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CANTORUM CHOIR

and



SUMMER CONCERT

東西を結ぶ合唱の橋

Tozai wo musubu gassyo no hashi
"Chorus Bridge connecting East and West"

Conductors

SALLY STAFFORD

and

MASANOBU KARASAWA

8:00pm 17th June 2007
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH COOKHAM

東西を結ぶ合唱の橋

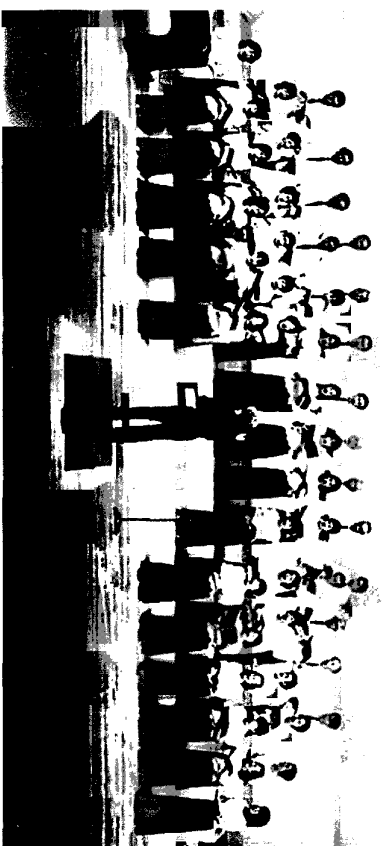
Tozai wo musubu gassyo no hashi
"Chorus Bridge connecting East and West"

Cantorium is delighted and privileged to welcome the members of **Fonte** — a mixed voice choir from Nagareyama, Japan — as our very special guests for this landmark Summer Concert.

Fonte are currently touring in UK with their leader and inspiration Mr Masanobu Karasawa. They appear with us here this evening fresh from a joint concert held last night with **Parentthesis** in Reading.

We were very fortunate to meet Mr Karasawa — 'Nobu' to his friends — during his six month stay in England two years ago, while he was researching and experiencing English choral music at its source. Mr Karasawa is a remarkable musician who has devoted himself to performing the works of the international choral tradition in his native Japan. As part of his UK project, he sang with us expertly on a number of occasions, charming us all with his skill, warmth and enthusiasm. He also gave us origami lessons in the Jolly Farmer at Cookham Dean after rehearsals!

Now we're thrilled that Fonte can be with us for a day as a full choir. We hope very much that you'll enjoy tonight's concert in the spirit of a bridge connecting East and West. Our two groups, performing sometimes separately, sometimes together, offer you a mixture of Japanese and English pieces, which include both the unexpected and the very familiar.



FONTTE

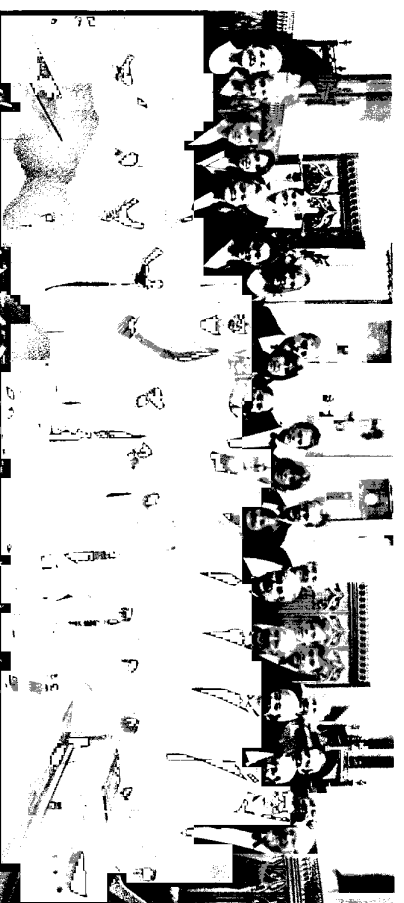


Our Chorus Group **Fontte** was born in the winter of 1974 by the name of 'Nagareyama Citizen Chorus'. After the 15th annual concert we decided to change our name to Mixed Chorus 'Fonte', which means 'fountain' in Italian. We hoped to keep singing many songs one after another like water in a fountain.

Our conductor, Mr Masanobu Karasawa, has been leading the choir since the beginning. We now have about 50 members drawn from all walks of life, ranging from retired persons to housewives, office workers and nurses. We love singing together and believe Fonte has played a leading role in the cultural life of our area.

Recent highlights from our repertoire include *Byrd O Magnum Mysterium*, *Elgar Ave Verum*, *Gibbons Almighty and Everlasting God*, *Handel Messiah* (translated into Japanese by our conductor), *Matsushita Sora Datta (That's the Sky)* and *Maryama Japanese Folksongs*. We have also recently sung selected motets by Bach and Palestrina. We specialise in choral music from the renaissance to the time of Mozart (his Masses in particular), but are also known for singing modern and popular music in both English and Japanese, including original compositions by Mr Karasawa and Mr Maryama. A full list of our extensive repertoire, together with information about the choir, is to be found on:
<http://chorus.fonte-jp.net/>

Cantorum



Cantorum **Choir** was founded over twenty years ago by Jonathan Miall, who now continues his involvement in the role of President. Subsequent conductors have been Murray Hipkin, now with the ENO, and Sally Stafford, who takes charge tonight. Based primarily in Cookham, but drawing its members from around the Thames Valley, Cantorum has established a reputation as one of the leading chamber choirs in the area – its Christmas carol concerts in Cookham Dean each year have become a village tradition. Cantorum appeared in the first of the *Inspector Morse* adaptations, *The Dead of Jericho*, and was the chorus for the recording of the stage musical *Wuthering Heights*. Its diverse repertoire includes, most recently, *Fauré* and *Rutter Requiems*, *Haydn Creation*, *Brahms Requiem*, *Mozart Requiem*, *Poulenc Stabat Mater*, *Rossini Petite Messe Solennelle*, *Elgar The Music Makers*, *Bach Mass in B Minor and Magnificat*, *Buxtehude Membra Jesu Nostr*, *Britten St Nicholas* and *Cantata Misericordiam*, *Handel Dixit Dominus* and *Kodaly Missa Brevis*.

The choir has undertaken several European tours, the latest to Venice last year to sing for the Palm Sunday Mass in St Mark's Basilica.

Further details of the choir can be found on our website:
www.cantorumchoir.org.uk

Masanobu Karasawa — Conductor



Nobu began his musical career playing the violin at Matsumoto Music Academy directly under Mr. Shinichi Suzuki who is famous as the establisher of the Suzuki Method. Later, he studied chemistry and was the director of his University Choir.

He went on to study choir directing under Mr. Fumiaki Kuriyama who was a winner of the Trossa International Chorus Competition. In 1990, Nobu was recommended as a member of JCDA (Japan Choir Directors Association) and readily took up this position. He has also been a member of "Choralist Group Music Tree: Think Tank on 21 Century's Chorus" which is headed by Mr. Kuriyama.

Besides Fonte, Nobu directs a male choir, three female choirs and two mixed choirs.

He has been the director of Fonte since 1975. His established repertoire includes not only many Japanese choral pieces but a great range of European classical works, especially Bach *Cantatas 4, 147, Missa Brevis*, and *Magnificat*, Mozart *Requiem* and *Coronation Mass* and the four Mozart *Missa Brevis* titles K. 192, 194, 220 and 257.

Sally Stafford — Conductor



Sally began her musical career playing the oboe, and read Music at Royal Holloway College, where she studied conducting as part of her degree course. She has been Head of Music at Burnham Grammar School, teacher and conductor at the Wycombe Music Centre, and County Advisory Music Teacher for Buckinghamshire, during which time she wrote *Sound Activities*, a book on teaching music in primary schools. In 1989 she was appointed Director of Music at Dame Alice Owen's School, where she conducted a full symphony orchestra, a training orchestra of 130, a chamber orchestra, jazz bands and choirs. She has conducted orchestras at the South Bank as part of the Festival of Music for Youth.

She has taken a great interest in the training and supervision of music teachers and has lectured on the PGCE, BED and MA courses at Middlesex University. Sally has recently devoted her time to bringing up her young family, and is now beginning to resume her professional career in conducting and music education through teaching and consultancy work.

Sally has been conducting Cantorum since 1996, encouraging a very wide repertoire. Concerts have included Requiems by Mozart, Fauré and Rutter, Vaughan Williams *Serenade to Music*, Elgar *The Music Makers*, Britten *Rejoice in the Lamb*, Poulenc *Stabat Mater*, Bach *Magnificat* and *Haydn Creation*.

Fonte

Piano

Chihō Murata

Sopranos

Misako Akiyama
Michiko Fukui
Atsuko Ishikawa
Yoko Katagai
Yoshiko Kawakami
Kiniko Miura
Kazuko Nomizo
Reiko Ohta
Yoko Ohtomo
Misa Watanabe

Tenors

Akio Akiyama
Kishiro Ishibayashi
Saburo Orii
Hiromichi Shimokawa
Katsunari Yoshikara

Altos

Sizuko Arai
Akiko Hagiwara
Yuko Hashimoto
Akiko Ishibayashi
Yumiko Iwase
Aiko Kitamura
Miyabi Masamura
Keiko Moro
Kinue Murakushi
Mieko Nakamura
Setsuko Yoshitake

Basses

Toshiaki Fukuoka
Masahiko Horie
Kou Imaizumi
Keizo Kuwahara
Ryo Maruyama

Cantorum

Piano / Organ

Rhidian Jones

Sopranos

Bridget Bentley
Julia Bentley
Jill Goode
Emily Hove
Jean Lewis
Eve MacDonald
Valerie Snapes
Philippa Stork
Genevieve Usher

Tenors

Robert Goode
Philip Martineau
John Paramore
Malcolm Stork

Altos

Jill Burton
Penny Bysshe
Jami Castell
Anne Glover
Eleanor Griffiths
Jo Rodgers
Lorna Sykes

Basses

Derek Beaven
John Buck
Stuart Davis
Peter Griffiths
David Hazelaine
Andrew Hubbard
Paul Seddon

PROGRAMME

Part One

Conducted by Masanobu Karasawa

- 1 *Hana* (Cherry Blossom) Rentaro Taki
- 2 *Chiisana Sora* (Little Sky) Tohru Takemitsu
- 3 *Maru to Sankaku no Uta* (Circle and Triangle Song)
Tohru Takemitsu

4 *Mizu no Inochi* (The Soul of the Water)

In five movements

Saburo Takata
Piano — Chiho Murata

The poem shows the life of water: *Ame* (Rain) – *Mizutamari* (Pool) – *Kawa* (River) – *Umi* (Towards Sea) – *Umiyo* (Ocean). The real content of each of the five movements is the 'soul' which the human being should keep. Rain is the mercy of God who brings life to all things on the earth. Even the muddy pool has a clean surface which wishes to reflect the clean sky. The water is fated only to flow down, but does not water have the mind to flow up? Does the human being have such a mind? Towards the sea: it's the heart of the human being which always wants the heart of the loving mother. In the ocean, the water goes towards heaven, becoming vapour. That is the soul of water which yearns for God.

5 *The Silver Swan*

Orlando Gibbons

6 *Ave Verum Corpus*

William Byrd

7 *Akatombo* (Red Dragonfly)

Kohsaku Yamada

(Translation) *I recall a red dragonfly in the sunset glow. Why should I remember it so well – all those years ago? Was it true, or did I dream it? High upon the hill, we were picking mulberries, and I just a baby still. My elder sister went away to marry – she was scarce fifteen. What has happened to the village now in the years between? Still see that red dragonfly in the setting sun on a slender tip of young bamboo just as day was done.*

INTERVAL

The interval will be for approximately 20 minutes. Drinks will be served at the rear of the church.

PROGRAMME

Part Two

Conducted by Sally Stafford

- 1 *From the Bavarian Highlands* Edward Elgar
Piano — Rhidian Jones

The Dance
False Love
Lullaby
Aspiration
On the Alim
The Marksman

Lady Elgar (Alice) wrote these six poems in the style of Bavarian folksongs, following a happy holiday the Elgars took to Bavaria in 1894. Elgar set them for choir and piano in 1895. Items 1, 3 and 6 are also familiar from Elgar's Orchestral Suite *Three Bavarian Dances*.
(This year is the 150th anniversary of Elgar's birth.)

2 *Three Shakespeare Songs*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Full Fathom Five — from *The Tempest*
The Cloud-capp'd Towers — from *The Tempest*
Over Hill, Over Dale — from

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Still at the height of his powers, Vaughan Williams made these three superb choral settings to mark the British Federation of Music Festivals Competitive Event in 1951.

3 *Zadok the Priest*

Organ — Rhidian Jones

Handel

This popular anthem was written for the coronation of King George II in 1727.

- 4 *Hallelujah Chorus* — from *The Messiah* Handel
Organ — Rhidian Jones

Chiho Murata read Music (specialising in piano) at Seitoku College, graduating in the Advanced Course with the top diploma. She studied piano under Motoyo Suzuki, Joko Gondo and Hiroshi Suzuki. She also studied cembalo under Naoko Yasui. In 1993, 1994 and 1997, she studied in England under Professor Lois Phillips and, in 1995, won the top awards at the 6th Student Competition organised by the Saitama Newspaper. She went on to give solo Chopin recitals in 1996 and 1998 and has since been appointed as a demonstration piano player by Roland Digital Piano.

Chiho has since been active in education: she is an authorized instructor of "Milky Land Music Class from zero age". Now she teaches piano at Seitoku College as well.

She has been Fonte's accompanist since 1997.

Rhidian Jones hails from Aberdare in South Wales where he attended school and learned the piano and organ. He read Music at the University of Oxford and taught the subject for some years in various schools. He then became a local government officer and acquired legal qualifications on the way. He was an associate tutor for the Open University for twenty years.

Rhidian now lives in Maidenhead, where he is an education officer for the local authority, and is a church organist. In addition to organ music, he has particular interests in *lieder* and chamber music. For seven years he was the accompanist to the London-based Canonbury Chamber Choir, for whom he played the piano and organ. His musical activities recently include a number of recitals locally on the piano and the organ, and a concert at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham where he accompanied a Birmingham male voice choir.

We are particularly grateful to
Hitachi UK
 for their very generous
 sponsorship of
 tonight's concert

Cantorum Choir would also like to thank the vicar and churchwardens of Holy Trinity Church, Cookham, for the opportunity to perform tonight's concert here

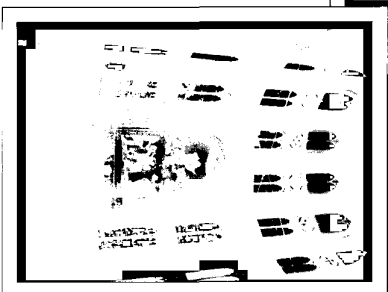
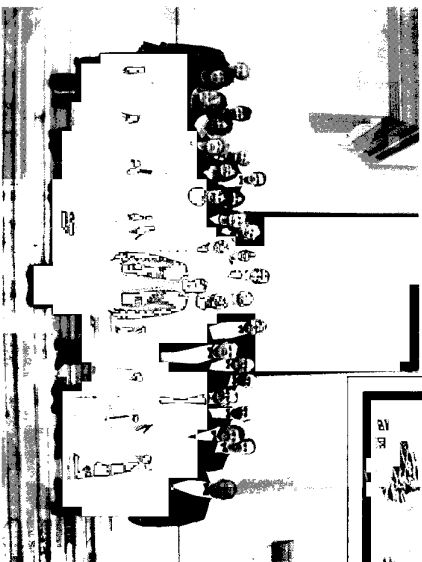
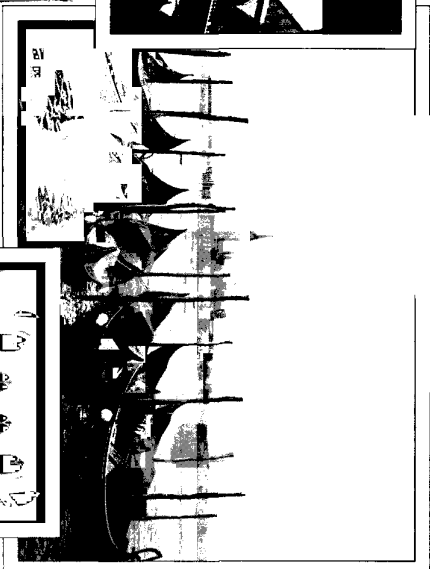
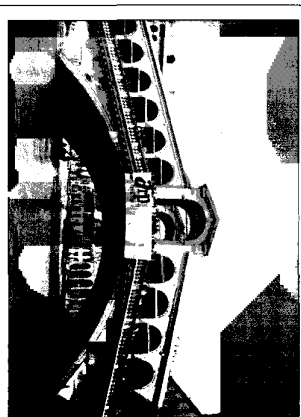
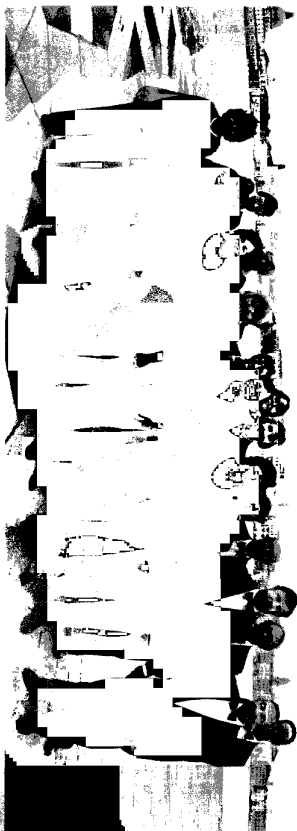
and
 Our conductors, Sally Stafford and Masanobu Karasawa
 Our rehearsal pianists, Rhidian Jones and Simon Howat

Liaison and planning with Japan — Jill Burton
 Hospitality coordination — Val Snapes, Jill Burton
 Press and Publicity & Jo Rodgers
 Posters/Fliers — Jami Castell, Malcolm Stork
 Ticket sales — Nick Weait
 Interval drinks — Val Snapes, Marianne Stork
 Music librarian — Val & Jim Snapes
 Lighting — Anne Glover
 Staging — Colin Jackson
 Staging hire — Peter Griffiths, John Buck
 Ticket Outlets — Holy Trinity School, Cookham
 — Cookham Dean Post Office Stores
 & The Stationery Depot, Cookham Rise

Special mention goes to those choir members who have generously offered hospitality to our guests.

And, of course, we thank you, our audience, for your continued support!

Cantorum in Venice



CANTORUM CHOIR

FUTURE CONCERTS

13th October 2007

Concert —
All Saints' Church, Marlow

9th December 2007

Christmas Concert —
St John the Baptist Church, Cookham Dean

Spring 2008

Passiontide Music —
All Saints' Church, Maidenhead

May/June 2008

Summer Concert —
Holy Trinity Church, Cookham

October 2008

All Saints' Church, Marlow

Website

www.cantorumchoir.org.uk

Email

info@cantorumchoir.org.uk

We are currently recruiting new voices in all sections. If you have choral experience and are interested in joining Cantorum Choir, please speak to a member of the choir after tonight's performance, or visit our website — or email us with your contact details.