

First some music, then puddings. The choral items range from the 16th to the 21st century, including songs by Elgar, Holst, Rutter, Cole Porter, and more. Our friends and guest duo The GillyBillies will provide instrumental tunes, and we hope you'll enjoy the readings by choir members. The concert will be presented by Ann Crisp.

All Creatures now are merry-minded

John Bennet (fl.1599–1614)

In 1601, Thomas Morley, the foremost composer of the English Madrigal School, compiled and published *The Triumphes of Oriana*, a collection of 25 pieces by himself and his contemporaries in honour of Elizabeth I. This ebullient contribution comes from John Bennet who, though he only published one collection of his own madrigals (in 1599), is regarded as one of the most wide-ranging English composers of his generation.

Music, all powerful

Thomas Forbes Walmisley (1783–1866)

My love dwelt in a Northern land and *As torrents in summer* Edward Elgar (1857–1934)

Walmisley was organist of St Martin-in-the-Fields, 1814–54, during which time he published over 50 glees (a part-song of the period for three or more voices, set to words of any character, often with two or more contrasted movements), *Music, all powerful* among them. Elgar's part-songs come from the other end of the 19th century, and set verse by Andrew Lang and Henry Longfellow. *My love dwelt in a Northern land*, written for Tenbury Musical Society, was Elgar's first published part-song (1890); *As torrents in summer* comes from his dramatic cantata *Scenes from the Saga of King Olaf* (1896).

Reading by Malavika Legge

Guest Duo: The GillyBillies

Birthday Madrigals

John Rutter (b.1945)

No. 1 *It was a lover and his lass*

No. 4 *My true love hath my heart*

No. 5 *When daisies pied*

John Rutter wrote his five *Birthday Madrigals* to celebrate the 75th birthday of the great jazz pianist, George Shearing, in 1995. Tonight we perform three from the set. The words come from *As You Like It*; Sir Philip Sidney's great *Arcadia* (1590); and *Love's Labour's Lost*, with an additional verse from *The Old Wives Tale* (1595) by George Peele.

Reading by Ann Crisp

Bonny at Morn

Northumbrian folksong, arr. Jeremy Summerly

The Hawthorn Tree

arr. Ty Kroll after Gustav Holst (1874–1934)

Two contrasting folksong arrangements: the first part lullaby, part reproach to a lazy son, the second a jaunty fusion of two popular tunes (listen out for the second one, which you should

recognise) which Holst originally wrote as part of his *Second Suite for Military Band* in 1911. This rearrangement for voices is taken from the final movement of the *Suite*, 'Fantasia on the Dargason', a 16th-century English dance tune.

Guest Duo: The GillyBillies

<i>Miss Otis Regrets</i>	Cole Porter (1891–1964), arr. Martin Pickard
<i>The Girl from Ipanema</i>	Antônio Carlos Jobim (1927–1994), arr. Bertie Rice
<i>Goodnight, Sweetheart</i>	Calvin Carter (1925–1986) & James Hudson (1934–2007), arr. Kirby Shaw

Lastly, three hit songs from three different decades. Porter's (1934) is a parody of a cowboy's lament, but featuring a society lady instead of a country girl. 'Garota de Ipanema', Jobim's bossa nova from 1962, is one of the most recorded songs of all time. 'Pookie' Hudson was the lead singer with The Spaniels, one of the best doo-wop groups of the Fifties, with whom he recorded *Goodnight, Sweetheart* in 1954. It rose up the charts at the time and has remained popular, in endless cover versions, ever since.

Dates for your diary:

8 December 2019

Christmas Concert

'A Rose in Winter'

7.30 pm

White Hill Centre, Chesham HP5 1AG

25 April 2020

Spring Concert

St Mary's Church, Chesham HP5 1HY

The Damon Singers

Chesham's local choir since 1957, the Damon Singers were founded "To sing for pleasure, for others and ourselves". We now have over 30 members, from different musical and professional backgrounds, who enjoy coming together on Wednesday evenings to rehearse for three or so performances a year. We sing a varied repertoire of *a cappella* choral music, ranging from medieval polyphony to pop songs and pretty much anything in between!

We don't intend to get any bigger, but from time to time vacancies do arise. If you'd like to consider singing with us, please contact Jane Featherstone-Witty on 01494 762232.

THE GILLYBILLIES

Bill and Barbara McGillivray are professional musicians from Wendover who have had long and interesting careers in London, he as a session guitarist and singer and she as a classical and music theatre singer. They formed the GillyBillies three years ago as a hobby and to raise money for charities in the UK, each of them learning a new instrument which helps to keep the brain alive! Their music is a happy mixture of Celtic romps, and popular folksongs with a European flavour.

Bill and Barbara met whilst recording an album in 1977 and subsequently worked together as writers and performers. They married in 1984 and started to work mostly in the West End for Andrew Lloyd Webber on his shows *Cats* and *Starlight Express*. Barbara also became a recording artist in her own right whilst also singing on the albums of such artists as Alan Parsons, Roxy Music, Chris de Burgh and many others. Bill (who likewise sang on many of these projects) was working as a guitarist in London and has played for Neil Diamond and Paul McCartney amongst others.

DAVID COOKE BA (Hons), BMus (Hons), ALCM

David studied music at Liverpool and Oxford Universities. As an instrumentalist, he studied the trombone, piano, and harpsichord. He has also performed widely as a player of several early wind instruments. As well as the Damon Singers, David is currently Musical Director of the Wycombe Philharmonic Choir & Orchestra.

THE DAMON SINGERS

Soprano

Helen Baker, Helen Cooke, Ann Crisp, Jane Featherstone-Witty, Dorothy Freedman, Sophie Hamilton, Claire Hunter, Rachel Meldrum, Kate Pickup

Alto

Katie Francis, Lily Jordan, Malavika Legge, Marianne Michael, Louise Pearce, Liz Sheppard, Madeleine Symes, Karen van Oostrum, Uli Wright

Tenor

Simon Beattie, David Freedman, Duncan Passey, Chris Turner

Baritone

Martin Cunningham, Andy Scott, Paul Sheppard

Bass

Sebastian Gibbs, David Harmer, Roderick Holburn