

A

Diamond Cluster



1950s

The Sound of Music

1960s

The Beatles

Queen's



2000s

Bob Chilcott

1970s

Simon & Garfunkel

Diamond
Jubilee

1990s

The Armed Man

1980s

Cats

Programme

Songs from six decades

2002-2012

1. For him all stars have shone Bob Chilcott

1992-2002

2. Benedictus from *'The Armed Man'* Karl Jenkins
3. Song for Athene John Tavener

1982-1992

4. The Old Gumbie Cat and Memory from *'Cats'* A Lloyd Webber
5. Songs from *'Les Misérables'* Claude-Michel Schönberg

1972 -1982

6. Bridge over troubled water Simon and Garfunkel
7. The Lord is my shepherd John Rutter

1962-1972

8. 'Love is all you need' medley The Beatles

... Interval ...

1952-1962

9. The night song from *'The Little Sweep'* Benjamin Britten
10. What good would the moon be?
from *'Street Scene'* Kurt Weill
solo: Lesley Lambert
11. My favourite things from *'The Sound of Music'* Richard Rodgers

Songs by Gilbert & Sullivan

12. Dance a cachucha *'The Gondoliers'*
13. One of us will be a queen
14. Strange adventure *'The Yeoman of the Guard'*
15. Poor wandering one *'The Pirates of Penzance'*
solo: Suzanne Smith
16. The policemen's chorus
17. A modern major-general
solo: Andy Button
18. With cat-like tread
19. When Britain really ruled the waves *'Iolanthe'*

Wine and soft drinks will be served in the Canterbury Room during the interval.

The Music

We intended to create a 'diamond cluster' in this concert by choosing music which recalls or typifies the six decades of our Queen's reign. We also wanted to pay tribute to British composers who made a great contribution to society in their time. Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee in 1897 crowned the long operatic collaboration between Gilbert and Sullivan which had just ended; some of their music must have been performed during those celebrations too.

Tavener's *Song for Athene* became widely known after it was sung at the end of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, in 1997. Likewise Karl Jenkins' Mass for Peace *The Armed Man* gained greater poignancy because it was released on CD just before the tragic events of September 11th 2001 in the United States.

There have been hit musicals in every decade but *The Sound of Music* and *Cats* have been among the most popular in their respective decades. In *Cats* Andrew Lloyd Webber married his style to TS Eliot's words with all the skill of Arthur Sullivan nearly a century earlier. Revivals such as that of *Les Miserables* capture the hearts of new generations.

When you think back to the Sixties it is easy to pick out The Beatles - their music sums up that decade definitively. Simon and Garfunkel were icons of the 70s but the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber, like John Rutter and later Bob Chilcott, spans several decades. Rutter's *The Lord is my shepherd* is an early piece from 1976, later incorporated into his *Requiem*. All three of these musicians have a formidable output of very accessible and atmospheric music.

Kurt Weill's *Street Scene* was an attempt to forge a new kind of American opera which would be both artistically and commercially successful, and it was a pivotal work in the development of the American musical. Weill's songs were widely performed in Britain in the 50s and 60s.

Britten, like Maxwell Davies after him, felt a strong urge to write music for children, and some of these pieces remain enduringly effective and much enjoyed, such as his *Ceremony of Carols* and *Noyes' Fludde*. *Let's Make an Opera*, incorporating the children's opera *The Little Sweep*, was widely performed in the 50s and 60s though it seems to have fallen out of favour now, yet it is a powerful story. It involves the audience in singing four songs at various stages of the opera, and tonight you will be asked to take part in one of those.

The partnership between W S Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan produced a whole series of operettas between 1871 and 1896. They inhabit a topsy-turvy world where pirates turn out to be peers and gondoliers aspire to be kings. Sullivan's melodic gifts and skilful orchestration form the perfect counterpart to Gilbert's witty and satirical lyrics.

It has often been an irreverent custom to add new topical verses in as near an approximation as possible to Gilbert's inimitable style. Tonight we have taken that liberty in the third verse of *When Britain really ruled the waves*, using words composed by Adrian Brett. Works by 'G & S' have never lost their popularity from Queen Victoria's reign to the present day.

Some recollections . . .

What high (and low) spots do you remember of the last sixty years? Here are a few: between 1952-62, Britain won 6 gold medals at the Olympics in Melbourne, Australia but only 2 at the Olympics in Rome. Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev first danced together, and Francis Chichester made the first solo Atlantic crossing aboard Gypsy Moth II. Coventry cathedral was consecrated and Chris Bonington climbed the north face of the Eiger. Watson and Crick announced the structure of the DNA molecule and the Samaritans telephone counselling service was set up.

The next decade began with the big freeze of '62-3. We saw the rise of the Beatles, the Profumo affair, the assassination of J F Kennedy, the great train robbery and the beginning of 'the troubles' in Northern Ireland. The age of majority was reduced to 18 and the school leaving age raised to 16; decimalisation of the currency left its mark. Comprehensive schooling was introduced, Concorde made its maiden flight, and Enoch Powell sounded forth on immigration. The miners were on strike and Idi Amin expelled Asians with British passports from Uganda. We won 4 gold medals at the Tokyo Olympics and the same in Munich.

The decade 72-82 began with industrial action by coal miners resulting in a 3-day week. Princess Anne married Mark Phillips, Margaret Thatcher became the Conservative party's first female leader and we joined the EEC. The Yorkshire Ripper terrorised the north and the 'winter of discontent' of '79 degenerated into riots everywhere from Brixton to Toxteth by '81. Prince Charles married Diana - much celebration - but then a grim decade: the Falklands War, more miners' strike, riots in Handsworth and the Hungerford massacre. Terry Waite was kidnapped in Lebanon, the Herald of Free Enterprise ferry capsized leaving Zeebrugge and the Pan Am flight crashed over Lockerbie, followed by a recession. The successes of the ice dancers Torvill and Dean and 5 gold medals for Britain at the Olympics in Seoul in '88 cast a rosy glow in comparison.

In the 90s the Church of England voted to allow women to become priests, the Channel Tunnel opened, the sovereignty of Hong Kong was transferred to China, elections to the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly took place and we won 11 gold medals in Sydney (the rower Steve Redgrave was a hero). Foot and mouth disease hit some parts of the country but the much-loved Eden Project opened.

The final decade saw a tsunami in the Indian Ocean, the London bombings, widespread floods and snow in Britain, and the eruption of an Icelandic volcano which closed airports. Civil partnerships came in, Britain won 9 gold medals in the Athens Olympics and 19 in the Beijing Olympics of '08. Since then financial crises, economic decline and scandal have ruled the headlines - until the wedding of Prince William to Kate Middleton last May.

I expect your recollections will be quite different - but I hope you will find that our choice of music takes you on an enjoyable trip down Memory Lane as we celebrate our Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Frances Brewitt-Taylor

Texts

The Night Song – Audience

1. Section 1 - Owls

The owl, wide-winged through the sky
In search of mice and lesser fry,
Repeats his loud, unhappy cry:
Tu-who! Tu-who! Tu-who! Tu-who!

2. Section 2 - Herons

The heron listens, gaunt and still,
Within his nest upon the hill,
Then parts a stern and savage bill:
Kaah! Kaah! Kaah! Kaah!

3. Section 3 - Doves

The turtle dove begins to stir,
Removes the leaves that shelter her,
And answers with melodious purr:
Prrr-ooo! Prrr-ooo! Prrr-ooo! Prrr-ooo!

4. Section 4 - Chaffinches

The chaffinch and his mate rejoice
To exercise their singing voice.
They take the descant for their choice:
Pink! Pink! Pink! Pink! Pink! Pink!
Pink! Pink! Pink! Pink! Pink! Pink!

5. All sections

From North and South and East and West
The birds compete for who sings best,
But who shall choose the loveliest?

- 1 Tu-who!
- 2 Kaah!
- 3 Prrr-ooo!
- 4 Pink! Pink! Pink!

*Repeat (always loud)
until a signal from
the conductor*

6. All sections

The night is past, the owl is hoarse,
The finches slumber in the gorse,
The heron stoops, the turtle droops.

- 1 Tu-who!
- 2 Kaah!
- 3 Prrr-ooo!
- 4 Pink! Pink! Pink!

*Repeat (getting
gradually softer) until
a signal from the
conductor*

Third verse of 'When Britain really ruled the waves' by Adrian Brett

Now less than honest journalists
Caught hacking like true hacks,
Have paid the price for all their twists
And politicians claimed for more
Expenses. They were lax.
This country seeks to boost its names
This year of our Olympic Games,
The best we hope we've ever seen,
Thank God for Elizabeth our Queen.
The best we hope we've ever seen
Thank God for Elizabeth our Queen.

Choir

Musical Director: Frances Brewitt-Taylor

Accompanist: Simon Brett

Sopranos:

Sandy Boshier, Geraldine Crippen, Ginty Fay, Amanda Hines, Lesley Lambert,
Valerie Loveday, Christine Richardson, Audrey Rogers, Suzanne Smith, Susan Terry,
Frances Thompson

Contraltos:

Jenny Boyd, Myrtle Campbell, Val Cooper, Myra Cottingham, Tanya Hawley, Susan Lee,
Marilyn Purdie, Liz Rapple, Mary Rollinson, Jane Ryder, Elma Wishart,
Jenny Worthington, Cassie Watcyn-Jones

Tenors:

Andy Button, John Cottingham, Stuart Crippen, Charles Lambert, Graham Pearce

Basses:

Paul Bradstock, John Burton, Elwyn Hughes, Henry Parkinson, Peter Purdie,
Nigel Suffield-Jones, Tom Worthington

Choir Notes

Forthcoming Events

We will be singing services at St David's Cathedral from 15th to 19th August inclusive.
Our autumn concert is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Saturday 20th October in St Thomas'
Goring. See our website at www.goringchamberchoir.org.uk for further details.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Inspiration at Goring, for acting as an outlet for our tickets.

New Members

We would welcome any tenors and basses who would like to join the choir. If the idea appeals, send us an email via the choir's website or just come along to one of our rehearsals in Goring Primary School which take place most Thursdays at 7:30 pm.