

# Hailsham Choral Society St Mary's Church



## John Stainer *The Crucifixion*

Conductor: Jozik Kotz

Accompanist: William Hancock

Tenor: Robert Wicks

Bass: Graham Keeley

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7:00pm

Hailsham Choral Society is  
a Registered Charity  
No: 1100408

[www.hailshamchoral.org](http://www.hailshamchoral.org)

  
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## John Stainer (1840-1901) and *The Crucifixion*

John Stainer was one of the most distinguished British musicians of the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. He was renowned for his scholarship, particularly in the field of early music, and for his abilities as an organist and choir trainer. In 1872, he was appointed organist at St Paul's Cathedral, where he set about raising performance standards and expanding the repertoire. He was regarded as one of the foremost composers of church music of his day and was closely involved in the compilation of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. As well as writing several books and editing a number of music publications, Stainer became Professor of Music at Oxford, served as a General Inspector of Music Education, and held presidencies of several professional bodies. Nowadays, most of this enterprise is forgotten and he is largely remembered for *The Crucifixion* and perhaps a few anthems and hymns.



In 1873, Stainer introduced Bach's *St Matthew Passion* into the music for Holy Week at St Paul's. Although such a work was well within Stainer's abilities and resources, he knew it was beyond the scope of most parish organists and choirs, so he set about producing a piece for Easter in a musical language and on a scale appropriate for them. The result was *The Crucifixion*. The libretto was compiled by Rev William Sparrow-Simpson, a Minor Canon and Librarian of St Paul's, who drew on Gospel accounts for the narrative, but wrote the words for the choruses, arias and hymns himself. The work is dedicated to Stainer's pupil and friend, William Hodge, and the choir of Marylebone Church, who gave its first performance on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 1887.

Right from the outset, *The Crucifixion*, with its appealing tunes and effective dramatic passages, was a success. In the years that followed, the wonderful unaccompanied setting of *God so Loved the World* took on a life of its own as an anthem, and the hymns, *Cross of Jesus* and *All for Jesus* soon found their way into mainstream hymn books. However, criticism has not been lacking: Sparrow-Simpson's shortcomings as a poet and the sentimental nature of some of the words and music, have both attracted negative comment. While such views have some validity, to condemn the work as a result is both missing the point and ignoring the musical style of the day. Stainer's aim was always a modest one: to provide a work for Easter which ordinary choirs could perform and to which congregations and audiences could immediately relate. In this he was undoubtedly successful, as the enduring popularity of *The Crucifixion* testifies. Moreover, in the hundred and thirty years since it was written, the vocal score has never been out of print and there are currently over a dozen different commercial recordings available.

# The Crucifixion

*The audience is invited to join in singing the hymns*

1. And they came to a place named Gethsemane

2. The Agony

3. Processional to Calvary

4. And when they were come

5. Hymn: The Mystery of the Divine Humiliation

Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow,  
Where the Blood of Christ was shed,  
Perfect man on thee was tortured,  
Perfect God on thee has bled.

Here the King of all the ages,  
Throned in light ere worlds could be,  
Robed in mortal flesh is dying,  
Crucified by sin for me.

Evermore for human failure  
By His Passion we can plead;  
God has borne all mortal anguish,  
Surely He will know our need.

VERSE 4, MEN ONLY

This – all human thought surpassing –  
This is earth's most awful hour,  
God has taken mortal weakness!  
God has laid aside His Power!

*continued...*

Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow,  
Where the Blood of Christ was shed  
Perfect man on thee was tortured,  
Perfect God on thee has bled.

6. He made Himself of no reputation

7. The majesty of the Divine Humiliation

8. And as Moses lifted up the Serpent

9. God so loved the world

10. Hymn: Litany of the Passion

Holy Jesu, by Thy passion,  
By the woes which none can share,  
Borne in more than kingly fashion,  
By Thy love beyond compare:  
Crucified, I turn to Thee,  
Son of Mary, plead for me.

By the treachery and trial,  
By the blows and sore distress,  
By desertion and denial,  
By Thine awful loneliness:  
Crucified, I turn to thee,  
Son of Mary, plead for me.

By the Spirit which could render  
Love for hate and good for ill,  
By the mercy, sweet and tender,  
Poured upon Thy murderers still:  
Crucified, I turn to Thee,  
Son of Mary, plead for me.

11. Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them'
12. So Thou liftest Thy Divine Petition
13. The Mystery of Intercession
14. And one of the malefactors
15. Hymn: The Adoration of the Crucified

I adore Thee, I adore Thee!  
Glorious ere the world began;  
Yet more wonderful Thou shinest,  
Though divine, yet still divinest  
In Thy dying love for man.

VERSE 2, LADIES ONLY

I adore Thee, I adore Thee!  
Thankful at Thy feet to be;  
I have heard Thy accent thrilling,  
Lo! I come, for Thou art willing  
Me to pardon, even me.

I adore Thee, I adore Thee!  
Born of woman yet Divine:  
Stained with sins I kneel before Thee,  
Sweetest Jesu, I implore Thee  
Make me ever only Thine.

16. When Jesus therefore saw His mother
17. Is it nothing to you?
18. The Appeal of the Crucified
19. After this, Jesus knowing that all things were  
now accomplished

## 20. Hymn: For the Love of Jesus

All for Jesus – all for Jesus,  
This our song shall ever be;  
For we have no hope, nor Saviour,  
If we have not hope in Thee.

All for Jesus – Thou wilt give us  
Strength to serve Thee, hour by hour;  
None can move us from Thy presence,  
While we trust Thy love and power.

All for Jesus – at Thine altar  
Thou wilt give us sweet content;  
There, dear Lord, we shall receive Thee  
In the solemn Sacrament.

All for Jesus – Thou hast loved us;  
All for Jesus – Thou hast died;  
All for Jesus – Thou art with us;  
All for Jesus Crucified.

All for Jesus – all for Jesus –  
This the Church's song must be;  
Till, at last, her sons are gathered  
One in love and one in Thee.

Amen



# Hailsham Choral Society

## Sopranos

Christine Baelz  
Trish Brown  
Kathy Castell  
Rachel Chilton  
Milly Clark  
Jenny Clay  
Pat Collingwood  
Janet Cox  
Carole Deschamps  
Liz Furlong  
Hilary Hartley  
Betty Holyoak  
Christina Lynn  
Jennie Mansfield  
Lynn Petit  
Sue Simpson  
Nicola Williams

## Altos

Alan Baldock  
Jan Boyes  
Jo Bridges  
Fiona Dundas  
Charlotte Ffoorde  
Barbara Fry  
Helen Leeds  
Pam Mayhew  
Wendy Pengelly  
Pam Russell  
Liza Stewart  
Hazel Thomas

## Tenors

Nigel Baelz  
Mick Bridges  
Marcus Haddow  
David Johnson  
Geoff Rowe  
Robert Wicks

## Basses

Alec Boniface  
Shaun Clay  
Stan Gater  
Peter Gilbert  
Robin Hooper  
Graham Keeley  
Simon Marsden  
Ken Mayhew  
Chris Taylor

## Musical Director

Jozik Kotz

## Guest Accompanist

William Hancock

*We wish to thank Chris Taylor from Hailsham Parish Church  
for his help with arrangements for this event.*

*We are also pleased to welcome members of the HPC congregation  
who are singing with us this evening.*

Hailsham Choral Society online: [www.hailshamchoral.org](http://www.hailshamchoral.org)



@ HailshamChoral



Hailsham Choral Society

If you are interested in singing with the choir, or perhaps 'just looking', please contact our Membership Secretary, Jan Boyes: tel. 01323 870515, or email:

**[info@hailshamchoral.org](mailto:info@hailshamchoral.org)**

We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7.30 – 9.30pm in the  
Community Hall, Hailsham.

# SUMMER CONCERT

*Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 - 7:30pm*

Civic Community Hall,  
Hailsham

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# HAILSHAM TWIN TOWN

Visit to France in conjunction with

**Les Choeurs du Pays-de-Bray**

# JOINT CONCERT

*Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017*

L'Eglise Saint Hildevert  
de Gournay-en-Bray

## Friends of HCS

We are fortunate to have a number of people who regularly attend our concerts and support us in a great many other ways. We would like to thank them all and acknowledge their loyal support.

If you would like to become a 'Friend' of the Choir and receive details of our programme, please complete the form below and give it to any Choir member. Alternatively, please email:

[friends@hailshamchoral.org](mailto:friends@hailshamchoral.org)

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