

Programme notes

MUSARC / ASD Choir Christmas Concert
Friday 11 December 2009, 7.00pm
St Bartholomew the Great, London EC1

7.00pm

North Transept
Lou Smith and Matthew Venn
Gas Organ performance

7.30 Concert

1

Orazio Vecchi [1550 – 1605]
Fa una canzona

2

Orlando di Lasso [1532 – 1594]
Matona mia cara

3

Gavin Bryars [b. 1943]
On photography (1994)
First movement: 'Expressa solis'

4

Anton Bruckner [1824 – 1896]
Locus iste (1869)

5

Jean Martinon [1910 – 1976]
Sonatine 4 for oboe, clarinet
and bassoon, Op. 26 (ca. 1940)
First movement

6

Darius Milhaud [1892 – 1974]
Pastorale for oboe, clarinet and
bassoon, Op. 147 (1935)

7

The holly and the ivy
English traditional carol,
arr. by H Walford Davies

8.30pm

Bar and buffet opens
The Gas Organ can be played
by the audience

10.30pm

Event closes

8

Coventry carol
English traditional carol,
16th century version

9

Plenty good room
Traditional spiritual,
arr. by Henry Smith (1937)

10

**Carols, sung by members of the
ASD Choir and the audience**

God rest ye merry, gentlemen
Traditional English carol,
harm. by Charles W. Douglass

In the bleak mid winter
Music by Gustav Holst, words by
Christina Rossetti (19th century)

Angels we have heard on high
Traditional French carol,
arr. by Edwin Shippen Barnes

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MUSARC

MUSARC is an independent research and event platform based at the Department of Architecture and Spatial Design, London Metropolitan University, exploring the relationship between architecture, music, space and sound through lectures, performances and exhibitions. It provides an environment for architects to engage with sound as an acoustic phenomenon as well as a form of research and a means to engage with places. For artists, MUSARC offers an opportunity to develop new work in this context and collaborate with architects and designers to realise their ideas. It is a not-for-profit organisation and home of the ASD Choir.

ASD Choir

The ASD Choir was founded in November 2008 at the Department of Architecture and Spatial Design (ASD), London Metropolitan University, where it is based and rehearses. It brings together a group of students and professionals who share an enthusiasm for singing and an interest in music, sound and architecture.

The choir works on a broad repertoire including traditional choral works as well as contemporary music and challenging work exploring uncharted territory in music and performance. It collaborates with composers and artists who create new work for the ensemble and provides a forum for discussion where people can meet with new ideas. The question of how sound, music and space interact is central to the choir's work.

Members of the ensemble:

Je Ahn
Natalia Alonso
Nicola Antaki
Sam Belinfante
Sam Carter
Charles Chambers
Rosa Chan
Kat Davis
Gemma Drake
Malaz Elgemiabby
Anabel Fernandez
Tim Fisher
Tom Harford Thompson
Rachel Howarth
Anna Kerrane
Shayela Khan
Bonnie Kirkwood
Kornelia Klimmek
Tamara Kocan
Joseph Kohlmaier
Esther McKinney

Britta Misdalski
Helen Muggeridge
Shoko Mugikura
Toby O'Connor
Alice O'Keeffe
Thomas Rowlands
Kate Ryan
Sam Shaw
Jasia Smith
Kazia Smith
Maria Smith
Emma Thompson

Cathy Heller-Jones, conductor

As a singer with London Voices, Cathy Heller-Jones has performed and recorded a vast repertoire of music working with the world's leading conductors and composers including Steve Reich, Kaija Saariaho, John Adams, and Howard Shore and John Williams with whom she has recorded all the soundtracks for the Harry Potter, Star Wars and The Lord of the Rings film soundtracks.

Born in New York City where she attended the renowned FAME school, she went on to Boston University where she gained her BMus. That was followed by postgraduate study on the Performers Course at the Guildhall School of Music.

A full time musician working as a singer, conductor and singing teacher, Cathy is also the Director of Music of the Hertfordshire County Youth Choir and The Liberal Jewish Synagogue. She teaches singing at St. Albans Girls High School and Sir John Lawes School in Harpenden.

Lou Smith and Matt Venn

Lou Smith is an artist working in sculptural installation art, photography and film-making, and inventor of the Gas Organ. He is fascinated with physics, engineering and the natural world and seeks a fusion of these disciplines with art.

The Gas Organ is a type of pyrophone, from the Greek words for fire and sound. Sound is generated in an open-ended tube when the heat from a propane flame causes the air to heat up and vibrate, which sets up resonance in the tube. The pitch of the sound is determined by the length of the tube, with longer tubes producing lower frequencies of vibration. Chaotic turbulence produced in the flame by air currents, and sound pressure waves add vibrato and beats to the already complex mix.

The propane torch used to provide the heat for the Organ is controlled by servos (small motors) which adjust the volume of gas in the flame, and also the ratio of the gas/air mix.

The servos are in turn controlled by a random signal generator, which uses analogue microprocessors. Control can also be input using radio-transmitters, allowing the Gas Organ to be played by performers.

Matthew Venn, who has been developing the computer interface controlling the organ, is an engineer who appreciates beauty in sound, form and nature. He is especially interested in artistic works that respond to, and encourage interaction with the audience.

Tambourin Trio

Lauren Knuckey, oboe
Kazia Smith, clarinet
Catherine Jackson, bassoon

The Tambourin Trio was formed in March 2009 by three students in their final year at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. It emerged from a close circle of friends who wanted to perform together and who shared an interest in challenging repertoire. The group's performances to date include works by Dubois, Bach, Tomasi and Martinon. The Tambourin Trio is currently part of the Chamber Tots series at the Wigmore Hall and is taking part in workshops at University College Hospital.

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MUSARC and the ASD Choir would like to thank all the friends, individuals and institutions who have supported our work so far and helped in the realization of this evening's programme.

With special thanks to Katie Norris, Philip Stewart and Fr Mark Young at St Bartholomew The Great.

For more information about MUSARC, the ASD Choir and how to join, please contact Joseph Kohlmaier j.kohlmaier@londonmet.ac.uk

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January – March 2010

Sonic Mondays

Lecture series with Brandon Labelle, Jem Finer, Peter Cusack, Kaffe Matthews and Janke Schaefer

For more information visit www.musarc.org