

**Sat 27 May 6:00pm All Saints Church Weston-Super-Mare &
Sun 28 May 2:00pm St. Mary's Church, Portbury**

The music for these concerts will be chosen from the following

The Amici Singers

A Gershwin Medley

A Tapestry of Songs from the British Isles*

Bop Fugue

Feel Good

Hallelujah

With Joyful Heart and Voice

words: Ira Gershwin/music: George Gershwin[^]

words & music: Sol Berkowitz

words & music: L.Craig and Leonard Scott

music arranged: Barbara Baker & David J. Elliott

words & music: Leonard Cohen*

words: Henry Kihlken/music: Luigi Cherubini

The Ensemble of Friends

As Torrents in Summer

Climb up, Chillun

Deep River

Kalinka*

76 Trombones (*The Music Man*)

The Impossible Dream* (*Man of La Mancha*)

The Long Day Closes

The Gift to Sing`

The Lost Chord

The Storm is passing over

Yellow Bird

You'll never walk along (*Carousel*)

You raise me up

World in Union

words: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow/music: Edward Elgar

Trad American Spiritual*

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words: Joe Offer/music Ivan Larionov*

words and music: Meredith Willson*

words: Joe Darion/music: Mitch Leigh

words: Henry Fothergill Chorley/music: Arthur Sullivan"

words: James Weldon Johnson/music: Douglas Coombes

words; Adelaide Anne Proctor/music: Arthur Sullivan

words & music: Charles Albert Tindley*

words: Alan and Marilyn Bergmar/music: Michel Mauleart*

words: Oscar Hammerstein 2nd/music: Richard Rodgers*

words & music: Brendan Graham & Rolf Lovland*

words: Charles Skarbek/music:Gustav Holst/Charles Skarbek

Combined Choirs

Alleluia

Gloria

music: John Dunstable*

music: Douglas Coombes

adapted from Johann Pachelbel's Canon

**Music arranged by Douglas Coombes*

There will also be music for Clarinet and for Organ

Gillian Hughes studied clarinet at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with Yona Ettlinger and later returned there to gain her qualifications as a Music Therapist. She spends most of her time delivering music therapy, teaching woodwind or playing the clarinet in a variety of ensembles and orchestras. She frequently gives recitals with her husband Trevor, as well as performing the *Double Concerto for Clarinet & Organ*, specially written for her and Trevor by Douglas Coombes.

Trevor Hughes is a Graduate of the Royal College of Music, London, (where he studied organ, piano, and viola), winning the Colles Prize, and an Associate of the Royal College of Organists, winning the Doris Wookey Prize. He has performed on the organs in Birmingham Symphony Hall, Leeds Town Hall, the Central Methodist Hall, Westminster, the Royal Albert Hall, St. John's, Smith Square, London and on the cathedral organs in St. Asaph, Ely, Norwich, and Canterbury. He has also performed on major organs in America, France (including Rouen Cathedral), Belgium (Ghent Cathedral), Austria (including Salzburg Dom Cathedral), and Germany (including the Elisabethkirche, and University Church, both in Marburg, and the Thomaskirche in Leipzig). After 25 years, he has recently retired from his position as Director of Music at Holy Saviour Church in Hitchin Hertfordshire. In 2003 he led the Church Choir in a concert tour of Barbados where it performed four concerts and broadcast both on Caribbean Radio and television. He has accompanied recitals in the Purcell Room, the Wigmore Hall, and on BBC Radio 3, as well as in many music clubs over the country, and for over ten years he contributed regularly to BBC Schools Radio music programmes, as keyboards player, musical director and arranger. Equally at home in a wide range of musical styles, Trevor has conducted many musicals in the theatre, and he has also played keyboards in a number of West End shows. His freelance work as both accompanist and choral conductor has taken him on numerous trips to the USA, as well as to Austria, Germany, France, Switzerland, and Holland.

John Eady was born in 1976. After studying music at King's College London and the Royal Academy of Music, he studied the cello for three years at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with Stefan Popov. In 2002 he began to learn the organ with Anne Marsden Thomas at the St Giles International Organ School and in 2006 he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. He is currently a freelance cellist and organist, performs with his string quartet *Four Strings Attached* and is also an instrumental teacher in schools in East Sussex. Since 2008 he has been organist at St Magnus the Martyr, London Bridge and is also organist for the Worshipful Company of Plumbers. He is also a composer and was the winner of the St Paul's Cathedral International Pentecost Anthem Competition of 2012 with his setting of *Veni Sancte Spiritus*, which was subsequently published by Lindsay Music.

The Amici Singers (*Amici* means *friends*) was founded by their conductor Douglas Coombes in 1978. When asked why a women's choir he usually replies: 'If such a choir was good enough for Brahms, it's certainly good enough for me!' The singers now rehearse in Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. Members come from a wide area covering Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire. The choir has an extensive repertoire embracing styles from many cultures, from the 7th century to the present day. Douglas Coombes has composed and arranged a great deal of music for the choir, much of which has been published. The choir has toured extensively in the UK and abroad – Belgium, France (6 times) and the USA (10 times). In recent years the choir has sung in a number of concerts for *Barnardo's* performing twice in London's Royal Albert Hall, in the gardens of Lambeth Palace (the residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury), Ely Cathedral, as well as Westminster Cathedral and Southwark Cathedral. They have also provided on-board entertainment on two cruises with Fred Olsen Cruise Lines.

The Ensemble of Friends is an *a cappella* chamber choir based in Potton, Bedfordshire. The Ensemble was formed in September 2011 when a quartet, (*Double Take*), from *Shannon Express*, a well-known Bedfordshire Male Barbershop chorus approached Douglas Coombes and asked him if he had the time to start a chamber choir to sing a wide variety of music. The result was *The Ensemble of Friends* and since its inception the Ensemble has grown from the original twelve to thirty singers. The eclectic repertoire has grown enormously too, to over 100 arrangements, thus providing a very varied programme for any concert or occasion. During the relatively short time of its existence, the Ensemble has performed in a variety of prestigious locations including a performance at the Waldorf Hilton Hotel, London and carol concerts for *Barnardo's* in Westminster and Southwark Cathedrals, many local fundraising events, as well as a number of concerts in schools as part of the Ensemble's outreach policy. In October 2018, the Ensemble was invited to Germany to perform concerts in and around the town of Quedlinburg.

Douglas Coombes is a prolific composer, and conductor. Before going freelance, for 20 years he wrote, produced and broadcast a number of BBC music programmes including *Singing Together* and *Time and Tune*. He was also responsible for many original worship songs and all 250 arrangements in the three *Come and Praise* hymnbooks published by the BBC. For 10 years he was the music consultant of the *BBC Songs of Praise School Choirs of the Year Competition*. He is the music director of *The New English Concert Orchestra* which is the orchestra of the Battle Proms. He has conducted every Battle Prom concert since they started in 1997 and is now thought to have conducted Beethoven's *Battle Symphony* more times than anyone else in musical history. In 2010 he received from Gloucestershire University an Honorary Doctorate of Music, in 2012 was awarded the MBE and in 2019 was elected an *Associate Fellow* of Homerton College, Cambridge University where he also teaches conducting and directs the *Homerton Singers*.

Proceeds from this concert will go to support the fabric and work of this church.

Thank you for attending.

***The Amici Singers are giving away CDs, available as you leave the building.
There is no cost to you, but any donation you care to make will also be used for the
benefit of the church.***