

David Cooke B.A. (hons), B.Mus (hons), ALCM

David studied music at Liverpool and Oxford Universities. He specialised first in the early 16th Century keyboard repertoire, and then in the music of the later Middle Ages.

As an instrumentalist, David studied the trombone, piano and harpsichord. He has also performed widely as a player of several early wind instruments.

In recent years David has conducted productions of several operas including The Magic Flute, La Bohème, and Handel's Semele. He is presently also Musical Director of the Wycombe Philharmonic Choir & Orchestra, the Chiltern Hundreds Bach Choir and the Chorleywood Chamber Orchestra.

Clive & Louise Pearce

We are pleased to welcome to play for us tonight two local guitarists, Clive & Louise Pearce. Clive studied guitar at the City of Leeds College of Music in the mid 80's and since then has worked as a guitar teacher in the South Bucks area. Louise has been playing the classical guitar since she was a teenager and was once a member of the then popular Bromley guitar quartet. Clive & Louise first met on a classical guitar summer school in deepest Lincolnshire in 1987. They started life together as duet partners but things sort of developed and they got married in 1989. Their son Simon is another guitar 'ace' and will be performing at our next concert in July.

Clive and Louise regularly play at weddings and corporate events. For more information, go to www.weddingguitarists.co.uk.

THE DAMON SINGERS

Soprano: Coral Ash, Helen Baker, Helen Cooke, Ann Crisp, Jane Featherstone-Witty, Penny Fray, Cleone Goddard, Rachel Meldrum

Alto: Eleanor Greenhalgh, Madeleine Greenhalgh, Malavika Legge, Louise Pearce, Uli Wright

Tenor: Simon Beattie, Nick Richards, Chris Turner

Baritone: Martin Cunningham, Sebastian Gibbs, Andy Scott

Bass: Roderick Holburn, Patrick Lunt, John Reuter

The Damon Singers are always on the lookout for new recruits... Not that we plan to grow much larger than our current number, but from time to time members move away from the area, or their circumstances change...

If you would like to talk to us, and join us for an evening, please contact the Secretary, Patrick Lunt.

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www.damonsingers.co.uk

Registered charity no. 1118442

JUBILANT SONG



**THE
DAMON
SINGERS**

directed by David Cooke

and

Louise & Clive Pearce (guitars)

All proceeds in aid of

The Walk Centre
NAKURU, KENYA



Holy Trinity Church, Penn Street
Saturday 25th April 2015

JUBILANT SONG

Many Years *Sergei Prokofiev (1891–1953)*
Well known for his ballet, operas, and symphonies, Prokofiev never wrote for the Church. This short acclamation was composed for Eisenstein's 1942 film Alexander Nevsky, a great success with Soviet audiences due to its captivating music.

AT EVENTIDE

The Steady Light

Reginald Unterseher (b.1956)
Unterseher is a contemporary American composer, based in Washington State. He writes of this piece, composed in 2003: 'None of us are who we are without the people who have shown us the way, and we all show the way to those who will follow. We must choose carefully which light to follow, and which we carry. This piece is dedicated to our heroes, those people who made the choice to be the light for us.'

Gentle Light

Aleksandr Kastalsky (1856–1926)
Kastalsky was for many years conductor of the Synodal Choir, and after the Revolution taught at the Moscow Conservatoire. His setting of the ancient hymn Phos Hilaron, from the Orthodox All-night Vigil (often translated in English as 'Hail, gladdening light'), was written in 1904.

Holy is the True Light

Sir William H. Harris (1883–1973)
Harris was director of music at St George's Chapel, Windsor, from 1933 to 1961, and is well known for his church music, notably the sumptuous double-choir *Faire is the heaven*. Here he works on a much smaller scale, the result yet still beautifully crafted: a short anthem for saints' days, with words from the Salisbury Diurnal.

Our Father

Aleksandr Grechaninov (1864–1956)
A favourite of Nicholas II, Grechaninov wrote

much for the Orthodox Church, before finally leaving Russia after the Revolution for France, then America. His setting of the Lord's Prayer dates from 1902.

Guest Guitar Duo

Louise Pearce, Clive Pearce

Hymn to St Cecilia

Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)
Composed during 1941-2 this was the last collaboration between Britten and the poet W H Auden. It continues a long line of musical odes to the patron saint of music, whose feast day is shared with Britten's birthday. The piece is in three sections, plus three iterations of a refrain ("Blessed Cecilia, appear in visions to all musicians, appear and inspire") which, slightly varied, follows each section. The first section, musically similar to the refrain, recalls and transmutes aspects of the saint's life while the second, a fleet-footed scherzo, captures the essence of music. The third section is replete with imagery relating to musical instruments, characterised by a series of short solos. The final refrain is a radiant reminiscence of the Hymn's opening music.

Lessons

Read by Ann Crisp

Grace Mutindi

Siisitira Omwana

Wilberforce Kakoma (1923 - 2012)
arr. David Cooke

Kakoma was the composer of Uganda's national anthem. His lullaby is arranged by our conductor with the kind permission of Barbara Kakoma. Its sentiments are familiar to all parents... "Rock baby, go to sleep. Sleep, sleep, sleep, sleep. When sleep comes you will fall asleep. Thank goodness baby is getting drowsy. Thank goodness baby is falling asleep".

Appeal on behalf of **The Walk Centre**, Nakuru, Kenya

INTERVAL

IN REMEMBRANCE OF WORLD WAR I

A Memory of Gallipoli

Read by Patrick Lunt

A P Herbert

For the Fallen

Douglas Guest (1916–1996)
Guest was Organist at Westminster Abbey from 1963 to 1981, during which time he wrote his setting of Laurence Binyon's famous lines. It has since become a standard piece of repertoire for choirs on Remembrance Sunday.

Break of Day in the Trenches

Read by Ann Crisp

Isaac Rosenberg

'Plorate filii Israel', from Jephthe

Giacomo Carissimi (1605–1674)
Carissimi's oratorio recounts the biblical story of Jephtha who, in return for victory against the Ammonites, pledges to sacrifice to God the first living thing he sees on his return. Nearing home, having defeated the enemy, he is greeted by his own daughter singing in thanksgiving. This final chorus echoes her lament at her imminent and premature death: "Weep, children of Israel, cry all virgins, and raise a sad lament for Jephtha's only child, with a song of sorrow."

Timothy Winters

Read by Malavika Legge

Charles Causley

A Jubilant Song

René Clausen (b.1953)
Tonight is the first time the Damons have sung anything by Clausen, a professor of music at Concordia College in Minnesota and a popular choral composer. This piece, from which our concert takes its title, sets words from the poem *A Song of Joys* by Walt Whitman, and was written in 1993.

Guest Guitar Duo

Louise Pearce, Clive Pearce

Blue Moon *Richard Rodgers (1902–1979),*
arr. David Blackwell

A classic song, written in 1934 when Rodgers was still working with the lyricist Lorenz Hart.

Birthday Madrigals

John Rutter (b.1945)
Rutter wrote his five Birthday Madrigals to celebrate the 75th birthday of the great jazz pianist, George Shearing, in 1995. Tonight we perform the last two in the set, '**My true love hath my heart**' and '**When daisies pied**'. The words of the first come from Sir Philip Sidney's great *Arcadia* (1590); those of the second are from Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost*, with an additional verse from *The Old Wives Tale* (1595) by George Peele.

Let's do it

Cole Porter (1891–1964)
arr. David Blackwell

The amours of impoverished Argentinians and cold Cape Cod clams: a favourite ever since it helped Cole Porter achieve his first Broadway success, *Paris*, in 1928.

The Keel Row

Trad, arr. John Byrt (b. 1939)
The Keel Row evokes the life and work of the keelmen of Newcastle upon Tyne who worked on large, shallow-draughted boats ferrying coal along the river to waiting collier ships. It was first published in 1770, but may be considerably older. The keelmen lived in the Sandgate area, one of the poorest and most overcrowded parts of the city. John Wesley, after visiting Newcastle, described them as much given to drunkenness and swearing. Most unlike the Damon Singers...

Programme notes by
Simon Beattie & Martin Cunningham

Future Damons concerts

Pudding Concert 11th July 2015
United Reformed Church, Chesham

Christmas Concert 13th December
White Hill Centre, Chesham