



Hull Choral Union presents

# Celebration and Commemoration

**Conductor:**

Paul Dewhurst

**Soloists:**

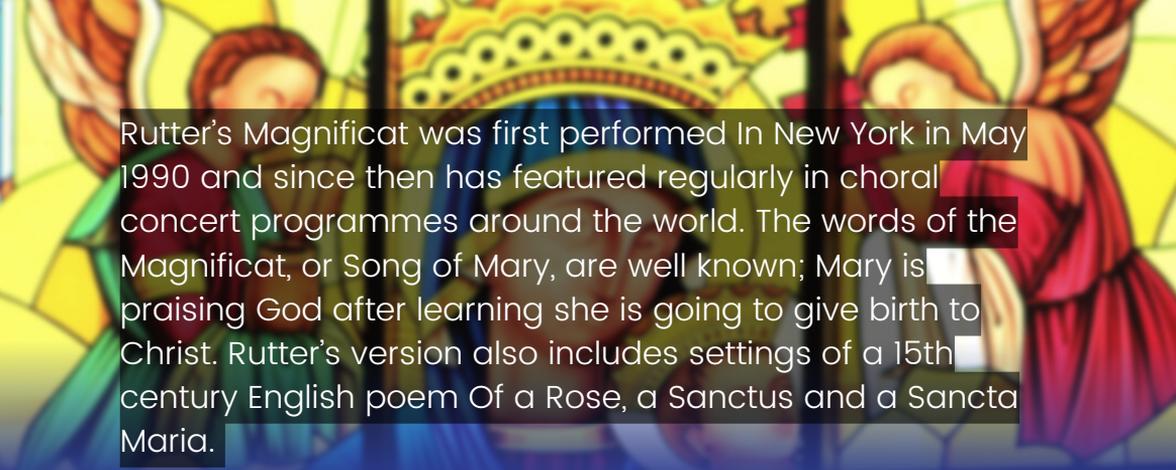
Cressida Sharp – Soprano  
Charlotte Woodhead – Contralto  
William Smith – Tenor  
Peter Brooks – Bass

**Hull Choral Union Orchestra**

**Leader:** Louise Sanderson

## **John Rutter: Magnificat**

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1. Magnificat anima mea
  2. Of a Rose, a lovely Rose
  3. Quia fecit mihi magna
  4. Et misericordia
  5. Fecit potentiam
  6. Esurientes
  7. Gloria Patri



Rutter's Magnificat was first performed in New York in May 1990 and since then has featured regularly in choral concert programmes around the world. The words of the Magnificat, or Song of Mary, are well known; Mary is praising God after learning she is going to give birth to Christ. Rutter's version also includes settings of a 15th century English poem Of a Rose, a Sanctus and a Sancta Maria.

## Short interval of approximately 10 minutes

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer refreshments this evening.

## Christopher Wood: Requiem

Orchestration: Jonathan Rathbone

1. Requiem Aeternam & Kyrie Eleison
2. Dies Irae
3. Tuba Mirum
4. Liber Scriptus
5. Quid Sum Miser
6. Recordare
7. Ingemisco
8. Confutatis
9. Offertorio
10. Sanctus
11. Agnus Dei
12. Lux Aeterna
13. Libera Me

Wood's inspiration for this piece was the show of emotion following the death of the Queen Mother in 2002. The Requiem he was inspired to write is a beautiful work with some lovely melodies, celebrating the life of a much-loved national icon. It was first performed in December 2012 in London and our performance will be its East Yorkshire première.

For more information about Christopher Wood and this piece, please see his website: [www.woodrequiem.com](http://www.woodrequiem.com)



## Paul Dewhurst

### Conductor/Choir Master

In addition to being our Conductor/Choir Master, Paul is also Director of Music at Bridlington Priory and remains in demand as an organ recitalist. He is the Conductor of the East Riding County Choir and teaches singing and piano in the local area.

Prior to this he was Director of Music at Leeds Minster after having a similar position at Pontefract Parish Church (St Giles') for nine years. He was the conductor of the Wakefield Festival Chorus for several years.

Whilst an under-graduate at the University of Hull, Paul held the University Organ Scholarship which involved him as an Assistant Organist at Beverley Minster, studying the organ with Alan Spedding and John Scott Whiteley at York Minster.

Upon graduation he completed a Master's degree in English Church Music at the University of East Anglia, focusing on choral conducting with Professor Peter Aston. Remaining in the area, he began a career as a teacher, whilst also being kept busy as an organist, singer and conductor with numerous groups throughout the area, including the cathedrals of St Edmundsbury and Chelmsford; the Wolsey Chamber Choir and the Britten-Pears Chamber Choir at Snape.



## **Cressida Sharp**

**Soprano**

Cressida's career began while still a student at Cambridge. Since her first years of oratorio and opera, she has added to her work in England with frequent appearances in the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Belgium; recent tours have also taken her to Hungary, Israel, Romania, Italy, Taiwan, Argentina and South Korea.

The chamber ensembles in which she sings include EXAUDI, the Balthasar Neumann Chor, Vox Luminis, Cappella Amsterdam, the Zürcher Sing-Akademie, and the Monteverdi Choir.

She has been fortunate enough to work with such conductors as Sir Andrew Davis, Ton Koopman, Trevor Pinnock, Paavo Järvi, Kent Nagano, and the late great Sir David Willcocks and Bernard Haitink.

A portrait of Charlotte Woodhead, a woman with long, straight, reddish-brown hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a dark blue top. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green foliage and trees. The portrait is partially overlaid by a dark blue gradient that contains the text.

## Charlotte Woodhead

### Contralto

Charlotte is Assistant Director of the RPS Award winning Diocese of Leeds Schools Singing Programme and has many years of experience as Choral Director in the Programme leading singing sessions in primary and secondary schools, founding new children's choirs and leading performance projects. A qualified secondary teacher, Charlotte graduated in 2011 from the University of Birmingham with a First in Music, specialising in performance. In 2020, she completed the PGCert Vocal Pedagogy with Voice Study Centre and the University of Wales Trinity St. David. Alongside this she has tutored and led workshops for Fulneck School, Yorkshire Youth Choir and the Society of Heads.

She currently studies singing with Hannah Mason and has made solo appearances as a mezzo-soprano for numerous choral societies and chamber choirs throughout the UK. Charlotte's main claim to fame however, is singing as a backing vocalist for Russell Watson on Welsh TV – and miming the Welsh National anthem very badly! A former member of Yorkshire Bach Choir, Rodolfus Choir, the National Youth Choir of Great Britain, St. Chad's Cathedral Singers and Leeds Cathedral Choir, she has sung chorally on BBC Radio 2, 3, and 4, and Classic FM; and at the BBC Proms.



## William Smith

### Tenor

British tenor William Smith sings internationally in opera, oratorio and recital. He graduated from Birmingham Conservatoire of Music and continued his studies in Paris with Glenn Chambers. He is now working from London and studying with David Pollard.

In 2021 William founded “The Marches Songbook” an organisation created to provide a platform for the creation and promotion of Welsh and English song and poetry in the Marches and Welsh borders region. The “The Marches Songbook” will launch with a series of premières in the 2022/23 season.

[www.williamsmithtenor.com](http://www.williamsmithtenor.com)

## Peter Brooks

### Bass

Peter Brooks is a baritone from Amersham, Buckinghamshire who has just completed a Postgraduate Diploma at the RNCM under the tutelage of Matthew Best. Operatic roles include Tarabotto (L'Inganno Felice), Superintendent (Albert Herring), Gamekeeper (Cunning Little Vixen), Pig (The Enchanted Pig), and notably Lieutenant Cholmondeley in a semi-staged production of Yeomen of the Guard in Birmingham's Symphony Hall conducted by John Wilson alongside a professional cast including Thomas Allen and Benjamin Hullet with the CBSO. Peter has extensive experience with Gilbert & Sullivan operettas having been part of the ensemble of the National Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Companies 2018 and 2019 tours. Peter has also been involved with contemporary opera having performed the première of Sebastiano Dessanay's opera The Cry of the Double Bass at the 2017 Tête-a-Tête festival in London. Peter most recently joined the chorus of the Wexford Festival Opera for their 2019 season singing in the ensemble for Don Quichotte and Adina. Peter began his musical journey with choral singing and remains very involved in choral music having regularly returned to his alma mater (University of Birmingham) to sing solos. He also regularly sings in several church choirs and is currently a Stipendiary Lay-Clerk in the choir of Magdalen College, Oxford. Peter has previously held lay-clerkships at Manchester Cathedral, Manchester Oratory, and St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham.



**We hope you have enjoyed this evening's concert  
and look forward to seeing you at future events!**

Hull Choral Union would like to thank Christopher Wood for his most generous support of this concert.



There will be a retiring collection in aid of the people of Ukraine as you leave the Minster this evening.

We are a registered charity that believes in the power of communal singing. Please consider making a small donation that will enable us to continue putting on events like this one.

**To donate £3 text [HULLCHORALUNION](https://www.hullchoralunion.co.uk) to 70085**

Texts cost £3 plus one standard network message.

For alternative ways to donate, please see  
[www.hullchoralunion.co.uk/donate](https://www.hullchoralunion.co.uk/donate)

We are actively recruiting for new members, with vacancies in all voice parts. If you would like to find out more about joining Hull Choral Union, please get in touch via our website.

**[www.hullchoralunion.co.uk](https://www.hullchoralunion.co.uk)**

You can also find us on:



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