

# Rambert School of Ballet & Contemporary Dance

with

## Christ Church Cathedral Choir

present

### MISSA AEDES CHRISTI

a new work by

## Francis Grier

Conductor  
Stephen Darlington



Choreography  
Ross McKim  
and the Company



Sponsored by Cantata Dramatica and the  
Friends of Christ Church Cathedral

Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford OX1 1DP  
Friday 21 June 2013 at 8pm

## PROGRAMME

The Blessing	Music	Barry Ganberg
Vision Quest	Music	Barry Ganberg
Missa Aedes Christi	Music	Francis Grier
Kyrie		
Gloria		
Sanctus and Benedictus		
Agnus Dei		
Pilgrim's Love	Music	Barry Ganberg
Ave Maria	Music	Giulio Cacini

*The performance will last for approximately 1 ¼ hours and there will be  
no interval*

# LIST OF PERFORMERS

Christ Church Cathedral Choir

Choristers

Daniel Baker, Alex Blinko, Harry Brown, Michael FitzGibbon, Jon-Paul Ilomuanya, Matthew Ilomuanya, William Lawley, Finlay Lawson, George Nicholls, Adam Norris, Binath Philomin, Nicholas Platt, Felix Scott-Copeland, Harvey Starey, James Welch, Alex White

Altos

Edward Edgcumbe, Hugo Janacek, James Potter, William Waine

Tenors

Tom Chapman, Tim Hawken, Andrew Hayman, David Lee

Basses

William Dawes, Peter Collins, Michael Hickman, Theo Platt, David Price, James Trickey

Conductor Stephen Darlington

Rambert School

Dancers

Sian Hopkins, Stephanie Hughes, Keelan Ryan, Adelene Stanley, Sarah Swinfield, Rosy Telling

Rehearsal Direction Sian Hopkins    Musical Direction Barry Ganberg

Stage Manager and Musician Wayne Walker-Alan

Choreography by the Company

# Introduction

The *Missæ Aedæ Christi* (Mass for the House of Christ) was commissioned by Stephen Darlington for the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, with funds provided by the JPT Family Trust and the Friends of Christ Church Cathedral.

The composer chosen for this commission was Francis Grier, who was Assistant Organist and then Organist at the Cathedral between 1976 – 1985.

## A note from the Composer

I was thrilled when Stephen Darlington asked me to set a Mass for the choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, and even more so when it became clear that the Mass was to be accompanied by liturgical dance, performed by the students of the Rambert Dance School.

My nine years as Assistant Organist and then Organist of the Cathedral were one of the most important formative periods of my musical life. I grew to love the place and its musical tradition, and one of the high points of every week was the celebration of the Mass, usually to some of the great 16th-century English or Italian settings, perhaps by Byrd or Palestrina. I particularly loved to perform the music of John Taverner, the first organist of the Cathedral in 1526. We sang two of his soaring pre-Reformation Mass settings, wonderful musical and religious vehicles of passionate adoration and contemplation.

My new Mass-setting is quite consciously written with these settings in mind and with the memories of participating in the music of many Sung Eucharists in the Cathedral. It is an attempt both to evoke this distant, early Tudor past and also to rekindle something of the same devotional intensity in the 21st century.

Francis Grier

February 2013

## A note from Stephen Darlington

It seems to me to be essential that a liturgical choir such as ours should foster new sacred music which will become the repertoire of the future. The fact that the composer, Francis Grier, has close connections with Christ Church might have been sufficient reason in itself, but he has a particular empathy with this ongoing tradition and he was an obvious choice when we were thinking of a new commission

The special opportunity to work with the dancers from the Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance has proved stimulating for both composer and musicians. Francis's music is powerful and reflective and is perfectly matched to the physical presence of the dance. Before seeing the piece, it already seemed to me to be an unbeatable combination. This has been more than borne out by the reality of the work which combines these two great art forms in the service of worship with outstanding skill and sensitivity.

## Moving Visions

Moving Visions is the Research Company of the Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance. We proceed on the basis of the hypothetical notions that;

- dance is potentially and naturally a sacred act,
- that there is a distinct category of experience that can be called the sacred, numinous or the holy,
- that this category of experience might provide, and is characterised by, a sense of metaphysical meaning,
- that dance might provide the basis or core activity of a numinous practice,
- that if numinous experience can be generated in this way within performer it might be made visible and so become such a practice for witnesses also.

# MISSA AEDES CHRISTI

## KYRIE

Kyrie eleison;  
Christe eleison;  
Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy;  
Christ have mercy;  
Lord have mercy.

## GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra  
pax hominibus bonae  
voluntatis. Laudamus te,  
benedicimus te, adoramus te,  
glorificamus te. Gratias agimus  
tibi propter magnam gloriam  
tuam. Domine Deus, Rex  
caelestis. Deus pater  
omnipotens: Domine Fili  
unigenite, Jesu Christe, Domine  
Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis; qui tollis peccata  
mundi, suscipe deprecationem  
nostram; qui sedes ad dexteram  
patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam  
tu solus sanctus, tu solus  
Dominus, tu solus altissimus.  
Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu,  
in gloria Dei patris. Amen.

Glory be to God on high. And  
on earth peace, good will  
towards men. We praise thee,  
we bless thee, we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy  
great glory, O Lord God,  
heavenly King, God the Father  
Almighty. O Lord, the only-  
begotten Son, Jesus Christ. O  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of  
the Father, that takest away the  
sins of the world, have mercy  
upon us, receive thou our  
prayer. Thou that sittest at the  
right hand of God the Father,  
have mercy upon us. Receive  
thou our prayer. For thou only  
art holy; thou only art the Lord;  
Thou only, O Christ, with the  
Holy Ghost, art most high in  
the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

## SANCTUS and BENEDICTUS

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,  
Dominus Deus sabaoth:  
pleni sunt coeli et terra Gloria  
tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine  
Domini.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of  
Hosts,  
Heaven and earth are full of thy  
glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who cometh in the  
name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata  
mundi, miserere nobis;

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata  
mundi, dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, who takest away  
the sins of the world, have  
mercy on us;  
Lamb of God, who takest away  
the sins of the world, grant us  
peace.

# BIOGRAPHIES

Christ Church Cathedral Choir is justly famous for the youthfulness of its sound and its daring and adventurous musical programming. Unique in the world as both Cathedral and College choir, the intimate acoustic of its musical home, Oxford's 12th-century Cathedral, has given the choir a relationship with early sacred music and the rhythm and vigour of contemporary idioms which is second to none.

Under the direction of Stephen Darlington, the choir has performed in large venues throughout the world from Sydney to Rio de Janeiro, from Tokyo to New York, from Helsinki to Paris. Stephen Darlington, Director of Music for the last 27 years, also engages the choir in challenging collaborative initiatives in the UK and internationally. On recent tours, in addition to performing its own programmes, the choir has worked intensively alongside local community choirs in Portugal, Jamaica, Bermuda and the USA, culminating in successful and memorable joint concerts.

Christ Church Cathedral Choir boasts a lasting legacy of ground-breaking recordings which have excited the critics and the listening public over the last thirty years. The astonishing versatility of this choir has also given them a strong media profile, featuring in more than fifteen documentaries in the last ten years including a number of Howard Goodall's award-winning TV series. The Cathedral continues frequent radio broadcasting of Evensong and other key concerts and services. And of course, the choir is heard regularly singing the Mr Bean and Vicar of Dibley theme tunes on TV, in addition to other incidental music for TV dramas and films. More information can be found on the choir's website: [www.chchchoir.org](http://www.chchchoir.org)

**Stephen Darlington** is one of the country's leading choral conductors. He has been Director of Music and Tutor in Music at Christ Church since 1985. Previously he was Master of the Music at St. Alban's Abbey and artistic director of the world-famous International Organ Festival. He has established Christ Church as an acknowledged centre of academic musical excellence, and maintained the highest choral traditions of the Church of England in the Cathedral. He is renowned for his direction of choral music of the 16th century, and of modern sacred music, with an extensive discography including several award-winning recordings.

Stephen has travelled worldwide with the choir, performing with many great artists including Plácido Domingo, Jose Carreras, James Bowman, Paul Whelan and John-Mark Ainsley. He has collaborated with distinguished contemporary composers such as Judith Weir, John Tavener and Howard Goodall. Until recently Stephen was President of the Royal College of Organists and he is currently Choragus of the University of Oxford and the holder of a Lambeth Doctorate.

Stephen Darlington and the Cathedral Choir are represented by Val Fancourt Music Management ([www.valfancourt.com](http://www.valfancourt.com))



Francis Grier was Assistant Organist and then Organist at Christ Church Cathedral between 1976 – 1985 and gave the first ever Prom concert given over to a solo performer in 1985. He is now a psychoanalyst and composer. His major new setting of the Passion, to a text by the poet and novelist Elizabeth Cook, commissioned by the BBC and VocalEssence, was performed in Minneapolis in March 2006. The Minneapolis Star Tribune described the work as: a modern masterpiece. When it was performed in King's College Chapel, Cambridge, the Independent wrote: ... it's a humdinger of a new work. ... Overall, *The Passion of Jesus of Nazareth* is a work of vital attack, shivering beauty and compelling power ..

Francis has written two Masses for St Paul's Cathedral, London: in 2010, the *Missæ Spiritus Sanctus* for soloists, choir and instrument ensemble; in 2011, the *Missæ Brevis* for choir and organ, for which he received a British Composer Award in 2012.

In 2011, he also wrote *A Sequence for St Davids* for cellist Natalie Klein, soprano Natalie Clifton-Griffith and the choir of St Davids Cathedral for the St Davids Festival. He was commissioned to write a new work for the *Choirbook for the Queen* which was performed in Glasgow Cathedral for the formal Jubilee Thanksgiving visit of the Queen to the city on 4th July 2012. The award-winning London-based choir, Pegasus, commissioned and premiered two new works in September 2012 and the choir of King's College Cambridge will be performing his new setting of the Vespers in the near future. The *Missæ Aedæ Christi* was commissioned by Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, for performance in June 2013.

Ross McKim is the Principal and Artistic Director of the Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance. He entered The Royal Ballet School in 1965 at the age of sixteen. Judged first in his class at the end of his first term he was taken into The Royal Danish Ballet by the end of what would have been his second. He then danced with The Royal Danish Ballet, The National Ballet of Canada and London Contemporary Dance Theatre as a principal dancer before performing for his own companies. He founded Moving Visions in London in 1976. It was later known as English Dance Theatre while based in the north of England. He set up Chamber Dance Theatre in Canada and moved it back to London. In 1985, he was appointed Director of Rambert School and re-established Moving Visions as a research vehicle. He has taught for all the major London professional schools and many companies including Rambert Dance Company, London Contemporary Dance Theatre and Phoenix Dance Theatre. He has choreographed for contemporary dance companies (including London Contemporary Dance Theatre), ballet companies (including The National Ballet of Canada), opera (including English National Opera), theatre companies (including the Tyne Wear Theatre Company) as well as schools, youth groups and puppets.

The Cathedral Dance Research Project is the principal Research Project of Rambert School and is closely related to the MA Degree Programme.

The work revolves around a theory concerned with numinous experience and expression through dance. This theory proposes that dance may potentially be naturally numinous. The dances made through the project attempt to realise this potentiality through two means:

- The act of dance itself
- The taking on of mythic archetypal roles

Since the project is trying to move away from performance and towards rituals the works made are called 'pararituals'.

Moving Visions Dance Theatre, as the research vehicle of the project, has toured to cathedrals and churches all over the UK. The company has also performed in churches in Canada and the United States.

Music for the pararituals is created and performed live by Barry Ganberg and sometimes other musicians. The dancers are students, or former students, of Rambert School. Choreography is by Ross McKim. This is the first time that the dancers have performed with a live unaccompanied choir.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This performance would not have been possible without the support of our many friends, including:

The Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral, the Friends of the Cathedral, the JPT Family Trust, Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance, Cantata Dramatica\*.

Photographs of Dance by John Pridmore

Photograph of Choir by the Christ Church Cathedral Choir

\*Cantata Dramatica is established under the Charities Aid Foundation, Registered Charity Number 268369. It is a not-for-profit organisation whose objective is to commission and promote new music.

# FORTHCOMING HIGHLIGHTS IN 2013

## CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL CHOIR

Mendelssohn's arrangement of Handel's *Acis and Galatea* at Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford (6 July)

Carol Concert at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, Oxfordshire (2 December)

Music at Oxford Christmas Concerts, Christ Church, Oxford (13 and 20 December)

Christmas Concert at St John's Smith Square, London (18 December)

[www.chchchoir.org](http://www.chchchoir.org)

## MOVING VISIONS

Summer Cathedral Tour

Norwich Cathedral - July 30 to August 2

Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford - August 6 to 9

Gloucester Cathedral - Aug 12 to August 16

Performances are usually twice a day. Times TBA.

[www.cathedraldanceresearch.co.uk](http://www.cathedraldanceresearch.co.uk)

# CD Recordings by Christ Church Cathedral Choir



AV2184

## Choirs of Angels

A second volume of music from the Eton Choirbook including works by Browne, Cornysh, Davy, Lambe and Wylkynson

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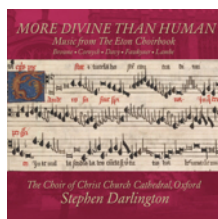
The Sunday Times



AV2215

*"A splendidly recorded and packaged snapshot of a great choral institution. Still going as strongly as ever"*

BBC Music Magazine



AV2123

*"A disc to set the spirits soaring. Glorious beyond words."*

Gramophone, Best of 2009



NI6201

*"In a word, it is magical!"*

musicweb-international.com



AV2167

*"Stephen Darlington gives majestic shape to this monumental work"*

BBC Music Magazine

Recordings will be on sale after the performance or can be ordered from [www.chchchoir.org](http://www.chchchoir.org)