

Queens Park
Singers

O PRIMAVERA



Sunday 25th April 6.30 pm

Church of St Anne & St Andrew, 125 Salusbury Rd NW6 6RG

O Primavera

a celebration of rebirth and renewal in music

and verse

***O primavera* Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)**

This madrigal is a setting of a passage from Act 3 scene 1 of Giovanni Battista Guarini's play *Il Pastor Fido* (The Faithful Shepherd 1590). It was published in 1590 in Monteverdi's Second Book of Madrigals for Five Voices. An English translation of the text is included in the poetry leaflet.

***A Contemplation upon Flowers* Henry King**

read by Margaret Jackson-Roberts

***Le Printemps (Spring)* Charles d'Orléans**

read by Pauline Wong

***yes is a pleasant country* ee cummings**

read by Margot Lunnon

***Ecco mormorar l'onde* Claudio Monteverdi**

Published in Monteverdi's Second Book of Madrigals for Five Voices (1590), this is a setting of a poem by Torquato Tasso (1544 - 1595). An English translation of the text is included in the poetry leaflet. This madrigal and *O primavera* represent the springtime of Monteverdi's contribution to the form.

***The Burial of the Dead* from *The Waste Land* T. S. Eliot**

read by Maggie Turp

***The Trees* Philip Larkin**

read by Rachel Donnison

***My beloved spake* Henry Purcell (1659-1695)**

This setting of a sensuous passage from The Song of Solomon - for four solo voices, four-part choir, strings and continuo - was written before 1677.

Rebecca Newman *Alto*
William Petter *Tenor*
David Till *Baritone*
Simon Judge *Bass*

***The Salutation* Thomas Traherne**

read by Peter Burtt-Jones

***How many heavens ...* Edith Sitwell**

read by Liz Till

Violin Concerto in E major RV 269 (La Primavera)

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

In 1725 Vivaldi published a set of twelve concerti, Opus 8, entitled *Il cimento dell'armonia e dell'invenzione* (The Contest between Harmony and Invention). The first four concerti were named *Le quattro stagioni*, each being named after a season. Each one is in three movements, with a slow movement between two faster ones. Vivaldi's original arrangement for solo violin with string quartet and bass continuo helped to define the new form of the concerto.

The Seasons set is a remarkable demonstration of Vivaldi's interest in writing programme music, and of his inventive approach to using string instruments to imitate natural sounds. When the set was published, each concerto was accompanied by a sonnet describing the weather and landscape typical of the season portrayed, and the sounds one might hear at that time of the year (an English translation of the Spring sonnet is included in the poetry leaflet). In the Spring concerto, the sounds of birds are reproduced with remarkable accuracy in the first movement; and you can also hear the gentle breezes, and an impending storm. In the second movement the solo violin's tranquil melody is counter-pointed by a persistent figure in the viola representing the dog's warning growls as he watches over his sleeping master - or maybe it's the goatherd's snores? The last movement is a Siciliano - a country dance, complete with an accompanying drone.

***Naming of Parts* Henry Reed**

read by Glyn Jones

***The Garden* Andrew Marvell**

read by Catherine Fried

***Beatus vir* Claudio Monteverdi**

This lively work with an enchanting theme is scored for six-part choir, two solo violins, strings and continuo. An English translation of the text is included in the poetry leaflet.

***The arrival of spring* Rg Gregory**

read by Monica Healy

***Sure on this shining night* Samuel Barber (1910-1981)**

Barber wrote this four-part choral arrangement of his own earlier solo song in 1938. It is a setting of a poem by his fellow American James Agee (1909-1955).

Queen's Park Singers

Soprano

Catherine Fried
Jenny Garrett
Gillian Hallifax
Jo Hurley
Erline Johnson
Susan Kerrison
Lucy Lefanu
Margot Lunnon
Anna Mumford
Virginie Pappantoniou
Katy Payne
Hannah Robbins
Stella Ruszczynski
Ann Tribble
Evelyn Velleman
Kate Worth

Alto

Rachel Donnison
Helen Dymond
Frances Freeman
Hinda Golding
Monica Healy
Alicja Kowalczyk
Katherine Lawson
Christine MacLeod
Kicki Moxon Browne
Denise O'Reilly
Marion Paul
Linsay SamiiPour
Liz Till
Maggie Turp
Pauline Wong

Tenor

Jay Bannmuller
Colm Doherty
Rupert Gather
Margaret Jackson-
Roberts
Glyn Jones
Julie Krausz
Mario Mansilla

Bass

Simon Judge
Adam Richie
David Till
Peter Walter
Julian Watts

Queen's Park Sinfonia

Violin

Anne Park (Leader)
Hélène Barrière
Clementine Pillai
Andreas Stirnemann

Cello

Nia Harries

Double Bass

John Nissen

Viola

Dorit Lichtenstern

Keyboard and piano

Mary Hill

Directed by

Peter Burt-Jones

We are very grateful to Father Fergus for permission to use the church, to Joseph Voelker for his assistance with booking accommodation, and to Ruth Kitching for organising the string section of the orchestra.

The text on the poster for this concert and on the front page of this programme is set in Fell French Cannon. The Fell Types are digitally reproduced by Iginio Marini (www.iginomarini.com) to whom grateful acknowledgment is hereby made.

Front cover image: detail from *La Primavera* by Sandro Botticelli