

*Piccolo Spoleto Festival 2001*

**Memorial Day Concert, Monday, May 28**

**Grace Episcopal Church**

**3:00 o'clock in the afternoon**

**YORK COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY**

**DAVID LOWRY, CONDUCTOR**

**SHIRLEY FISHBURNE, ORGAN**



*Funeral Ikos*, by John Tavener

*Requiem*, by Ian Higginson

**Janet Kile, soprano**

**Frank Portone, tenor**

### **Requiem - Ian Higginson**

This work was commissioned by Cheltenham Choral Society in memory of its founder and conductor M. Islwyn Jones (1912-1974). The occasion was the sixtieth anniversary of the society in 1998. It is scored for either orchestral or organ accompaniment.

The model followed by Higginson is clearly that set forth by Gabriel Fauré, whose Requiem was composed in 1877. Requiems in the 19th century that employ the liturgical texts suggest use for the actual mass, but in requiems like the Verdi or Dvorak, the orchestra is so large and the musical demands so great that except for the funeral of a very famous and/or very wealthy patron in a very large space, the works are really only for the concert hall. Yet in the requiems by Fauré and Duruflé, alternative accompaniments make them most usable for funeral masses in smaller places and for more people. Brahms, one must recall, wrote a "German requiem" which was never intended for anyplace but a concert hall, and wrote it not with liturgical texts, but with Biblical texts which comfort those who remain.

Higginson's concept seems to connect the idea of a practical work which can serve the liturgy, but with the "comfort those remaining" intent. His ideas are in some respects foreshadowed by the works of Andrew Lloyd Webber and John Rutter out of the 1980s.

The YCCS sang the American premier of this work on November 5, 2000, a result of having been introduced to the work while the YCCS was on a tour of Wales and England in July 2000.

### **Ian Higginson, composer**

English composer Ian Higginson was born in 1959 and resides in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. He is well known as an organist, conductor, composer and arranger and has performed in many of the country's leading cathedrals, churches and concert halls. Higginson studied the organ with Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral) and John Scott (St. Paul's Cathedral). He also studied conducting with Jonathan Delmar, Sir David Willcocks and the late Dr. Melville Cook.

Higginson has made recordings for labels such as Wealdon, Free for Good and Parish Recordings. He is a fellow of Trinity College, London and the London College of Music, and is a member of the Guild of Church Musicians.

In addition to conducting Cheltenham Choral Society and the English Concertanté Orchestra, Ian has also conducted choral workshops both in the UK and the USA.

He is also Organist to the Cathedral Singers of Christ Church, Oxford (who are responsible for cathedral music when the cathedral choir and music staff is on holiday) and Organist at St. George's Parish Church, Tuffley, Gloucester.

### **Frank Portone, tenor**

Portone is a resident of Charlotte, NC, where he holds the chair of principal horn in the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra. His chief studies and experience has been in the field of the horn, including being principal horn of the Hong Kong Philharmonic. After his voice matured into a dramatic tenor, he has seriously studied voice and in recent seasons has appeared in programs of Italian operatic arias, and in such works as Rachmaninoff's *The Bells*, and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

### **Janet Kile, soprano**

Kile is a resident of Columbia, SC, where she sings in the Parish Choir of The Church of the Good Shepherd (Episcopal), directs children's music at the same parish, and appears frequently in Columbia theatre productions both as costumer and performer.

### **York County Choral Society**

The YCCS was formed in 1981 by David Lowry and Shirley Fishburne. Throughout the society's 20-year history, it has received fine support from patrons, businesses, the Rock Hill Arts Council and the SC Arts Commission. The YCCS has appeared with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, the Raleigh Oratorio Singers, and in Piccolo Spoleto. In July 2000 the chorus was in residence at St. David's Cathedral, Pembrokeshire, Wales, and performed concerts in Cheltenham and in Durham and Lincoln cathedrals.

**For further information, write York County Choral Society, P. O. Box 4202, Rock Hill, SC 29732**

# YORK COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY

Rock Hill, South Carolina

David Lowry, Conductor

Shirley Fishburne, Organist

Susan Read, Accompanist/Vocal Coach

## PICCOLO SPOLETO FESTIVAL 2001

Memorial Day, Monday, May 28, 2001 - 3:00 pm

**This Memorial Day concert is given in memory of this nation's war dead,  
and in thanksgiving for the life of Elaine Ross, May 5, 1959 - May 28, 2000,  
by members of the Ross and Mills family.**

### Funeral Ikos

John Tavener (b. 1944)

*The text of this work is from The Order for the Burial of Dead Priests, translated from the Greek by Isabel Hapgood.*

Why these bitter words of the dying, O brethren, which they utter as they go hence? I am parted from my brethren. All my friends do I abandon, and go hence. But whither I go, that understand I not, neither what shall become of me yonder; only God, who hath summoned me knoweth. But make commemoration of me with the song: *Alleluia*.

But wither now go the souls? How dwell they now together there? This mystery have I desired to learn, but none can impart aright. Do they call to mind their own people, as we do them? Or have they forgotten all those who mourn them and make the song: *Alleluia*?

We go forth on the path eternal, and as condemned, with downcast faces, present ourselves before the only God eternal. Where then is comeliness? Where then is wealth? Where then is the glory of this world? There shall none of these things aid us, but only to say oft the psalm: *Alleluia*.

If thou has shown mercy unto man, O man, that same mercy shall be shown thee there; and if on an orphan thou hast shown compassion, the same shall there deliver thee from want. If in this life the naked thou hast clothed, the same shall give thee shelter there, and sing the psalm: *Alleluia*.

Youth and the beauty of the body fade at the hour of death, and the tongue then burneth fiercely, and the parched throat is inflamed. The beauty of the eyes is quenched then, the comeliness of the face all altered, the shapeliness of the neck destroyed; and the other parts have become numb, nor often say: *Alleluia*.

With ecstasy are we inflamed if we but hear that there is light eternal yonder; that there is Paradise, wherein every soul of Righteous Ones rejoiceth. Let us all, also, enter into Christ, that all we may cry aloud thus unto God: *Alleluia*.

# Requiem

Ian Higginson (b. 1959)

## Introit and Kyrie

*Requiem aeternam, dona eis, Domine: et lux perpetua luceat eis. Te decet hymnus Deus in Sion, et tibi redetur votum in Jerusalem: exaudi orationem meam, ad te omnis caro veniet.*

*Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.*

Rest eternal grant them, Lord, let light perpetual shine upon them. A hymn is sung to you, O God in Zion, and a vow is paid to you in Jerusalem: hear my prayer. All flesh shall come to you. Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

## Offertory

*O Domine, Jesu Christe, Rex gloriae, libera animas defunctorum de poenis inferni et de profundo lacu. De ore leonis ne absorbeat eas Tartarus. Hostias et preces tibi Domine Laudis offerimus tu suscipe pro animabus illis, quarum hodie memoriam facimus. fac eas Domine de morte transire ad vitam quam olim Abrabae promisisti et semini ejus.*

O Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, deliver the souls of all the faithful departed from the pains of hell and from the deep pit: deliver them from the lion's mouth, that hell may not swallow them up, and may they not fall into darkness; We offer to you, O Lord, sacrifices and prayers; receive them in behalf of those for whom we pray; let them pass from death to life, which you promised to Abraham and his seed.

## Sanctus

*Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth, pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

## Pie Jesu

*Pie Jesu, Domine, dona eis requiem.*

Blessed Jesus, grant them rest.

## Agnus Dei and Communion Sentence

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, sempiternam requiem.*

*Et lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine, cum sanctis tuis in aeternum quia pius es. Requiem aeternam, dona eis Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant them rest. (repeat)

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant them eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them, Lord, with your saints forever, for you are merciful. Rest eternal grant them, Lord; let light perpetual shine on them.

## Libera me

*Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna in die illa tremenda, quando caeli movendi sunt et terra, dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.*

*Tremens factus sum ego, et timeo dum discussio venerit at que ventura ira. Dies irae, dies illa. Requiem aeternam, dona eis Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.*

Deliver me, Lord, from eternal death in that awful day, when heaven and earth shall be moved; when you shall come to judge the world with fire. Dread and trembling have laid hold on me, and I fear exceedingly because of the judgment and wrath to come. O that day, that day of wrath. Rest eternal grant them Lord, let light perpetual shine on them.

## In paradisum

*In paradisum deducant angeli: in tuo adventu suscipiant martyres et perducant te in civitatem sanctam Jerusalem. Chorus Angelorum te suscipiat, et cum Lazaro quondam paupere aeternam habeas requiem.* May the angels lead you into paradise; may the martyrs receive you at your coming, and lead you into the city of Jerusalem. May the choir of angels receive you, and with Lazarus, who once was poor, have eternal rest.

**Janet Kile, soprano**  
**Frank Portone, tenor**  
**Shirley Fishburne, organ**