



# OLIVET TO CALVARY

By **J H Maunder**

## **Cantores Oecumenica**

Tenor -	<b>Christopher Turner</b>
Baritone -	<b>David Le Prevost</b>
Soprano -	<b>Jean Tragen</b>
Pilate -	<b>Peter O'Connor</b>
Guest Organist -	<b>Jonathan Scott</b>
Conductor -	<b>Neil Provost</b>

**Holy Angels Church, Halebarns**

Sunday 25th March 2018

## **Sopranos**

Lorna Barton

Jean Brookes

Sue Brown

Marie Dixon

Margaret Dyson

Rhiannon Healey-Provost

Sue McEwan

Carole McNab

Patsy Newhouse

Jennifer Nugent

Jo O'Connor

Frances Provost

Jean Tragen

Clare Wilkinson-Kirsop

Lucy Yardley

## **Altos**

Gill Bate

Adrienne Davies

Liz Dunn

Sally Peterken

Hazel Pryor

Adrienne Thompson

Georgia Yardley

## **Bass**

Michael Brown

Michael Cummings

Roy Jervis

Keith Lewis

Ian Provost

## **Tenors**

Tony Champion

Steve Crowther

Kevin McAloon

Tony Nash

Ted Thompson

Peter Worrall



**John Henry Maunder** was born in Chelsea and studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London. He was organist at St Matthew's, Sydenham 1876-7, and St Paul's, Forest Hill 1878-9, neither of which now exists, as well as churches in Blackheath and Sutton, and accompanied concerts in the Albert Hall. He was conductor of the Civil Service Vocal Union from 1881, and also trained the choir for Henry Irving's original production of Faust at the Lyceum Theatre in 1887.

Maunder started his career as a theatre composer during which time he wrote the operetta 'Daisy Dingle'. He later devoted himself exclusively to sacred music. While his oratorio 'The Martyrs' became a perennial favourite, it is 'Olivet to Calvary' which has retained its popularity and appeal through the generations.

The work is a fine example of music written for the late Victorian/early Edwardian Anglican church. Considered by some to be over sentimental by modern tastes, it contains a sincerity and dedication which, despite being a definite product of its time, has carried the piece through to the modern era.



## OLIVET TO CALVARY



Its popularity is in part due to its simplicity, needing only organ, choir, bass and tenor soloists, it is a work which can be performed by the smallest choirs.

The words Olivet to Calvary were written and arranged by Shapcott Wensley, a pseudonym for the English poet Henry Shapcott Bunce (1854-1917). Described as a sacred cantata, 'Olivet to Calvary' recalls the scenes which mark the last few days of Christ's life on earth.

Part 1 starts with Christ's jubilant journey to Jerusalem with the rejoicing of the multitude with hosannas and palms. The view of Jerusalem from the steep of Olivet and the lament over the city, the dispersal of the money changers in the Temple, and the sad nocturnal walk on the Mount of Olivet are all portrayed.

Part 2 begins with the 'Last Supper' at the Feast of Passover at which Jesus washed His disciples' feet and with Christ's commandment to his disciples to

'Love one Another'. Then follows the agonizing prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, the sudden appearance of the hostile crowd, the abandonment of Jesus by His disciples, His utter loneliness among ruthless enemies, the turmoil before Pilate when Barabbas is released, the tragedy of the Cross, the Crucifixion and eventual triumph of Calvary.

The whole work is interspersed with congregational hymns which reflect on the scenes.

While a slight and somewhat outdated work 'Olivet to Calvary', like Stainer's more substantial 'Crucifixion', rewards sincere performance.

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**The Choir** ***Cantores Oecumenica*** was officially formed under its new name in 2012 although the choir has been performing together since 2008. Over the years numbers attending performances have risen year on year from only forty to over two hundred. Performances are always free entry with all donations collected at performances going to nominated charities. Palm Sunday 2017 raised just over £1,500!

The choir is headed by our Musical Director and Principal Conductor, Neil Provost, supported by our Musical Consultant, Paul Provost (Rector Chori - Southwell Minster).



Cantores Oecumenica is a voluntary, not-profit organisation. All expenses are covered by individual sponsors with voluntary support from members of the choir.

New members are always welcome and membership is free. We rehearse on Thursdays at Christ Church, Timperley from 7.30pm. If you are interested in taking part in any of our performances please go to our website [www.cantoresoec.org](http://www.cantoresoec.org) for further details. Sponsorship is always welcome too!

Last year we supported our sponsors by making our first foray into 'crowdfunding' with success, as we incurred many extra costs.

**Christopher Turner** Born in Birmingham, Christopher Turner read Music at the University of Hull, furthering his studies with Barbara Robotham at the Royal Northern College of Music and at the National Opera Studio, where he was sponsored by the Scottish Endowment Trust and The Friends of Covent Garden. He has received many prizes, including The Michael and Joyce Kennedy Prize for Singing Strauss, The Frederic Cox Prize, the Elizabeth Harwood Prize, and, most recently, a Countess of Munster 'Young Star' Award and the Sybil Tutton Award from the Musicians Benevolent Fund. He was also a major scholar of the Sir Peter Moores Foundation.



Christopher Turner made his professional début as Dr Blind Die Fledermaus for Scottish Opera On Tour before joining the Young Singers Programme at English National Opera. Since then he has sung with Opera North, Diva Opera in France, Scottish Opera, Opera Holland Park, Iford Arts, Mid Wales Opera, Chelsea Opera Group, English Touring Opera and Bampton Classical Opera). In summer 2015 he made his Italian debut singing Inquisitor/Sultan Achmet in *Candide* (Opera de Firenze).

Christopher Turner performs regularly in concert and his performances have taken him throughout the UK, and also to Europe and the Far East. Recent engagements include Beethoven Ninth Symphony with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall and with the Philharmonia at the Lichfield Festival, Mozart Requiem and Messiah with the Orchestra of St John's Smith Square, and Messiah at Cadogan Hall with the London Chamber Orchestra. He has recorded *Aubrey Maria di Rohan* and *Keeper of the Tower Pia dei Tolomei* for Opera Rara.

Christopher is now a Vocal Professor at The Birmingham Conservatoire. His students have enjoyed success at Royal Opera House, English National Opera and Welsh National Opera to name a few. He also runs a very small private studio in various locations: Dudley, Wolverhampton, Oldbury, Birmingham and Earlsfield in London.

Christopher returns to sing with Cantores Oecumenica for his third year!

Baritone

**David Le Prevost** read for a music degree at Manchester University where he was introduced to cathedral music and became a bass lay clerk at Manchester Cathedral for three years.

During this period he studied singing with Martin Bussey and performed in both a choral and solo capacity in many works including Handel's Messiah, Bach's St John Passion, Mozart's Requiem and Schumann's Dichterliebe.



From 2012-14, David was a bass lay clerk at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, under the directorship of Dr Stephen Darlington and is studying singing with Giles Underwood. He is a member of the internationally renowned chamber

choir 'Polyphony' directed by Stephen Leyton and regularly sings as an Ad Hoc member of the BBC Singers. Most recently this involved performing in a production of Berg's opera Wozzeck with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. Other solo engagements include the baritone roles from Carl Orff's Carmina Burana and Brahms' Requiem.

On stage, David has played the title roles in Mozart's Marriage of Figaro and Handel's Hercules. David has been involved in a number of CD recordings of various composers including Vaughan Williams, Schütz and Eric Whitacre's Grammy award winning CD 'Light and Gold'. He also sang as a principle soloist in recent recordings of material from the Eton Choirbook with Christ Church Cathedral Choir.

Cantores Oecumenica welcomes David back, he sang this very same work with them 2009!

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Pilate

**Peter O'Connor** Peter O'Connor, a primary school teacher, is a member of the Parish choir here at Holy Angels and has performed with Cantores Oecumenica previously for the Nine Lessons and Carols at Christ Church, Timperley.



A strong and confident young Baritone, Peter has a long standing love of music having been in choirs from a young age, starting in the St. Ambrose Preparatory School choir led by Michael Lochery. However only in recent years has

Peter dedicated more time to his singing and has continued to develop under the guidance of Neil Provost, in addition to the support of the experienced members of the Holy Angels choir. Peter is relishing the opportunity to perform with Cantores Oecumenica once again, as he strives to build on his experience and progress towards realising his singing potential.

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**Jean Tragen** has been an enthusiastic singer since the age of five, singing solos with the school choir. She was trained by Connie Astington (London) and Doris Gambell (Auntie Doris from BBC Children's Hour). She joined the Hallé choir as a chorister and also sang in the semi-chorus for 25 years. During this time, she performed under Sir John Barbirolli, Sir Charles Grove, Mark Elder and many other well known conductors. She has also sung and been televised at Lincoln and Chester Cathedrals and made recordings of the Dream of Gerontius and Belshazzar's Feast with Sir John Barbirolli and Owain Arwel Hughes.

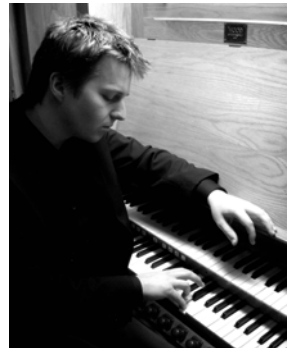


Jean has been the leader and soloist at the Manchester Reform Synagogue for many years and trained a youth choir there.

For the past 20 years, Jean has sung with the Altrincham Choral Society, occasionally performing as a soloist. She has also sung for the past five years with Cantores Oecumenica and has been our soprano soloist in previous years.

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**Jonathan Scott** enjoys a hugely varied performing career on a diverse spectrum of keyboard instruments performing music which spans the entire classical repertoire. In addition to his career as pianist and organist Jonathan has a busy concert schedule with his pianist brother, Tom Scott, performing as Scott Brothers Duo.



Born in Manchester, Jonathan studied piano and organ at Chetham's School of Music before gaining a scholarship on both instruments to attend the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM). With the

Soprano

Guest Organist

aid of a Countess of Munster Scholarship he was able to continue his studies in USA and Holland. Jonathan won the coveted Worshipful Company of Musicians WT Best Scholarship and gold medal, and is a Freeman of The City of London. He has been a member of the keyboard staff at RNCM since 2001 and is also Associate Artist of the Bridgewater Hall

Jonathan's performances have included numerous solo recitals as well as concertos with BBC Philharmonic, Orchestra of Opera North, Royal Scottish National Orchestra and solo appearances at the BBC proms, mid-Atlantic performances on Queen Mary 2 and a series of performances as organ and piano soloist at The Royal Albert Hall, London. His performance of Copland Organ Symphony was broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 and released on the Chandos label. More recent performances include solo concerto appearances with Hallé Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and the premier of a new organ concerto by Karl Jenkins for the 2017 Hull City of Culture.

Jonathan returns for his fourth year with Cantores Oecumenica!

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## Conductor

**Neil Provost** was born in Altrincham and involved in music through the amateur theatre at an early age. Starting piano lessons at age nine he progressed to the organ by age fourteen receiving lessons from Derrick Cantrell (then Organist of Manchester Cathedral).

He took his first parish post at St Mark's, Dunham just before his sixteenth birthday. At St Ambrose College, Halebarns he took a strong interest in choral conducting under the tutelage of John Chadwick and Michael English,



who later became his organ tutor. Neil moved to St John the Divine, Brooklands in 1990 as Director of Music and Organist. Whilst there the choir was invited to sing in Manchester Cathedral for Choral Evensong.

In 2000 Neil moved to Christ Church, Timperley where he forged a musical link with Holy Angels and over ten years ago began the successful Palm Sunday presentations including 'Via Crucis' for which Neil wrote the libretto.

The culmination of these efforts was the formation of Cantores Oecumenica (literal translation, singers ecumenical). Neil is Musical Director and Principal Conductor for Cantores Oecumenica.



# **OLIVET TO CALVARY**

## **No. 1. - ON THE WAY TO JERUSALEM**

*Chorus* When o'er the steep of Olivet

## **No. 2. - BEFORE JERUSALEM**

*Recitative (Tenor)* Like a fair vision

*Recitative & Air (Baritone)* O Jerusalem!

## **No. 3. - IN THE TEMPLE**

*Recitative (Tenor and Baritone)* And Jesus entered into the Temple of God

*Solo (Soprano) and Chorus* Another temple waits thee, Lord divine

## **No. 4. - THE MOUNT OF OLIVES**

*Solo (Tenor)* Not of this world the Kingdom of our Lord

*Chorus* 'Twas night o'er lonely Olivet

*Solo (Tenor)* He was despised

*Solo (Baritone) and Chorus* Come unto Him

*HYMN* Just as I am

## **No. 5. - A NEW COMMANDMENT**

*Recitative & Air (Baritone)* A new commandment

*Chorus* O Thou Whose sweet compassion

## **No. 6. - GETHSEMANE**

*Recitative (Baritone)* And when they had sung a hymn

*HYMN* "Thy will be done"

## **No. 7. - BETRAYED AND FORSAKEN**

*Chorus* And while He yet spake

*Recitative & Air (Tenor)* Ye who sin, and ye who sorrow

## **No. 8. - BEFORE PILATE**

*Chorus with Solo (Pilate)* Crucify Him!

## **No. 9. - THE MARCH TO CALVARY**

*Chorus* The Saviour King goes forth to die!

## **No. 10. - CALVARY**

*Recitative (Baritone)* And when they came to the place

*Solo (Soprano) and Chorus* Droop, Sacred Head

*HYMN* Rock of Ages, cleft for me,

## HYMN

1. Just as I am, without one plea  
But that Thy Blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come,  
Just as I am, just as I am,  
just as I am, I come.

2. Just as I am, though toss'd about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come.  
Just as I am, just as I am,  
Just as I am, I come.

3. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea all I need, in Thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come.  
Just as I am, just as I am,  
just as I am, I come.

4. Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come,  
Just as I am, just as I am,  
Just as I am, I come.

5. Just as I am (Thy love unknown  
Has broken every barrier down,)  
Now to be Thine, yea,  
O Lamb of God, I come.  
Just as I am, just as I am,  
Just as I am, I come.

6. Just as I am, of that free love  
The breadth, length, depth, and height to  
prove,  
Thine alone, Here for a season, then above,  
O Lamb of God, I come.  
Just as I am, just as I am,  
Just as I am, I come.

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## HYMN

1. "Thy will be done," the Saviour said,  
And bowed to earth His sacred head,  
The sands of life had nearly run My Father,  
Let Thy will be done.  
Thy will, not Mine, be done.

2. No watch His spent disciples kept,  
Amid the shadows deep they slept;  
But silent Angels waiting there,  
Beheld His agony of prayer.  
Thy will, not Mine, be done.

3. His soul foresaw the cruel scorns,  
The brutal scourge, the crown of thorns,  
And darker than Gethsemane,  
The shadow of the accursed tree.  
Thy will, not Mine, be done.

4. What though He felt in that dread hour,  
The storm of human passion lower!  
Nor pain, nor death His soul would shun,  
My Father, let Thy will be done,  
Thy will, not Mine, be done.

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## HYMN

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the Water and the Blood,  
From Thy riven Side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure,  
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.

2. Not the labours of my hands  
Can fulfil Thy law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears for ever flow,  
All for sin could not atone  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

3. Nothing in my hand I bring,  
Simply to Thy Cross I cling;  
Naked, come to Thee for dress;  
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the Fountain fly;  
Wash me, Saviour, or I die.

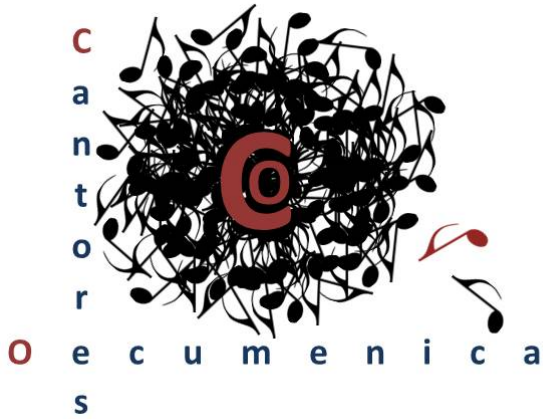
4. While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When my eyelids close in death,  
When I soar through tracts unknown  
See Thee on Thy Judgment Throne;  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee. Amen.

**This performance has been given free of charge.**

**The retiring collection will be divided equally between, and given in entirety to the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) and Christian Aid.**



**Thank you for any contribution you are able to make.**



would like to thank :

**Our sponsors who have supported the musicians,  
provided the posters and the programmes.**

**Holy Angels, Halebarns**

**Christ Church, Timperley**

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