

*The*  
*Leicester*  
**Bach**  
**Choir**

Music Director  
Richard Laing

**Saturday 13th June 2009**

**7.30pm**

St James the Greater Leicester

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*English* Anthems

*by Joubert, Elgar, Stanford, Wood,  
Purcell, Weelkes, Ireland & Bairstow*

*Psalmfest*  
*by Rutter*

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Mark Batten - *Organ*

Michael Rule - *Organ*

# The Leicester Bach Choir

Welcome to our summer concert, which is as variable as the weather! It explores subtle musical themes expressed in typically English under-statement. We hope you will relish suspensions that only resolve at the last second; be inspired by the pure lines and characteristic harmonies of late twentieth-century religious music; and be energised by Rutter's changing rhythms.



We thank regulars for loyalty in turbulent times, and hope newcomers will enjoy our music. A brief glance towards the next season reveals the Dream of Gerontius on 7th November: that will bring energy and drama to St James the Greater's resonant acoustic. That first concert is immediately followed by a free opportunity to discover the heady pleasures of singing in the middle of a choir: join us on 15th November at Fraser Noble Hall in a BBC-funded project to encourage singing in every region.

The summer break provides time to redesign our website. We aim to make it simpler to find information, to introduce you to some of our singers and musicians, and to let you tell us what about your experience of our concerts.

See you next year.

Jennifer Clegg

*Chair, Leicester Bach Choir*

# English Anthems

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## Psalmfest Rutter

*O Lorde, the maker of al thing* - John Joubert

Psalmfest - John Rutter  
**I** *O be Joyful in the Lord*

*Justorum animae* - Charles Villiers Stanford

Psalmfest  
**II** *I will lift up mine eyes*

Organ Duet: *A Fancy for two to play* - Thomas Tomkins

Psalmfest  
**III** *Praise the Lord, O my soul*

*Expectans Expectavi* - Charles Wood

Psalmfest  
**IV** *The Lord is my Shepherd*

*Hear my prayer, O Lord* - Henry Purcell

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INTERVAL

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Psalmfest  
**V** *Cantate Domino*

*Jesu, the very thought of thee* - Edward Bairstow

Organ Duet: *Variations on an Easter theme* - John Rutter

*The Shower* - Edward Elgar

Psalmfest  
**VI** *The Lord is my light and my salvation*

*Hosanna to the Son of David* - Thomas Weelkes

*Te Deum in F* - John Ireland

Psalmfest  
**VII** *O clap your hands*

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John Joubert (b. 1927)

## *O Lorde, the maker of al thing*

John Joubert was born in Cape Town and in 1946 won a scholarship to study composition at the Royal Academy of Music in London. After holding a lectureship in Music at the University of Hull for twelve years, he was appointed to a lectureship at the University of Birmingham. In 1986 Joubert took early retirement from University teaching to devote more time to composition and he continues to live and work in Birmingham.

Joubert's output includes a considerable amount of church music, and several of his compositions, such as the two carols *Torches* and *There is no Rose*, have achieved considerable popularity. *O Lorde, the maker of al thing* is a setting of words attributed to King Henry VIII as found in *The King's Primer* of 1545. Joubert's atmospheric setting won the Novello Anthem Composition Prize in 1952.

*O Lorde, the maker of al thing,*  
We pray Thee, nowe in this evening  
Us to defende, through Thy mercy,  
From al deceite of our en'my.  
Let neither us deluded be,  
Good Lorde, with dreame or phantasy,  
Our hearte wakyng in Thee Thou kepe,  
That we in sinne fal not on slepe.  
O Father, thoughe Thy blessèd Sonne,  
Grant us this oure petition,  
To whom with the Holy Ghost alwaies,  
In heav'n and yearth be laude and praise.

John Rutter (b. 1945)

## *Psalmfest*

John Rutter was born in London and educated at Highgate School, where a fellow pupil was the composer John Tavener. He read music at Clare College, Cambridge where he was subsequently Director of Music for four years. Since embarking on a career as a freelance composer and conductor in 1979 he has achieved considerable success and is now one of the best-known composers and conductors of choral music of our time (his popular *Shepherd's Pipe Carol* is reputed to have sold over a million copies).

*Psalmfest* is a colourful collection of Psalm settings that were written over a period of some twenty years. The separate movements were brought together in their present form in 1993 and were premiered at the Morton Meyerson Symphony Centre in Dallas by the combined high school choirs of Garland, Texas, conducted by the composer.

## *I O be Joyful in the Lord Psalm 100*

*O be joyful in the LORD*, all ye lands: serve the LORD with gladness,  
and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the LORD he is God; it is he that hath made us,  
and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise;  
be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.

For the LORD is gracious, his mercy is everlasting; and his truth  
endureth from generation to generation.

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852 - 1924)

## *Justorum animae (Op.38, No. 1) Wisdom v 3:1-2a,3b*

The Irish composer Charles Villiers Stanford was organist at Trinity College Cambridge and professor of composition at the Royal College of Music, where his numerous pupils included two other composers on tonight's programme, Ireland and Wood. Though his prolific output includes seven symphonies, nine operas and numerous concertos it is almost solely for his church music and influence as a teacher that he is remembered today.

*Justorum animae* is the first of Stanford's well-known set of three Latin motets that were composed around 1892 and are dedicated to the Trinity College Choir. *Based on a text from the book of The Wisdom of Solomon from the Apocrypha portion of the Bible.*

*Justorum animae* in manu Dei sunt,  
et non tanget illos tormentum mortis.  
Visi sunt oculis insipientium mori,  
illi autem sunt in pace

*Translation supplied by The St. Ann Choir, directed by William Mahrt*

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,  
and the torment of death shall not touch them.  
In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die;  
but they are in peace.

## *Psalmfest* - John Rutter

### *II I will lift up mine eyes Psalm 121*

*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills* : from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh even from the Lord : who hath made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved : and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel : shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord himself is thy keeper : the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;

So that the sun shall not burn thee by day : neither the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil : yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in : from this time forth for evermore.

Praise the Lord, O my soul; while I live will I praise the Lord : yea, as long as I have any being, I will sing praises unto my God.

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## Organ Duet: *A Fancy for two to play*

Thomas Tomkins (1572 - 1656)

The 17th century composer Thomas Tomkins was a Gentleman and later Organist of the Chapel Royal, though he suddenly withdrew from that post around 1628. He subsequently had the misfortune of living in Worcester as organist at the Cathedral when Parliamentary forces captured the city during the Civil War.

This was one of the darkest periods for English church music as religious Puritans sought to do away with virtually all music in church. Like so many instruments across the country the organ was ripped out of the Cathedral and the pipes paraded in the streets.

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## *Psalmfest* - John Rutter

### *III Praise the Lord, O my soul Psalm 146*

*Praise the Lord, O my soul*; while I live will I praise the Lord : yea, as long as I have any being, I will sing praises unto my God.

O put not your trust in princes, nor in any child of man : for there is no help in them.

For when the breath of man goeth forth he shall turn again to his earth : and then all his thoughts perish.

Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help : and whose hope is in the Lord his God;

Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is : who keepeth his promise for ever;

Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong : who feedeth the hungry.

The Lord looseth men out of prison : the Lord giveth sight to the blind.

The Lord helpeth them that are fallen : the Lord careth for the righteous.

The Lord careth for the strangers, he defendeth the fatherless and widow : as for the way of the ungodly, he turneth it upside down.

The Lord thy God, O Sion, shall be King for evermore : and throughout all generations.

## Charles Wood (1866 - 1926)

### *Expectans Expectavi* words by C.R. Sorley (1895-1915)

Charles Wood was born in Armagh and studied at the Royal College of Music with Stanford, whom he later succeeded as professor of music at Cambridge University. His anthem *Expectans Expectavi* was composed in 1919 and is a setting of the final two verses of a war poem by Charles Hampton Sorley written four years earlier. The Latin title of the poem comes from the opening words of Psalm 40: I waited patiently for the Lord. The poem depicts the humble servant standing before God ready to do his service, and Wood's setting rises to a moving climax on the words to thy great service dedicate. As both text and music were written amidst the backdrop of the early years of the First World War these words were soon to have frightening fulfilment, most especially for Sorley who was killed at the battle of Loos in 1915.

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This sanctuary of my soul,  
Unwitting I keep white and whole,  
Unlatch'd and lit, if Thou should'st care  
To enter or to tarry there.

With parted lips and outstretch'd hands,  
And list'ning ears Thy servant stands.  
Call Thou early, call Thou late,  
"to Thy great service dedicate."  
My soul, keep white, and whole.

## *Psalmfest* - John Rutter

*IV The Lord is my Shepherd Psalm 123*

*The Lord is my shepherd* : therefore can I lack nothing.

He shall feed me in a green pasture : and lead me forth beside the waters of  
comfort.

He shall convert my soul : and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for  
his Name's sake.

Yea, thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil :  
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me : thou hast  
anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

## Henry Purcell (1659 – 1695)

*Hear my prayer, O Lord Psalm 102, v.1*

Regarded by many as the greatest English composer of the 17th century, Henry Purcell began his musical career as a chorister at the Chapel Royal before succeeding his teacher John Blow as Organist of Westminster Abbey around 1679. At Westminster Abbey he directed the music for Coronation of James II and the funeral of Queen Mary II. In addition to his post at Westminster Abbey, he also held the position as Organist of the Chapel Royal from 1682.

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Purcell's eight-part setting of *Hear my prayer, O Lord* dating from around 1680 is believed by many scholars to be the first part of a much larger piece that Purcell either failed to complete or has been lost. Nevertheless this remarkable anthem is regarded by many as being one of the great masterpieces of English church music, the most astonishing feature being the remarkable vocal crescendo that culminates on a passionate discord on the last repetition of the word "come".

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

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INTERVAL

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## *Psalmfest* - John Rutter

*V Cantate Domino*

*Cantate Domino canticum novum* O sing unto the lord a new song : sing unto  
the Lord, all the whole earth.

Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name : be telling of his salvation from day  
to day.

Cantate Domino canticum novum

Domino omnis terra

Declare his honour unto the heathen : and his wonders unto all people.

For the Lord is great, and cannot worthily be praised : he is more to be feared  
than all gods.

As for all the gods of the heathen, they are but idols : but it is the Lord that  
made the heavens.

Glory and worship are before him : power and honour are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe unto the Lord the honour due unto his Name : bring presents,  
and come into his courts.

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O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness : let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad : For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth

Veni Creator Spiritus, Mentis tuorum visita

Imple superna gratia, Quae tu creasti

Cantate Domino canticum novum

## Edward Bairstow (1874 – 1946)

*Jesu, the very thought of thee* Book of Common Prayer.

Edward Bairstow was born in Huddersfield and received his training as an articled pupil of Sir Frederick Bridge at Westminster Abbey. After holding appointments at Wigan Parish Church and Leeds Parish Church, he became organist at York Minster from 1913 until his death. Bairstow was also a well-known organ recitalist and in 1923 gave the opening recital on the new Taylor organ here at St James the Greater.

*Jesu, the very thought of thee* is a setting of the first verse of the Latin hymn *Jesu, dulcis memoria* and comes from a collection of three short unaccompanied anthems composed in 1925.

Jesu the very thought of thee  
With sweetness fills my breast  
But sweeter far thy face to see  
And in thy presence rest

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## Organ Duet: *Variations on an Easter theme*

### John Rutter (b. 1945)

John Rutter's *Variations on the Easter Hymn O filii et filiae* for organ duet was commissioned by the American organists Raymond and Elizabeth Chenault and premiered by them at Washington National Cathedral in 1983. The colourful *Variations* explore a wide range of idioms and culminate with a vigorous toccata.

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## Edward Elgar (1857 – 1934)

*The Shower* Op. 71, No. 1, words by Henry Vaughan (1622-1695)

Elgar's evocative setting of Henry Vaughan's poem *The Shower* comes from a set of two choral songs composed in 1914, shortly after Elgar had moved to Hampstead in London following his appointment as conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra.

In their spare time the Elgars had begun to explore the areas to the north of Hampstead, and to several of Edward's part songs he gave subtitles recording the areas he had visited; *The Shower* is subtitled *At Mill Hill*. The song is dedicated to Miss Frances Smart, a former neighbour of the Elgars in Malvern.

Cloud, if as thou dost melt, and with thy train  
Of drops make soft the Earth, my eyes could weep  
O'er my hard heart, that's bound up and asleep;  
Perhaps at last,  
Some such showers past,  
My God would give a sunshine after rain.

## *Psalmfest* - John Rutter

VI *The Lord is my light and my salvation from Psalm 27*

*The Lord is my light and my salvation* ; whom then shall I fear : the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

Though an host of men were laid against me, yet shall not my heart be afraid : and though there rose up war against me, yet will I put my trust in him.

One thing have I desired of the Lord, which I will require : even that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the fair beauty of the Lord, and to visit his temple.

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his tabernacle : yea, in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me, and set me up upon a rock of stone.

Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness : I will sing, and speak praises unto the Lord.

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Hearken unto my voice, O Lord, when I cry unto thee : have mercy upon me,  
and hear me.

My heart hath talked of thee, Seek ye my face : Thy face, Lord, will I seek.

O hide not thou thy face from me : nor cast thy servant away in displeasure.

Thou hast been my succour : leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my  
salvation.

When my father and my mother forsake me : the Lord taketh me up.

Be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart : and put thou thy trust in the Lord..

## Thomas Weelkes (1576 – 1623)

### *Hosanna to the Son of David* Matthew 21, Luke 19

The 17th century composer Thomas Weelkes was organist of Winchester Cathedral and subsequently Chichester Cathedral, a position from which he was briefly suspended being *noted and famed for a common drunckard and notorious swearer and blasphemmer!*

Curiously, Weekles' lively anthem *Hosanna to the Son of David* survives only in a number of secular sources, a fact that has lead some scholars to theorise that it may not have been composed for liturgical use. This theory is supported by the unusual scoring (divided soprano and bass parts against single alto and tenor parts) and use of the unusual Latin phrase *Hosanna in excelsis deo*.

*Hosanna to the Son of David.*

Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, thou that sittest in the highest heavens.

*Hosanna in excelsis Deo.*

## John Ireland (1879 – 1962)

### *Te Deum in F*

John Ireland studied organ with Sir Walter Parratt and composition with Stanford at the Royal College of Music. He held several positions as organist at notable London churches including Holy Trinity, Sloane Street and St Luke's, Chelsea. He subsequently became a teacher at the Royal College of Music where his pupils included Benjamin Britten.

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Ireland's output of church music is relatively small, but almost all of his works, such as the anthem *Greater love* and the hymn tune *My song is love unknown*, have achieved considerable popularity; his majestic setting of the *Te Deum* dates from around 1907.

WE praise thee, O God: we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.

All the earth doth worship thee: the Father everlasting.

To thee all Angels cry aloud: the Heavens, and all the Powers therein.

To thee Cherubin and Seraphin: continually do cry,

Holy, Holy, Holy: Lord God of Sabaoth;

Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty: of thy glory.

The glorious company of the Apostles: praise thee.

The goodly fellowship of the Prophets: praise thee.

The noble army of Martyrs: praise thee.

The holy Church throughout all the world: doth acknowledge thee;

The Father: of an infinite Majesty;

Thine honourable, true: and only Son;

Also the Holy Ghost: the Comforter.

Thou art the King of Glory: O Christ.

Thou art the everlasting Son: of the Father.

When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man: thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.

When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death: thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God: in the glory of the Father.

We believe that thou shalt come: to be our Judge.

We therefore pray thee, help thy servants: whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.

Make them to be numbered with thy Saints: in glory everlasting.

O Lord, save thy people: and bless thine heritage.

Govern them: and lift them up for ever.

Day by day: we magnify thee;

And we worship thy Name: ever world without end.

Vouchsafe, O Lord: to keep us this day without sin.

O Lord, have mercy upon us: have mercy upon us.

O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us: as our trust is in thee.

O Lord, in thee have I trusted: let me never be confounded.

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## *Psalmfest* - John Rutter

*VII O clap your hands Psalm 47 vv 1-7*

*O clap your hands* together, all ye people : O sing unto God with the voice of melody.

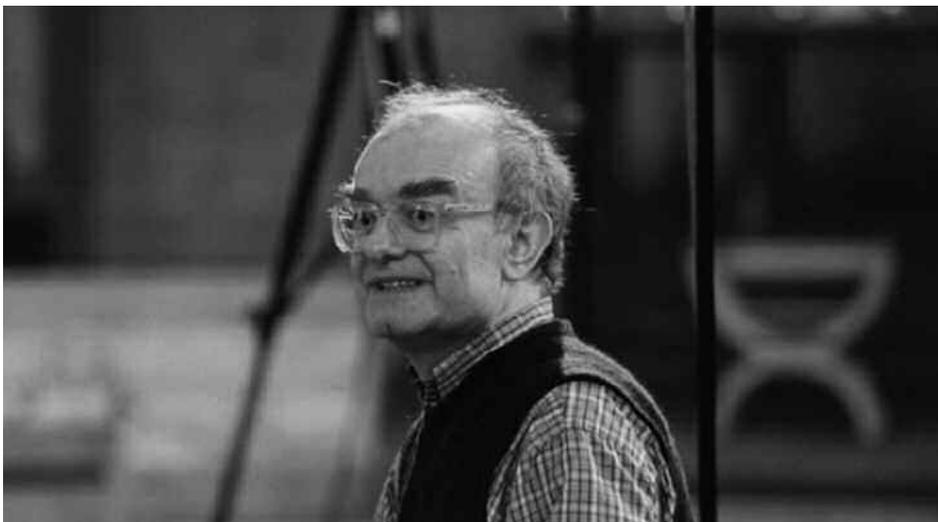
For the Lord is high, and to be feared : he is the great King upon all the earth. He shall subdue the people under us : and the nations under our feet.

He shall choose out an heritage for us : even the worship of Jacob, whom he loved.

God is gone up with a merry noise : and the Lord with the sound of the trump.

O sing praises, sing praises unto our God : O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.

For God is the King of all the earth : sing ye praises with understanding.



John Rutter

Photo: Copyright © The Royal School of Church Music

## Richard Laing -

*music director and conductor*

Richard Laing is Music Director of the Leicester Bach Choir, Nottingham Harmonic Society, Midlands Chorale, Operamus, the Midland Sinfonia, Worcestershire Symphony Orchestra, Lancashire Youth Symphony Orchestra and Leamington Chamber Orchestra, and is a frequent guest conductor with sinfonia ViVA, Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra, Chandos Symphony Orchestra and Queen's Park Sinfonia. Richard was the first ViVA Scholar at the Birmingham Conservatoire where he gained his Master's Degree, Postgraduate Diploma in Conducting and the Postgraduate Prize. Subsequently he was supported by the Foyle Foundation to work intensively on operatic conducting with Diego Masson. Richard has given concerts throughout Europe and has conducted for Kent Opera, Dartington Festival Opera and Birmingham Conservatoire Opera where he works as conductor and coach. Richard is in demand as an adjudicator and leader of orchestral and choral workshops across the UK, and has lectured at universities in America and Australia.



## Mark Batten - *Organ*

Mark Batten was born in Bristol in 1980. He studied at the Junior Organ Conservatoire of London with Ann-Elise Smoot and subsequently at Birmingham Conservatoire where his principal teachers were David Saint, David Bruce-Payne and Douglas Hollick. Whilst at Birmingham Mark held the organ scholarships at St Chad's and St Philip's Cathedrals and was awarded the Conservatoire's Geoffrey Knowles award that enabled him to further his studies with the renowned concert organist David Briggs.

Mark is currently Organist at the church of St James the Greater in Leicester (a post separate from the Director of Music). In this capacity he is responsible for accompanying the well-known choir of men and boys with whom he has broadcast several times on BBC Radio Leicester and appeared on the popular BBC 2 television series *The Choir - Boys Don't Sing*. Alongside his work at St James the Greater Mark directs the Leicester University Chamber Choir and is accompanist to the Leicester Bach Choir. You are warmly invited to visit his website at [www.markbatten.co.uk](http://www.markbatten.co.uk)



## Michael Rule - *Organ*

Michael Rule's career in church music began in 1998 when he first visited the church of St James the Greater, Leicester. Inspired by the skills of the organists of the church and having been a pianist since the age of 4 he commenced organ lessons with Thomas Moore and sang in the choir of the church.

Whilst studying for his degree at Bath Spa University he joined the choir of Bath Abbey. In 2005 he became Organ Scholar and was subsequently appointed Assistant Organist of Christ Church, Bath. He spent 6 months at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick where he took organ as his performance instrument and directed the Chamber Choir.

Since returning to Leicester in 2007, Mike has rejoined the choir and been appointed Assistant Organist at St James. Alongside his work as an organist he is Head of Technology at a Leicester secondary school and from September 2009 he will direct the Leicester University Chamber Choir.

## Sopranos

Laura Ayres	Leah Govier	Eleanor Montgomery
Rosemary Craig	Susan Heggie	Kath Packham
Judith Dorward	Jennie Hever	Hilary Scoppie
Angela Finch	Jane Hoskyns	Jackie White
Eileen Forrester	Jeanette Kinder	

## Altos

Jacquie Burden	Jane Friendship	Yvonne Randle
Ann Burdett	Jean Johnson	Maggie Ridgewell
Dinah Cheney	Diana Jolliffe	Nikki Rivers
Sarah Chinery	Nicki Little	Joan Thomas
Jennifer Clegg	Claire McGinn	Mary Whittaker
Janina Cordes	Claire Morton	Helen Willson

## Tenors

Charles Paterson	David Simpson	Sam Wood
John Rudge	John Tebbutt	

## Basses

Karl Barton	John Comyn	Philip Norwood
Owen Bentley	Tom Hanly	Dirk Tinbergen
Donovan Cattell	Phil Hawkins	Anthony Wilson

# The Leicester Bach Choir

Music Director  
Richard Laing

President  
Joanne Lunn

# The Leicester Bach Choir

Music Director  
Richard Laing

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Details from: Mr. M. Randle, 23 Glebe Road, Groby, Leicester. LE6 0GT

## Further Information

Please visit our website at: [www.leicesterbachchoir.org.uk](http://www.leicesterbachchoir.org.uk)



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## Dates for your diary; our next concerts

**Saturday 7th November 2009**

Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* in St James the Greater, Leicester

**Sunday 15th November 2009**

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**Saturday 12 December 2009**

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