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# Cantorum Choir and Orchestra



with the **Solaris Quartet**

*Handel-Dixit Dominus*

*Haydn-String Quartet Op 76 No 1 in G major*

*Elgar-Serenade for Strings in E minor Op 20*

*Britten-Cantata Misericordium Op69*

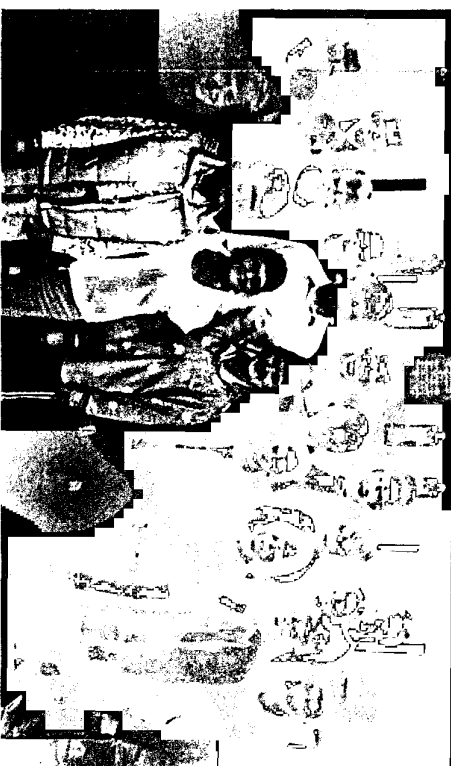
**Murray Hipkin - conductor**

Sat 12 April 2003  
All Saints Church  
Marlow



## CANTORUM CHOIR

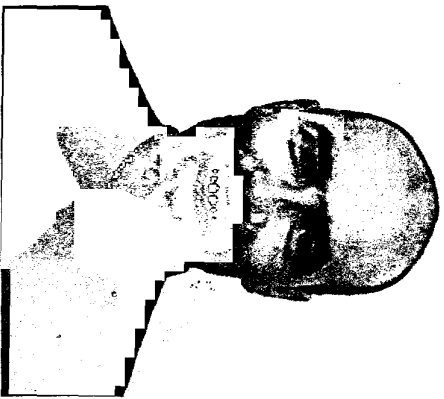
Cantorum Choir was founded over twenty years ago by its then conductor Jonathan Mfali, who now continues his involvement in the role of President. Drawing its members from all around the Thames Valley, but based primarily in Cookham, Cantorum has established a reputation as one of the leading chamber 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 recorded the soundtrack of *Wuthering Heights*. Its diverse repertoire includes, most recently, Brahms *Requiem*, Mozart *Requiem*, Rossini *Petite Messe Solonelle*, Elgar *The Music Makers*, Bach *Mass in B minor* and *Magnificat*, Buxtehude *Membra Jesu Nostri*, Britten *St Nicolas*, Rutter *Requiem*, Handel *Dixit Dominus*, Kodaly *Missa Brevis* and Faure *Requiem*. The choir has undertaken several European tours, most recently to Bruges. Cantorum currently has two conductors, Sally Stafford and Murray Hipkin.





## MURRAY HIPKIN (CONDUCTOR/PIANO)

MURRAY HIPKIN studied at York University (with Paul Roberts), the Guildhall (with John York) and the National Opera Studio before joining the Music Staff of ENO (1983-8). He then worked for Opéra de Lyon, La Monnaie, Opera Factory, Scottish Opera and Opera Brava (as Musical Director), before returning to ENO in 1995 where he has appeared in Mahagonny, The Silver Tassie, Leoncavallo's La bohème and The Rake's Progress, and worked extensively as a



Coach, Répétiteur and Assistant Conductor. This season, for ENO, he has been involved in performances of The Rhinegold, The Valkyrie, Siegfried, Xerxes, Der Rosenkavalier and The Trojans. He appeared with the Icelandic singer Bjork in Pierrot Lunaire at the 1996 Verbier Festival and recently worked with her on John Tavener's Prayer of the Heart. He has conducted the Cantorum Choir for ten years (recent concerts have included Bach B minor Mass, Brahms Requiem, Rossini Petite Messe Solonelle) and has conducted La bohème (Surrey Opera, Opera Box). In February last year he assisted the composer John Adams and acted as conductor on location for the Channel 4 film The Death of Klinghoffer. Murray has recently been appointed Musical Director of the North London Chorus and is currently teaching part-time on the opera course at the Royal College of Music in London. In May he will assist the conductor David Parry in a production of Il barbiere di Siviglia for Garsington Opera, and in July he will conduct the UK premiere of Salieri's Falstaff for Bampton Classical Opera.

Murray Hipkin is a member of **English National Opera** and appears by permission.

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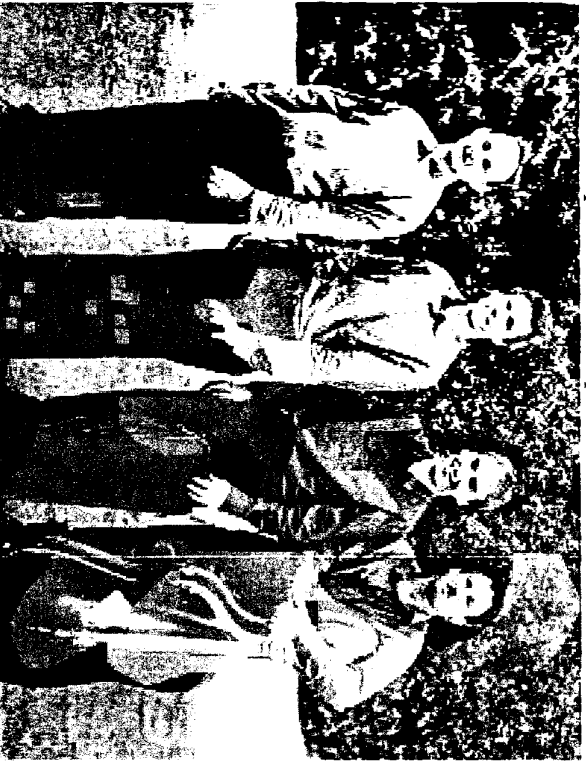
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## THE SOLARIS QUARTET

Solaris is a versatile quartet performing an extensive repertoire, placing the music of today's exciting young composers alongside that of the established greats.

The quartet's busy schedule includes appearances at major concert venues throughout Britain and Europe, including regular invitations to perform at London's South Bank. Radio and television broadcasts, education work and masterclasses are integral to the quartet's various activities. As part of the Live Music Now! scheme, the group has been actively involved in bringing classical music to a wider audience, playing in venues from schools to prisons and hospitals.



Several composers have written works dedicated to Solaris, including Barrington Pheloung's String Quartet No. 9 and a song cycle based on A.E. Houseman's A Shropshire Lad, in which each song is penned by a different composer.

An ongoing project playing and recording the work of Jewish composers caught up in the Nazi concentration camps is a major part of the quartet's current activities. Gideon Klein, Hans Krása and Pavel Haas are among the talented composers from this dark period of history whose music the quartet is helping to keep alive. The ensemble is also recording the quartets of Otto Klemperer, who emigrated from Germany before the war. Solaris has performed programmes of this little-known repertoire at the Imperial War Museum, the Holocaust Centre Beth Shalom and at festivals and concert halls throughout the United Kingdom.

By special government invitation, the ensemble embarked on a month-long tour of China, giving concerts and master classes in Beijing and the provinces. Solaris has built a strong working relationship with the Xinjiang Arts Institute, where the quartet members are visiting professors. A highly productive residency at the London College of Music underlines the ongoing success of this young quartet.

### MARK WILSON (VIOLIN)

Mark Wilson is a founder member of the Solaris String Quartet (resident at the London College of Music). A graduate of the Royal Academy of Music, Mark enjoys a varied career, ranging from concerto appearances, to film and rock music recording. He is in great demand as a chamber musician throughout London, both as violinist and violist, and has worked with several British orchestras. Mark is a keen proponent of modern music and has given premieres in the Brighton and Spitalfields festivals and at many important venues including the Purcell Room on London's South Bank. Mark regularly performs on BBC Radio 3.

### **NEIL MCTAGGART (VIOLIN)**

As a founder member of the highly acclaimed Solaris Quartet, Neil McTaggart performs widely throughout Britain and Europe, making several South Bank appearances.

A successful residency at the London College of Music involves Neil as both performer and teacher, giving chamber music coaching and composers' workshops. Neil enjoys sharing his love of music with those who rarely have access to it. As part of Live Music Now! his quartet have played in almost every type of venue, from schools to Broadmoor hospital.

Neil is a violinist of great versatility, playing with a wide range of musicians. These include the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the RPO Concert Orchestra; the Locrian Ensemble; the New Mozart Orchestra (principal second violin); the New Westbrook Orchestra (featured on BBC Radio's "Performance on Three"); the Brandenburg Sinfonia; the Irish Band "Broderick", with Luke Daniels; the Bennelong Ensemble; Ensemble Del Vero and several West End shows including "Phantom of the Opera".

Solo appearances include concertos with Tempest Chamber Orchestra, Essex Youth Orchestra, Wycombe Camerata and St. Johns Chamber Orchestra.

The coming year sees Neil busy recording for film and television with Solaris, and working on an album of music from Jewish composers interred during World War Two. By special government invitation, Neil and his fellow quartet members will embark on a month long tour of China, giving concerts and masterclasses in Beijing and the provinces.

### **MORGAN GOFF (VIOLA)**

Morgan has worked with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Kingston University Orchestra, Sinfonia Verdi, Canberra Symphony Orchestra and Canberra Philharmonic Orchestra (1989-93) as Principal, Alpha Centuri (at the Roger Woodward Festival), Hunter Valley Orchestra (1992-97) as Principal, Sydney Opera House Orchestra (1993-97) as Co-Principal, Australian Brandenburg Orchestra (Baroque) (1993-94), Cameron Mackintosh Productions (Phantom of the Opera and Les Misérables) (1994-96) and Sydney Symphony Orchestra (on

contract) (1996-97). During this time Morgan travelled extensively throughout Europe and South-East Asia.

Whilst in Australia Morgan also worked with a Quartet who performed regularly in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. Morgan's busy program included musical broadcasts for Radio ABC-FM and 2MBS-FM. Morgan's awards include the City of Sydney Eisteddfod 1st Prize (1995 & 1996) and 2MBS-FM Young Musician of the Year 1st Prize (1996)

Morgan is currently Principal viola of the London Soloists Ensemble. He also works with London Festival Orchestra, Classic East Orchestra, East of England Orchestra, Fine Arts Sinfonia, Brandenburg Sinfonia, London Concert Orchestra and Johann Strauss Orchestra amongst many other freelance orchestras both in performance and session work.

Morgan is violist with the Solaris Quartet, the Bennelong Ensemble, the Locrian Ensemble and in the Fiorini Trio when performing larger works. His instrument is a Daniel Parker viola, London, 1715.

### **NICK ALLEN (CELLO)**

As a chamber musician, Nick Allen enjoys a busy schedule with the Solaris Quartet (resident ensemble at the London College of Music) He is a founder member of The Solaris Quartet. A prize-winning post-graduate from Trinity College of Music, Nick has performed in venues throughout the UK and abroad and has premiered several works written for him. Nick plays principal cello for the London Academy of Ottoman Court Music and has toured with many music theatre productions, the most recent being Jane Austen and Charlotte Bronte evenings in Holland. Nick recently performed live on BBC Radio 3's In Tune, and will be performing a series of solo recitals in London in January 2002.



PROGRAMME

**GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL (1685-1759)**  
**DIXIT DOMINUS (1707) PSALM 110**

- 1 Dixit Dominus**  
*Soprano* Julia Higgins  
*Alto* Katherine Deas  
*Tenor* Malcolm Stork
- 2 Virgam virtutis**  
*Alto* Jo Parton
- 3 Tecum principium**  
*Soprano* Genevieve Usher
- 4 Juravit Dominus**
- 5 Tu es sacerdos**
- 6 Dominus a dextris tuis**  
*Soprano* Valerie Snapes  
*Alto* Marianne Stork  
*Tenor* Eleanor Griffiths  
*Bass* Malcolm Stork  
Nigel Rivers
- 7 Judicabit in nationibus**
- 8 De torrente in via bibit**  
*Soprano* Susannah Riley  
Tamara Mgrina
- 9 Gloria Patri**
- CONTINUO**  
*Organ* Anthony Kraus  
*Cello* Nick Allen
- JOSEPH HAYDN (1732-1809)**  
**STRING QUARTET OP 76 NO 1 IN G MAJOR (1794)**
- 1 Allegro con spirito**
- 2 Adagio sostenuto**
- 3 Menuet and Trio - presto**
- 4 Finale - Allegro ma non troppo**

**SOLARIS QUARTET**

*Violins*  
*Viola*  
*Cello*

Mark Wilson,  
Neil McTaggart  
Morgan Goff  
Nick Allen

INTERVAL

**EDWARD ELGAR (1857-1934)**  
**SERENADE FOR STRINGS IN E MINOR OP 20 (1892)**

- 1 Allegro piacevole**
- 2 Larghetto**
- 3 Allegretto**

**SOLARIS QUARTET**

*Violins*  
*Viola*  
*Cello*

Mark Wilson,  
Neil McTaggart  
Morgan Goff  
Nick Allen

**BENJAMIN BRITTEN (1913-1976)**  
**CANTATA MISERICORDIUM OP 69 (1963)**  
*Latin text by Patrick Wilkinson*

*Samanitanus (Tenor)*  
*Viator (Bass)*

Malcolm Stork  
David Hazeldine

**SOLARIS QUARTET**

*Violins*  
*Viola*  
*Cello*

Mark Wilson,  
Neil McTaggart  
Morgan Goff  
Nick Allen

**EDWARD ELGAR (1857-1934)**  
**SERENADE FOR STRINGS IN E MINOR, OP 20**

Although not formally published until 1892, the *Serenade* is believed to be a reworking of a suite Elgar had written some years earlier, before he had firmly set his sights on a career as a composer. Apart from the *Wand of Youth* suites, it is therefore probably the earliest of his compositions to survive into the standard repertoire. Certainly, it has a youthful charm while at the same time displaying indications of the skills Elgar developed as he progressed towards musical maturity. It is reportedly the first of his compositions with which he professed himself satisfied.

The opening bars of the first movement will be familiar to most, particularly to listeners to a classical music station which uses it as introductory music. It is however the central *Larghetto* which is generally accepted as containing the finest and most mature writing. The work remains among the most frequently performed of all his music.

**BENJAMIN BRITTEN (1913-1976)**  
**CANTATA MISERICORDIUM, OP. 69**

The *Cantata Misericordium* was "composed for and first performed at the solemn ceremony on the Commemoration Day of the Centenary of the Red Cross, Geneva, September 1st, 1963," according to the cover page of the score. The first performance included Peter Pears, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, and the mixed choir "Le motet de Genève" with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, conducted by Ernest Ansermet.

The text is by Patrick Wilkinson, and is a Latin version of the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30).

The work is scored for tenor and baritone soloists, mixed choir and string orchestra with piano, harp, timpani, and a string quartet.

The *Cantata Misericordium* begins with a contemplative string quartet. This theme represents the passage of time and is used later in the piece during the retelling of the parable. The chorus and soloists enter, singing that one should love our neighbour, and ask, "Who is thy neighbour." They then proceed to tell the story

of the Good Samaritan. The traveller is robbed and left by the road without his possessions, clothes, or ass. He (the baritone) sings of his loneliness and fear. As a priest approaches from the distance, he is greeted hopefully in a rising crescendo by the chorus and orchestra. The tenor soloist cries out for help, but the priest turns and looks away. He is denounced bitterly by the chorus.

The string quartet represents time passing, and once again someone is seen approaching. Similar hope is expressed by the chorus, and the baritone pleads for help, but the Levite continues on his way.

After the passage of time, the Samaritan appears in the distance. The chorus acknowledges his arrival - not with the hope that they previously showed. They ask him why he would want to stop and help a Jew. As the Samaritan stoops to help, though, the baritone's feeble cry for help becomes a soaring *arioso*. The chorus joins in a triumphant C-major theme reminiscent of Stravinsky and the tenor and baritone sing a D-major duet.

In the epilogue, the tenor and baritone sing that they now know who their neighbour is. The chorus recapitulates the prologue, singing "Go and do likewise."

The *Cantata Misericordium* is considered by many to be an epilogue to the War Requiem. Some critics feel that it has less of an impact, however, due to the somewhat dull Latin text. Since the piece was written for an international event, Britten probably felt that English text would be inappropriate.

**For information about Cantorum Choir:**

Forthcoming Concerts, Mailing List,

Membership, Tickets etc:

**Please contact Nick Weait on**

**01628 473867**

**CANTORUM CHOIR**

**CANTORUM CHOIR  
FORTHCOMING CONCERTS**

**SUMMER CONCERT**

Sunday 13 July at 8 pm  
St John the Baptist Church  
Cookham Dean

Conductor - Sally Stafford

**TWINNING CONCERT WITH EVN CHOIR FROM PARIS**

Saturday 25 October at 8 pm  
Norden Farm Arts Centre

Conductors - Sally Stafford and Murray Hipkin

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

Sunday 14 December at 3 pm and 8 pm  
Saint John the Baptist Church  
Cookham Dean

Conductor - Sally Stafford



**Sopranos**

Catherine Arnold  
Helen Baker  
Sara Bowring  
Bridget Bentley  
Julia Bentley \*  
Catherine Ellis \*  
Julia Higgins  
Tamara Migrina  
Susannah Riley  
Valerie Snapes  
Marianne Stork  
Genevieve Usher

**Altos**

Penny Bysshe  
Katherine Deas  
Anne Glover  
Eleanor Griffiths  
Jo Parton  
Jo Rodgers  
Richard Sedding  
Lorna Sykes

**Tenors**

William Falconer \*  
John Hasselt  
Richard Maillardet \*  
Philip Martineau \*  
Peter Roe  
Michael Snapes \*  
Malcolm Stork

**Basses**

Derek Beaven  
John Buck  
Stuart Davis  
Peter Griffiths  
David Hazeldine  
Andrew Hubbard  
Nigel Rivers  
Paul Seddon  
Adrian Taylor \*  
Nick Weait

\* Guest singers