

Music at St Nicolas

‘Tell me, some pitying angel!’

Megan Hooper *soprano*

Chris Emlyn-Jones *baritone*

Ludmila Podgaiskaia *keyboard*

Peter Stutfield *organ*

Programme

St Nicolas Church

Forest Hill with Shotover

Sunday 12 March 2017, 2.30pm

PROGRAMME

With sick and famish'd eyes	Henry Purcell (1659-1695)
Prelude and Air in C	John Blow (1649-1708)
Voluntary in C	Henry Purcell
Tell me, some pitying angel <i>(The Blessed Virgin's Expostulation)</i>	Henry Purcell
Voluntary in D minor	William Croft (1678-1727)
Lord, what is man?	Henry Purcell
Voluntary and Fugue in C	George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)
Now that the sun hath veil'd his light <i>(An Evening Hymn)</i>	Henry Purcell

TEXTS

With sick and famish'd eyes

With sick and famish'd eyes,
With doubling knees and weary bones,
To thee my cries,
To thee my groans,
To thee my sighs, my tears ascend:
No end?
My throat, my soul is hoarse;
My heart is wither'd like a ground
Which thou dost curse;
My thoughts turn round
And make me giddy;
Lord, Lord, I fall Yet call.
Bowels of pity hear!
Lord of my soul, love of my mind,
Bow down thine ear! Let not thy wind
Scatter my words, and in the same
Thy name!

Look on my sorrows round!
Mark well my furnace!
O what flames,
What heats abound!
What griefs, what shames!
Consider, Lord, Lord, bow thine ear
And hear!
Lord Jesu, thou didst bow
Thy dying head upon the tree;
O be not now
More dead to me!
Lord, hear!
Lord, hear! shall he that made the ear
Not hear?
Behold thy dust doth stir,
It moves, it creeps to thee;
Do not defer
To succour me,

Thy pile of dust wherein each crumb
Says "Come".
My love, my sweetness, hear!
By these thy feet, at which my heart
Lies all the year,
Pluck out thy dart,
And heal my troubled breast, which
cries,
Which dies.

George Herbert
(1593-1633)

The Blessed Virgin's Expostulation

Tell me, some pitying angel, quickly say,
Where does my soul's sweet darling
stay,
In tiger's, or more cruel Herod's way?
O! rather let his tender footsteps press
Unregarded through the wilderness,
Where milder savages resort:
The desert's safer than a tyrant's court.
Why, fairest object of my love,
Why dost thou from my longing eyes
remove?
Was it a waking dream that did foretell
Thy wondrous birth? no vision from
above?
Where's Gabriel now that visited my
cell?
I call; he comes not; flatt'ring hopes,
farewell.
Me Judah's daughters once caress'd,
Call'd me of mothers the most bless'd;
Now (fatal change!) of mothers most
distress'd.
How shall my soul its motions guide,
How shall I stem the various tide,
Whilst faith and doubt my lab'ring
thoughts divide?
For whilst of thy dear sight I am
beguil'd,
I trust the God, but oh! I fear the child.

Nahum [Nathaniel] Tate
(1652-1715)

Lord, what is man?

Lord, what is man, lost man, that thou
should'st be
So mindful of him, that the son of God
Forsook his glory, his abode,
To become a poor tormented man?
The Deity was shrunk into a span,
And that for me, O wondrous love, for
me.
Reveal, ye glorious spirits, when ye
knew
The way the son of God took to renew
Lost man, your vacant places to supply,
Blest spirits, tell,
Which did excel,
Which was more prevalent,
Your joy or your astonishment,
That man should be assum'd into the
Deity,
That for a worm a God should die?
Oh! for a quill drawn from your wing
To write the praises of th' eternal love;
O! for a voice like yours to sing
That anthem here which once you sung
above.
Alleluia.

Bishop William Fuller
(1608-1675)

An Evening Hymn

Now that the sun has veil'd his Light,
And bid the World good Night;
To the soft Bed my Body I dispose,
But where shall my Soul repose?
Dear God, even in thy Arms, and can
there be
Any so sweet Security?
Then to thy Rest, O my Soul, and
singing, praise
The Mercy that prolongs thy Days.
Hallelujah.

Bishop William Fuller

Biographies:

Megan Hooper *soprano*

Megan Hooper has a broad musical experience as instrumentalist and singer including classical, folk and musical theatre. She studied with Jean Allister and Rebecca Moseley-Morgan and, having gained her DipABRSM in 2000, performed as soloist with various chamber ensembles across Oxfordshire including her own baroque group Musica Mirabilis. She was singer and soloist with Fiori Musicali Chorus (Northants) for 20 years and appeared regularly as soloist in Abbey Chamber Recitals (Abingdon) and with Steeple Aston Choral Society. She currently performs with several local choral groups as singer and soloist and gives solo and duet recitals.

Chris Emlyn-Jones *baritone*

Chris Emlyn-Jones started his singing career many years ago as a chorister at New College Oxford. Since retirement he has been studying with the Oxfordshire baritone Quentin Hayes, and sings in a number of groups, including East Oxford Community Choir, the Byrd Chorus, and the Pro Musica Singers, as well as performing as a soloist with East Oxford Community Choir (Mendelssohn, *St Paul*, Oxford & Grenoble 2010 and 2011) and Headington Singers (Handel, *Messiah*, 2015), and in duet recitals with Megan Hooper. He also plays the viola and recorder in local ensembles.

Ludmila Podgaiskaia *keyboard*

Ludmilla Podgaiskaia is an experienced musician and was the Art Director of Schola Cantorum of St Petersburg (Russia) until she moved to England five years ago. She has a Diploma as a pianist but has followed her desire as a harpsichord player for the last 25 years and also enjoys learning to play the viola da gamba in a consort. She is a member of Musica Concordia, an international Early Music ensemble, which performs diverse instrumental and vocal chamber music of the late Renaissance and early Baroque periods.

Peter Stutfield *organ*

Peter began playing the piano and singing in his school choir at an early age. He took up choral singing again in 1994, when he joined Guildford Choral Society. Since moving to Oxford in 1999, Peter has sung with the Oxford Bach Choir and local chamber choir, Musica Viva. Peter has always continued to play the piano, but his main focus now is as a church organist, playing regularly in four churches in and around Oxford. Peter is Organist and Treasurer of St Nicolas Church.