



# The London Festival of Contemporary Church Music

Friday 13 May 2022, 5.45pm  
St Pancras Parish Church

## **“The Clouded Heaven”: Choral Music by Judith Bingham**

University College London Chamber Choir  
Luca Pellegrino *organ*  
Charles Peebles *direction*

# Programme

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<i>Michael Cryne</i>	Ave maris stella
<i>Hugh Wood</i>	This is the Record of John
<i>Grace-Evangeline Mason</i>	A Song of Christ's Glory

## *Choral music of Judith Bingham*

Prayer

The Lord to me a Shepherd is

Epiphany

The Clouded Heaven

Today's concert recognises the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of Judith Bingham with a sequence of four short choral works with organ. She is one of the country's most distinguished composers having also been a much respected singer and member of the BBC Singers. Whilst background and professional history might naturally cause attention to veer in the direction of choral works, such as those we will hear in this programme, she has been very active in all the major fields of composition.

## Composer Biographies

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### Judith Bingham

Born in Nottingham in 1952, Judith Bingham studied composition and singing at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Her composition studies with Alan Bush and Eric Fenby were later supplemented by lessons from Hans Keller. She was awarded the Principal's prize in 1971 and, six years later, the BBC Young Composer award. Other composition prizes include the Barlow Prize for a cappella music (2004) and three British Composer Awards (two in 2004, one in 2006). She was made a Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music in 2007.

Her first commissions, in the 1970s, were from The Finchley Children's Music Group, The King's Singers, and Peter Pears, but she also wrote 4 pieces for the newly formed Songmaker's Almanac, and a string of chamber works for, amongst others, the New London Consort; she was one of the first composers to write contemporary music for medieval instruments. In 1983, she joined The BBC Singers as a full time member of the chorus and toured extensively with them, singing many solo parts. She left the group at the end of 1995 to concentrate on her activities as a composer, though she continued to sing professionally for some years.

Judith has enjoyed a long association with The BBC Singers, both as a singer and as a formal Composer in Association. On first joining the group she wrote a series of choral works, many of them based on texts compiled from disparate sources as an integral part of the compositional process. Several of these were for The BBC Singers, but there were also pieces for other professional, amateur and collegiate choirs, including *Salt in the Blood*, written for the BBC Symphony Chorus to perform at the 1995 Proms, a *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis* for King's College, Cambridge, and diverse anthems and church works for St John's College, Cambridge, the cathedrals of Winchester and Lichfield, and Westminster Abbey.

Judith has been involved in many education projects, with the LSO, the BBC Philharmonic, and the BBC Young Composer of the Year. Recent premieres include *Les Saintes Maries de la Mer*, a new piece for girl's voices commissioned by the City of London Festival and first performed by the combined girls' choirs of Southwark and Guildford Cathedral, in Southwark Cathedral, London.

## Michael Cryne

Michael Cryne is a British composer based in London and Copenhagen. He completed doctoral study in composition under the supervision of Mark Bowden and Helen Grime at Royal Holloway, University of London. His work includes acoustic and electro-acoustic compositions. He is a graduate of both London Symphony Orchestra Panufnik (2014 - 15) and London Philharmonic Orchestra Leverhulme (2015 - 16) young composer schemes, and was selected for the 2017 - 18 PRS Accelerate scheme, writing *As Kingfishers Catch Fire* for the Berkeley ensemble. He was the winner of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra's 2017 - 18 Composers Hub scheme, and the orchestra gave the premier of *Open the Eastern Windows* in November 2018.

Other recent works include *Frost Flower* for the Laefer Quartet, *Celia's Toyshop* for the Riot Ensemble, *In Cloud Light* for Psappha Ensemble, *Slipstream* for Ruthless Jabiru (as part of Sound and Music's portfolio scheme), *Prism* for the Molinari String Quartet, and *Tendrils* for the Kaleidoscope saxophone quartet. His work has also been performed and recorded by cellist Laura Moody, saxophonist Ian Dingle, and pianist Zubin Kanga.

He spent a substantial portion of his early career working in the theatre, writing music for more than two dozen plays and working as a musical director and supervisor.

## Grace Evangeline-Mason

Grace-Evangeline Mason is a composer of orchestral, chamber, choral, electronic and operatic music based in the UK. Described as having a “keen ear for musical texture - from dreamy hazes of electronic sound to sumptuous choral writing” (BBC), Mason creates ethereal sound-worlds often inspired by art, poetry and literature to take a listener on a narrative journey. Her music has been performed as part of the BBC Proms, broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and BBC Radio 4, and at venues both across the UK and internationally.

She has worked with ensembles and artists including members of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Manchester Camerata, BBC singers, Trio Atem, Royal Northern Sinfonia, London Early Opera, Aurora Orchestra and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra’s new music group, Ensemble 10:10, in venues across the UK and internationally. Her music has been performed at festivals including the New Music North West Festival, the Open Circuit Festival, Cheltenham Music Festival, Southbank SoundState Festival, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Connecticut, and the BBC Proms.

Mason is the recipient of awards including the BBC Proms Inspire Young Composer of the Year (2013), the Rosamond Prize (2016), the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra’s Christopher Brooks Prize (2017) and the Royal Philharmonic Society Composition Prize (2018).

She studied Composition at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, before undertaking postgraduate study at the University of Oxford and the Royal Academy of Music, London.

## Hugh Wood

British composer Hugh Wood was born at Parbold, Lancashire, in 1932. His mother had been Frank Merrick’s first piano pupil in Manchester: both his father and his elder brother were actively fond of music. He thus had a musical upbringing, but it was only after graduating from Oxford that he decided to pursue composition, moving to London in 1954 to study with William Lloyd Webber, Anthony Milner, Iain Hamilton, and Mátyás Seiber.

Wood taught music at Morley College (1958-67), the Royal Academy of Music (1962-65), the universities of Glasgow (1966-70), Leeds (1975-6), Liverpool (1971-5) and finally Cambridge where he was appointed University Lecturer and became a Fellow and Director of Studies in Music at Churchill College in 1977. He retired from these posts in 1999.

Sometimes violently expressionistic, sometimes poignantly lyrical, Wood's music is powerfully communicative and intensely felt, though even when creating lighter moods his writing is equally eloquent. His large scale orchestral works are amongst his most striking.

His instrumental output includes *Scenes from Comus* which marked his first appearance at the Proms in 1965; the *Symphony*, which took eight years to write, also appeared first at a Prom concert in 1982. Wood's first commission from the BBC - one of many - was his first String Quartet, premiered at Cheltenham on 5 July 1962. The Second and Fourth Quartets were commissioned by the BBC for performance in 1970 and 1993 and the third was premiered at the Bath Festival in 1978. He composed a number of Trios, for various forces: a Piano Trio in 1984; a Horn Trio (Koussevitzky Award) in 1989 and a Clarinet Trio in 1997. There is also a Quintet (Op. 9) for clarinet, horn and piano trio (1967), a *Paraphrase on Bird of Paradise* for clarinet and piano (1985), *Poem* for violin and piano which was premiered in 1994, when Wood was featured composer in the PLG Young Artists series, and a Clarinet Quintet (2007).

Wood's choral music includes *Three Choruses* for the John Alldis Choir (1966), *The Kingdom of God* for St Paul's Cathedral Choir, and a work for The BBC Singers, *From the Pisan Cantos*, premiered at Cheltenham in July 2012. Accompanied choral works included the *Cantata* (Op. 30) and *Tenebrae*, a setting of poems by Geoffrey Hill. His songs include *Song Cycle to Poems by Pablo Neruda* (1974) which sets chamber-orchestral forces against a solo voice, and *Beginnings*, a re-working of three early songs for mezzo-soprano and string orchestra which was first performed at Presteigne Festival in 2010.

## Performer Biographies

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### University College London Chamber Choir

*Soprano* Lottie Craven Anika Jayanth Sofia Paoli  
Amy Winterbottom Adithi Harikrishnan

*Alto* Annabel Butler Maria Khokhar  
Madeline Moffitt Ursula Perry Will Tallentire

*Tenor* Magnus Cameron Rafael De Menezes Luca Pellegrino

*Bass* Nicholas Backhouse Rory Benton Euan Chalmers Matthew Gilchrist

UCL Chamber Choir is part of UCLU Music Society, the student music making body of University College London. The society also includes a large chorus, a symphony orchestra and University College Opera, Britain's most high profile student opera

company, which celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a highly acclaimed production of Weber's *Die Drei Pintos*, followed by the first staging since the eighteenth century of Rameau's *Acante et Cephise*.

The Chamber Choir consists of some of the most experienced ensemble singers in the student community and sings a repertoire ranging from programmes of Vivaldi, Pergolesi, and Charpentier to folk music and contemporary repertoire. Notable recent performances include Mozart's *Requiem* with the London Mozart Players, performances of Handel's *Messiah* in aid of University College Opera, featured performances in the ITV series *William and Mary*, and a widely admired production of Rousseau's *Le Devin du village* as part of the international Rousseau conference held at UCL earlier in 2018.

## Charles Peebles

Charles Peebles studied at Cambridge University, the Guildhall and as a Conducting Fellow at Tanglewood. He has conducted, amongst others, the City of London Sinfonia, City of Birmingham Symphony, BBC Singers, Bournemouth Sinfonietta, English Chamber Orchestra, London Mozart Players, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Nash Ensemble, Northern Sinfonia, Royal Philharmonic and BBC Symphony Orchestras. In 1992 he won 1st Cadaques International Conducting Competition in Spain and has since conducted virtually every major Spanish orchestra including Orquesta Nacional de Espana. He has conducted extensively throughout Europe including engagements with the Vienna Chamber Orchestra in Vienna, Bruckner's 9th Symphony with the Latvian National Symphony in Riga, concerts in Turkey, including with the Presidential Symphony and concerts with the National Symphony of Mexico. He has recorded for Hyperion and Largo records.

In the field of opera he conducted many productions of a wide repertoire for English Touring Opera, Holland Park Opera and Broomhill, Mozart's *Così fan tutte* for the Glyndebourne Tour, and a critically acclaimed series of Rossini opera productions for Garsington Opera. Charles conducted Mozart's *Don Giovanni* for the Bavarian State Opera in Munich in 2001 and 2002. He made his Far East debut in a televised concert with the distinguished tenor Jose Cura. Recent opera has included *Carmen* and *Hansel and Gretel* for the St Magnus Festival. Since 2001 Charles has been Music Director of University College Opera where he has conducted operas by Berlioz, Mendelssohn, Schubert, Schumann, Weber, Donizetti, Verdi, Rimsky-Korsakov and Offenbach as well as the British premieres of Hahn's *Ciboulette*, Dvorak's *Vanda*, Lalo's *Fiesque*, Bloch's *Macbeth*, and the first staging since the eighteenth century of Rameau's *Acante et Cephise*.

In the current season, Charles conducts the orchestras of the English National Opera and the Scottish Opera, and records with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic. He was created an Honorary Fellow of UCL in 2012.

More events this week at  
The London Festival of Contemporary Church Music

**Saturday 14 May**

7.30pm **“Dazzling Light”: Choral Music for 40 Voices: Concert**

*This event is ticketed. Book online at [lfccm.com/tickets](http://lfccm.com/tickets)*

A stunning programme of ancient and modern repertoire for large-scale choirs performed by The Lacock Scholars, featuring the iconic *Spem in alium* by Thomas Tallis, the ethereal *Ecce beatam lucem* by Alessandro Striggio, and contemporary works for 40-part choirs by David Bednall, Gabriel Jackson, and Alec Roth.

**Sunday 15 May**

10.00am Choral Eucharist

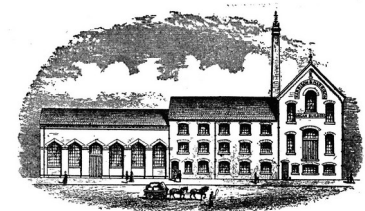
*with music by* Tim Ambler, Nicholas O’Neill, Stuart Rea, Jonathan Dove, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Paul Davis

6.00pm Choral Evensong

*with music by* Janet Wheeler, Christopher Batchelor, Gregory Rose, Elliott Park, Sebastian Forbes, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Cecilia McDowall



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The London Festival of Contemporary Church Music was founded in 2002 with the aim of showcasing contemporary liturgical music in both service and concert. Now in its twentieth year, the LFCCM has grown to include nearly 60 events, dozens of composers, hundreds of performers, and thousands of audience members, both live and online.

[www.lfccm.com](http://www.lfccm.com)