



Wareham Choral Society
A Tour of European Sacred Music
Saturday 25th April 7pm 2026
Lady St Mary Church,
Wareham BH20 4ND

Promoted by



LOVE IT LOCAL
KEEP IT PURBECK



Join us on a musical journey across Europe to celebrate
Sacred Music from the 16th to the 20th century!

Conductor

Hazel Ricketts

Organist

Paul Ellis

Mezzo-Soprano

Grace Lovelass

For their financial support for this concert,
thanks to:

**Wareham Town Council and
The King's Arms, Stoborough**

<https://thekingsarms-stoborough.co.uk/>

Foreword by WCS Chairman – Teresa Rekowska

I am very pleased to welcome you to our musical journey across Europe performed by Wareham Choral Society and guest soloist Grace Lovelass.

My thanks to our wonderful conductor Hazel Ricketts and accompanist Paul Ellis.

We are thankful for the hard work and commitment of our committee, especially long-standing officers Bob Newnham and Eve Baker.

We are very proud that Wareham Choral society has been Wareham's choir since 1947 and we will be celebrating 80 wonderful years next year.

We very much enjoy rehearsing and performing in the beautiful Lady St Mary Church, it is our spiritual home and I am very passionate that we can continue to bring beautiful music to our community.

We are a non-auditioning choir and welcome new members with enthusiasm, commitment and an ability to follow music. More details on our website www.warehamchoral.uk

Thank you to The Wareham Town council and The King's Arms Stoborough for supporting this concert financially.

If you would like to become our sponsor or make a donation please email us at warehamchoral@gmail.com.

Our thanks to our Patron, Rt Hon David Mellor KC.

WCS have something different planned for their summer term - a recording project! With our 80th Anniversary coming up, we will be recording a variety of our favourite pieces from recent years to showcase the choir and the music we sing.

Within this project we will be working with YouTube music creator Jon Beedle, a professional freelance guitarist. Jon has performed alongside stars including Cliff Richard, Tony Hadley from Spandau Ballet and Don Airey from Deep Purple, as well as many leading tribute acts from across Europe.

Jon, who runs his own recording studio in Suffolk, will be including our choir to provide backing vocals for a new recording of Mr Blue Sky by Electric Light Orchestra. The choir's performances will be recorded in Lady St Mary church in June and then posted on our website, with Mr Blue Sky on Jon's YouTube channel 'Songs from the Shed'.

WELCOME

Choir	Ave maris stella	Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)
Choir	Bogoroditsye Dyevo	Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943)
Grace Lovelass	What though I trace each herb and flower? The Lost Chord	from Handel's Solomon G. F. Handel (1685-1759) Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)
Choir	Verleih uns Frieden	Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Choir	Geistliches Lied	Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
Choir	Ave verum Corpus	W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)

INTERVAL (20 minutes)

Refreshments served at the back of the church - donations welcome!

Choir	Locus iste	Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)
Choir	Sicut cervus	G. P. da Palestrina (1525-1594)
Choir	Crux fidelis	John IV, King of Portugal (1604-1656)
Grace Lovelass	Agnus Dei from Rossini's Petite Messe Solenelle	G Rossini (1792-1868)
	Sacred Fire	Sarah Class
Choir	Cantique de Jean Racine	Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)
Choir	Panis Angelicus	Cesar Franck (1822-1890)

Our singers this evening are:

Soprano: Sylvie Adler, Jane Bailey, Eve Baker, Hazel Carter, Zoe Gover, Teresa Rekowska, Angela Salter.

Alto: Eleanor Driscoll, Nancy Gibson, Margaret Harris, Janet Jones, Debs Kelly, Mary Mathers, Frances Tomlinson-Mynors, Alyson Waugh.

Tenor: John Lillington, Bob Newnham, Terry Hoare, Sarah Welton, Brian

Wilkins.

Bass: Martin Baker, Gideon Daly, Ian Grocott, Neil Hirst, Mark Lapper, Malcolm Selwood.

Particular thanks to Paul Ellis for his assistance with the choir's preparations for this concert. As well as accompanying us this evening, Paul has willingly stepped in and taken rehearsals whilst our MD, Hazel Ricketts, was unable to do so because of an injury, followed by Covid.

We couldn't have done it without you, Paul!

Norway, 19th cent	
Ave maris stella	Edvard Grieg
<i>Ave, maris stella, Dei mater alma, atque semper virgo, Felix cæli porta.</i>	<i>Hail, star of the sea, nurturing mother of God, And ever Virgin, Happy gate of Heaven.</i>
<i>Sumens illud Ave Gabrielis ore, funda nos in pace, Mutans Evæ nomen.</i>	<i>Receiving that "Ave" From the mouth of Gabriel, Establish us in peace, Transforming the name of "Eve".</i>
<i>Solve vincla reis, profer lumen cæcis, mala nostra pelle, bona cuncta posce</i>	<i>Loosen the chains of the guilty, Send forth light to the blind, Dispel our evil, Entreat all good things.</i>
<i>Monstra te esse matrem, sumat per te precem qui pro nobis natus tulit esse tuus.</i>	<i>Show thyself to be a mother: Through thee may he receive prayer Who, being born for us, Undertook to be thine own.</i>
<i>Virgo singularis, inter omnes mitis, nos culpis solutos mites fac et castos.</i>	<i>O unique Virgin, Meek above all others, Set free from our sins, Make us meek and chaste.</i>
<i>Vitam præsta puram, iter para tutum, ut videntes Jesum semper collætetur.</i>	<i>Bestow a pure life, Prepare a safe way So that seeing Jesus, We may ever rejoice.</i>

<i>Sit laus Deo Patri, summo Christo decus, Spiritui Sancto tribus honor unus. Amen.</i>	<i>Praise be to God the Father, To the Most High Christ, glory, To the Holy Spirit, honour, To the Three equally. Amen.</i>
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Russia, 19th cent	
Bogoroditsye Dyevo	Sergei Rachmaninov
<i>Bogoróditse Dyévo, ráduisya, Blagodátnaya Mariýe, Gospód s tobóyu. Blagoslovyéna ty v zhenákh, i blagoslovyén plod chryéva tvoyevó, yáko Spása rodilá yesí dush náshikh.</i>	<i>Rejoice, virgin mother of God, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne the Saviour of our souls.</i>

Germany, 19th cent	
Verleih uns Frieden	Felix Mendelssohn
<i>Verleih uns frieden gnädiglich, Herr Gott! zu unsern zeiten Es ist doch ja kein ander nicht, Der für uns könnte streiten, Denn du unser Gott alleine.</i>	<i>Graciously grant us peace Lord God, in our time; there is no one else who could fight for us except you, our God, alone.</i>

Germany, 19th cent	
Geistliches Lied	Johannes Brahms
<i>Laß dich nur nichts nicht dauren mit Trauren, sei stille! Wie Gott es fügt, so sei vergnügt mein Wille.</i>	<i>Let nothing afflict you with grief; be calm! As God ordains, so may my will be content.</i>
<i>Was willst du heute sorgen auf morgen? Der Eine steht allem für, der gibt auch dir das Deine.</i>	<i>Why worry today about tomorrow? The One is in charge who gives also to you what is yours.</i>
<i>Sei nur in allem Handel ohn Wandel, steh feste! Was Gott beschleußt, das ist und heißt das Beste. Amen.</i>	<i>In all your doings be steadfast; stand firm! What God decrees is, and is acknowledged, the best.</i>

Austria, 18th cent	
Ave verum Corpus	W. A. Mozart
<i>Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria Virgine, vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine, cuius latus perforatum fluxit aqua et sanguine: esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.</i>	<i>Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary, having truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for mankind, from whose pierced side water and blood flowed: Be for us a sweet foretaste in the trial of death.</i>

Austria, 19th cent	
Locus iste	Anton Bruckner
<i>Locus iste a Deo factus est, inaestimabile sacramentum, irreprehensibilis est.</i>	<i>This place was made by God, a priceless sacrament; it is without reproach.</i>

Italy, 17th cent	
Sicut cervus	G. P. da Palestrina
<i>Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum, ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.</i>	<i>As the hart longs for the water springs, So longs my soul for thee, O God.</i>

Portugal, 17th cent	
Crux fidelis	John IV, King of Portugal
<i>Crux fidelis, inter omnes arbor una nobilis; nulla talem silva profert, flore, fronde, germine, dulce lignum, dulci clavo, dulce pondus sustinet! Amen.</i>	<i>O faithful cross, the one noble tree among all trees, no forest yields your like, in foliage, flower and fruit, sweet wood, bearing a sweet burden with a sweet nail. Amen.</i>

France, 19th cent	
Cantique de Jean Racine	Gabriel Fauré
<i>Verbe égal au Très-Haut, notre unique espérance, Jour éternel de la terre et des cieux,</i>	<i>Word of the Highest, our only hope, Eternal day of earth and the heavens,</i>

<i>De la paisible nuit nous rompons le silence: Divin Sauveur, jette sur nous les yeux.</i>	<i>We break the silence of the peaceful night. Saviour Divine, cast your eyes upon us!</i>
<i>Répands sur nous le feu de ta grâce puissante; Que tout l'enfer fuie au son de ta voix; Dissipe le sommeil d'une âme languissante Qui la conduit à l'oubli de Tes lois!</i>	<i>Pour on us the fire of your powerful grace, That all hell may flee at the sound of your voice; Banish the slumber of a weary soul Which brings forgetfulness of your laws!</i>
<i>Ô Christ! sois favorable à ce peuple fidèle Pour te bénir maintenant rassemblé; Reçois les chants qu'il offre à ta gloire immortelle, Et de tes dons qu'il retourne comblé.</i>	<i>O Christ, look with favour upon your faithful people Now gathered here to praise you; Receive their hymns offered to your immortal glory; May they go forth filled with your gifts.</i>

Belgium, 19th cent	
Panis Angelicus	Cesar Franck
<i>Panis angelicus Fit panis hominum; Dat panis coelicus Figuris terminum; O res mirabilis! Manducat dominum Pauper, pauper Servus et humilis</i>	<i>May the Bread of Angels Become bread for mankind; The Bread of Heaven puts All foreshadowings to an end; Oh, thing miraculous! The body of the Lord will nourish the poor, the poor, the lowly, and the humble.</i>

Hazel Ricketts studied music at the University of Surrey, with piano as her first instrument, and gained her MA in Musicology from the University of Southampton. She has sung in choirs since the age of 6, and started accompanying them and leading occasional rehearsals at the age of 14. During her MA she was appointed Director of Music at Holy Trinity Church in Fareham, and has been regularly conducting choirs ever since.

She also plays the clarinet, and in recent years has rediscovered the organ – most recently studying



with John Challenger (Salisbury Cathedral). She has been MD of Wareham Choral Society since 2018. She is also co-Director of Music at St Mary's Church Fordingbridge where she both plays the organ and conducts the choir, as well as making musical links beyond the church.



Paul Ellis (organ) studied at Manchester University and the Royal Northern College of Music, where his tutors included Gillian Weir (organ) and Robert Elliott (harpsichord). He is an experienced organ recitalist, giving performances across the UK and in the USA and in Paris, along with regular recitals in Sherborne Abbey. Paul developed a love of choral music whilst at university and has conducted choirs ever since. He has worked with many choirs in the South West and earned a reputation for high standards of performance and innovative programming. Choirs with which Paul has worked over the years include the Grange Choral Society, Taunton Camerata, Sherborne School Music Society and East Cornwall Bach Choir.

Grace Lovelass is an operatic mezzo-soprano, writer and performer whose work blends classical music with comedy, storytelling and endurance sport.

Originally from Bedfordshire, she studied Classics at King's College London before retraining in opera at the Associated Studios.



Her operatic roles include Witch/Mother in *Hansel & Gretel*, Tisbe in *La Cenerentola*, Romeo in Bellini's *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* and Dido in *Dido & Aeneas*, alongside performances with companies including Red Earth Opera, Somerset Opera and Opéra de Baugé, where she was awarded the Gil-Rodriguez scholarship.

Alongside her classical career, Grace creates and tours original musical comedy. Her latest show, *Ballgowns & Bib Shorts*, is a high-energy musical memoir charting her journey as an opera singer and triathlete, combining classical repertoire, musical theatre and parody with candid storytelling. Previously, she wrote and performed solo shows *Graceful* (2022) and *Disgraceful* (2023), and made her Edinburgh Fringe debut in 2023.

Would you like to sing with us?

We rehearse from 7:15 till 9:15 on Mondays at Lady St Mary Church.

We'd love to hear from you! warehamchoral@gmail.com 01202 632678