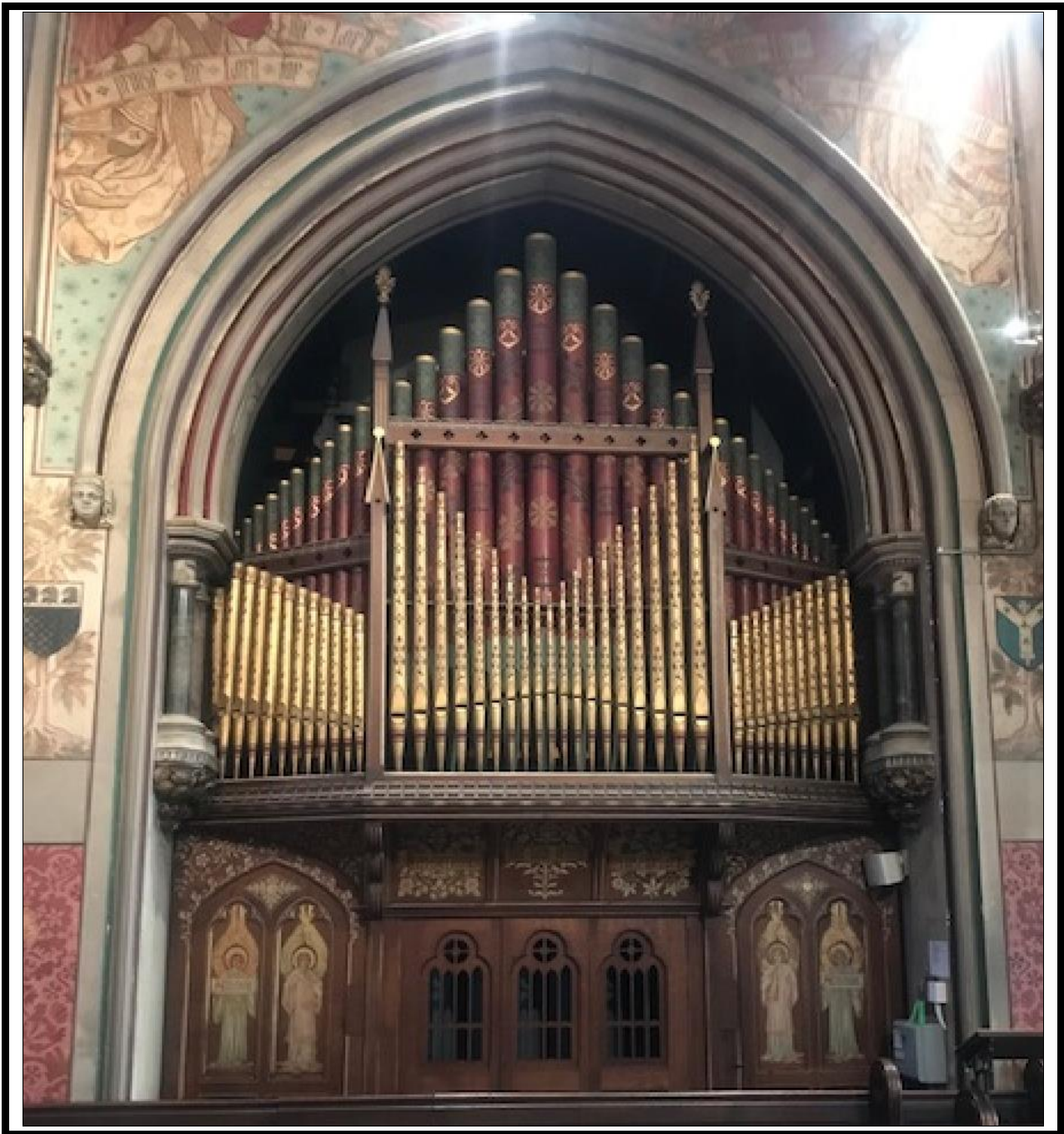

ST MARY'S CHURCH BROMLEY
ORGAN RECITAL
&
Quartet Singers

~ Rutter ~ Harris ~ Bach ~ John ~ Berlin ~ Ball ~ Mathias ~

~ *Astri Mi Astri* ~ *Sicut Cervus* ~ *God so loved the World* ~
~ *Locus Iste* ~ *The Long Day Closes* ~



~~ 8th May 2022 ~~

~ Organ Recital ~
Programme

Session 1

Organist/Saxophonist: Alfie Beston

1. *Toccata In Seven*..... **John Rutter.**

2. *Prelude*..... **William Harris.**

3. *3rd Movement in C minor Bach Trio Sonata (BWV593).* **J S Bach.**

4. *Can You Feel The Love Tonight (Sax)*.....**Elton John.**

5. *Check to Check (Sax)*.....**Irving Berlin.**

6. *Elegy*.....**Thomas Thalben Ball.**

7. *Fanfare*.....**William Mathias.**

~ Interval ~

Teas, Coffees and Cakes

~ **Quartet Singers** ~
Programme.

Session 2

Singers: Asti Quartet

1. ***Astri Mi Astri***..... Norwegian Folk Song, arr. Knut Nystedt

2. ***Sicut Cervus***...Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c. 1525-1594)

3. ***God So Loved the World***..... Sir John Stainer (1840 – 1901)

4. ***Locus Iste***..... Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

5. ***The Long Day Closes***..... Sir Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

The End.

Session 1

Composers' notes on Recital Music

John Milford Rutter (b. 1945)

John Rutter is an English composer, conductor, editor, arranger, and record producer, mainly of choral music. Born in London, the son of an industrial chemist and his wife, Rutter grew up living over the Globe pub on London's Marylebone Road. He then read music at Clare College, Cambridge, where he was a member of the choir. While still an undergraduate, he had his first compositions published, including the "Shepherd's Pipe Carol" which he had written aged 18. He served as director of music at Clare College from 1975 to 1979 and led the choir to international prominence. He has composed or arranged many Christmas carols.

John Rutter's **Toccata in Seven** offers a lively new take on the toccata. The music moves from a jubilant opening to a more sustained central section before the initial sprightliness returns in a final flourish.

Sir William Henry Harris (1883-1973)

William Henry Harris was an English organist, choral trainer and composer, affectionately nicknamed "Doc H" by his choristers. Harris was born in Fulham, London and became a chorister at Holy Trinity, Tulse Hill. At the age of 14, he took up a "flexible" position as assistant organist at St David's Cathedral in Wales under Herbert Morris, followed at 16 by a scholarship to the Royal College of Music. Harris was organist at St Augustine's Church, Edgbaston from 1911 to 1919 and concurrently assistant organist at Lichfield Cathedral. A move to Oxford in 1919 saw him take up organist positions successively at New College and in 1929 Christ Church, Oxford.

In 1933 he was appointed organist at St George's Chapel, Windsor in succession to Charles Hylton Stewart. There, he was at his most productive: composing for the Three Choirs Festival, conducting at both the 1937 and 1953 coronations, and producing two orchestral pieces premiered at The Proms: the overture *Once Upon a Time* (1940) and the ***Heroic Prelude*** (1942).

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 -1750)

Johann Sebastian Bach was a German composer and musician of the late Baroque period. He is known for his orchestral music such as the Brandenburg Concertos; instrumental compositions such as the Cello Suites; keyboard works such as the Goldberg Variations and The Well-Tempered Clavier; organ works such as the Schübler Chorales and the Toccata and Fugue in D minor; and vocal music such as the St Matthew Passion and the Mass in B minor. Since the 19th-century Bach Revival, he has been generally regarded as one of the greatest composers in the history of Western music.

From 1703 he worked in Thuringia as a musician for Protestant churches in Arnstadt and Mühlhausen and, for longer stretches of time, at courts in Weimar, where he expanded his organ repertory, and Köthen, where he was mostly engaged with chamber music.

From 1723 he was employ as Thomaskantor (cantor at St. Thomas) in Leipzig.

He composed music for the principal Lutheran churches of the city, and for its university's student ensemble Collegium Musicum. From 1726 he published some of his keyboard and organ music. In the last decades of his life he reworked and extended many of his earlier compositions. He died of complications after eye surgery in 1750 at the age of 65.

Sir Elton Hercules John (b. 1947)

Elton John (born Reginald Kenneth Dwight) is an English singer, pianist and composer. Commonly nicknamed the "Rocket Man" after his 1972 hit single of the same name, John has led a commercially successful career as a solo artist since the 1970s, having released 31 albums since 1969. Collaborating with lyricist Bernie Taupin since 1967, John is acclaimed by critics and musicians, particularly for his work during the 1970s, and his lasting impact on the music industry

Can You Feel the Love Tonight is a song from Disney's 1994 animated film The Lion King composed by Elton John with lyrics by Tim Rice. At the 67th Academy Awards in March 1995 it won the Academy Award for Best Original Song. The same year the song also won Elton John the Grammy Award for Best Male Pop Vocal Performance.

Irving Berlin (1888-1989)

Irving Berlin was a Russian American composer and lyricist, widely considered as one of the greatest songwriters in history. His music forms a huge part of the Great American Songbook.

He wrote hundreds of songs, many becoming major hits, which made him famous before he turned thirty. During his 60-year career he wrote an estimated 1,500 songs, including the scores for 20 original Broadway shows and 15 original Hollywood films, with his songs nominated eight times for Academy Awards. Many songs became popular themes and anthems, including "Alexander's Ragtime Band", "Easter Parade", "Puttin' on the Ritz", "Cheek to Cheek", "White Christmas", "Happy Holiday", "Anything You Can Do (I Can Do Better)" and "There's No Business Like Show Business"

Cheek to Cheek is an all-singing, all-dancing celebration of one of the most famous songs that Irving Berlin composed for the silver screen. Irving Berlin understood the impact dance had on the public and his melodies, rhythms, and lyrics reflected his love of that art form.

Sir George Thomas Thalben-Ball (1896 – 1987)

George Thomas Ball (he later took the additional name of "Thalben") was an Australian organist and composer who spent almost all his life in England. Born in Sydney, Australia where his parents had gone for business. Both parents were of Cornish origin. He studied organ and piano at the Royal College of Music (RCM) in London, which he entered at the unusually young age of 14. The level of his talent can be gleaned from the fact that he played the solo part in the first performance by an English-trained pianist of Rachmaninoff's famously difficult Piano Concerto No 3. This event occurred in 1915 at the RCM, when he was aged 19.

Thalben-Ball composed several anthems and organ works, of which the best known is his meditative ***Elegy*** for organ, which was played, for example, at the Funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. This piece originated in an improvisation which Thalben-Ball played at the end of a live BBC daily religious service during World War II, when the service finished a couple of minutes earlier than expected. So many listeners to the broadcast telephoned the BBC to ask what the composition was, that he decided to write down his improvisation as well as he could remember it. He compiled, in addition, a complete set of chants for the psalms, most of them being his own work; this set was published as *The Choral Psalter*.

William James Mathias (1934 – 1992)

William Mathias was a Welsh composer noted for choral works, born in Whitland, Carmarthenshire. A child prodigy, he started playing the piano at the age of three and began composing at an early age, studying first at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, taking his BMus with first-class honours, and subsequently on an Open Scholarship in composition at the Royal Academy of Music. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music in 1965, and gained the DMus of the University of Wales in 1966.

From 1970-1988 he was Professor and Head of the Music Department at the University College of North Wales, Bangor. He was known as a conductor and pianist, and gave or directed many premières of his own works. In 1972 he founded the North Wales Music Festival at St Asaph Cathedral and remained its artistic director until his death.

Alfie Beston – Organists/Saxophonist

Alfie Beston is fifteen-year-old student with an amazing talent for playing the organ and saxophone.

He is the lead Alto at the National Youth Jazz Orchestra Academy Big Band and last year won the Norman Trotman Music competition. He completed his “Diploma in Jazz Saxophone” 4 years ago. Alfie spent three years as a chorister at the Queen’s Chapel of the Savoy under the direction of Phillip Berg and while spent there was fascinated by the music. In 2020, Alfie left Queen’s Chapel to continue his expand his skills as an organist under the tutelage Doug Blew. Alfie has played for Sunday Services in different Churches and have recently started playing as one of the organists at St Marys Church Bromley. Alfie has a huge interest in composition in all genres and have written big band compositions for NYJO, 2 Te Deums and various other pieces and arrangements. He enjoys co-ordinating and producing music videos with other musicians and has made videos featuring friends from NYJO and professional musicians from around the world. Alfie is a talented young musician who has shown much enthusiasm to study different genres and compositions in the future and continue to immerse myself in music.

Session 2

Quartet Singers Lyrics

Astri Mi Astri..Knut Nystedt (Norwegian Folk Song)

Astri mi Astri som eine helt tå meg,
denti du va' meg so inder lig go
den ti du gret kvar ein gang eg gikk frå deg
Som va' kvar laurdagskveld mins du det no

Då va' eg bygdis den sælaste gut
Inkje eg byte mæ prest eller fut
Da va' eg bygdis den sælaste gut
Inkje eg byte mæ prest eller fut

Den ti du helt uta Astri åleine
Då inkje Svanaug và venre fe deg
Den ti du va' no so snegge på beine,
Då du kvar laurdagskveld ila te meg:

nkje mæ skrivarens dotter ha' eg
Dengangje bytta sku' eg mista deg
Inkje mæ skrivarens dotter ha' eg
Dengangje bytta sku' eg mista deg

Men om eg skulle no Svanaug forlate
Å om eg kom ho 'kje meire ihug
å om eg skulle te deg koma atte
om eg te Astri igjen sku' få hug

Om eg no banna, at eg blei deg tru
Astri mi Astri! Hot svara då du?
Om eg no banna, at eg blei deg tru
Astri, mi Astri! Hot svara då du

Venar held soli, som glaer bakom fjølle
De æ han Torgrim, kan eg segja deg
Å du æ' argar held villaste trolle
Falskar held skome på vatne mot meg
Men eg æ likvæl di trugnaste møy
Bare mæ deg vil eg liva å døy
Men eg æ likvæl di trugnaste møy
Bare mæ deg vil eg liva å døy

Ubi Caritas.....Ola Gjelo, (born 1978)

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero*

*Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.*

Sicut Cervus.....Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594)

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum,
ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks
So longeth my soul after thee, O God.

God So Loved the World.....Sir John Stainer (1840 – 1901)

God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoso believeth, believeth in Him
should not perish, should not perish
but have everlasting life.

For God sent not His Son into the world
to condemn the world.
But that the world through Him might be saved

Locus Iste.....Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)

Locus iste a Deo factus est
Inaestimabile sacramentum
Irreprehensibilis est.
This place was made by God
An inestimable mystery
It is irreproachable.

The Long Day Closes.....Sir Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

No star is o'er the lake
Its pale watch keeping
The moon is half awake
Through grey mist creeping
The last red leaves fall round
The porch of roses
The clock hath ceased to sound
The long day closes

Sit by the silent hearth
In calm endeavour
To count the sounds of mirth
Now dumb for ever
Heed not how hope believes
And fate disposes:
Shadow is round the eaves
The long day closes

The lighted windows dim
Are fading slowly
The fire that was so trim
Now quivers lowly
Go to the dreamless bed
Where grief reposes;
Thy book of toil is read
The long day closes

The Astri quartet was formed in 2018 and has sung in a number of concerts at St Mary's since then, including the "Lest we forget" concert commemorating the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War in November 2018 and a number of Evensong services and Sunday afternoon recitals.

Quartet members:

Soprano – Catherine Andrews

Alto – Catrin Barker

Tenor – Ben James

Bass - Will Kendal