Hallelujah" section, a solo treble refers to Smart's cat, Jeoffry, and this is "pursued" by the alto's exposition of the deeds of a valiant mouse. The solo tenor sings of the language of flowers, "the poetry of Christ", and after this Smart compares his sufferings to those of Christ, pointing out the crowd's accusation that "he is besides himself". He realizes, however, that "he that is born of a Virgin shall deliver me out of all", and after a bass solo which makes reference to one of Smart's mystic alphabets, a triumphant chorus speaks of the way in which the instruments of music praise God. The final section repeats the quiet "Hallelujah".

Text from *JUBILATE AGNO* by Christopher Smart

CHORUS

Rejoice in God, O ye Tongues; give the glory to the Lord, and the Lamb.
Nations, and languages, and every Creature, in which is the breath of Life.
Let man and beast appear before him, and magnify his name together.
Let Nimrod, the mighty hunter, bind a Leopard to the altar, and consecrate
his spear to the Lord.
Let Ishmael dedicate a Tyger, and give praise for the liberty in which the Lord
has let him at large.
Let Balaam appear with an Ass, and bless the Lord his people and his creatures
for a reward eternal.
Let Daniel come forth with a Lion, and praise God with all his might through
faith in Christ Jesus.
Let Ithamar minister with a Chamois, and bless the name of Him, that cloatheth
the naked.
Let Jakim with the Satyr bless God in the dance.
Let David bless with the Bear—The beginning of victory to the Lord—to the Lord
the perfection of excellence—Hallelujah from the heart of God, and from the hand
of the artist inimitable, and from the echo of the heavenly harp in sweetness
magnifical and mighty.

TREBLE SOLO

For I will consider my Cat Jeoffry.
For he is the servant of the Living God, duly and daily serving him.
For at the first glance of the glory of God in the East he worships in his way.
For this is done by wreathing his body seven times round with elegant quickness.
For he knows that God is his Saviour.
For God has blessed him in the variety of his movements.
For there is nothing sweeter than his peace when at rest.
For I am possessed of a cat, surpassing in beauty, from whom I take occasion to bless
Almighty God.

ALTO SOLO

For the Mouse is a creature of great personal valour.
For—this a true case—Cat takes female mouse—male mouse will not depart,
but stands threat'ning and daring.
..... If you will let her go, I will engage you, as prodigious a creature as you are.
For the Mouse is a creature of great personal valour.
For the Mouse is of an hospitable disposition.

TENOR SOLO

For the flowers are great blessings.
For the flowers have their angels even the words of God's Creation.
For the flower glorifies God and the root parries the adversary.
For there is a language of flowers.
For flowers are peculiarly the poetry of Christ.

CHORUS

For I am under the same accusation with my Saviour—
For they said, he is besides himself.
For the officers of the peace are at variance with me, and the watchman smites me
with his staff.
For Silly fellow! Silly fellow! is against me and belongeth neither to me nor
to my family.
For I am in twelve HARDSHIPS, but he that was born of a virgin shall deliver me
out of all.

RECITATIVE (BASS SOLO) AND CHORUS

For H is a spirit and therefore he is God.
For K is king and therefore he is God.
For L is love and therefore he is God.
For M is musick and therefore he is God.
For the instruments are by their rhimes.
For the Shawm rhimes are lawn fawn moon boon and the like.
For the harp rhimes are sing ring string and the like.
For the cymbal rhimes are bell well toll soul and the like.
For the flute rhimes are tooth youth suit mute and the like.
For the Bassoon rhimes are pass class and the like.
For the dulcimer rhimes are grace place beat heat and the like.
For the Clarinet rhimes are clear seen and the like.
For the trumpet rhimes are sound bound soar more and the like.
For the TRUMPET of God is a blessed intelligence and so are all the instruments in
HEAVEN.
For GOD the father Almighty plays upon the HARP of stupendous magnitude and
melody.
For at that time malignity ceases and the devils themselves are at peace.
For this time is perceptible to man by a remarkable stillness and serenity of soul.

CHORUS

Hallelujah from the heart of God, and from the hand of the artist inimitable,
and from the echo of the heavenly harp in sweetness magnifical and mighty.

For this evening's performance, all the soloists are L.G.S. pupils:-

JAMES WOLSTENHOLME (Treble),

MILES GRAHAM (Alto),

SIMON SCOGGINS (Tenor)

CYRIL ENGMANN (Bass)

Mr. GRAHAM HALL (Percussion)