

MUSICAL NOTES – NOVEMBER 2025

The eagle-eyed among you may notice that this month's edition of Musical Notes only goes up to the 23rd November. The reason for this is simply one of space, with many anthems this month that have texts not to be found in our hymn books, and the omitted Sunday 30th being Advent Sunday – which often could take up an entire edition by itself! Details of music that Sunday will follow towards the end of the month.

In the meantime, I would like to draw your attention to a few things this month, the first of which is not otherwise mentioned herein. As some of you know, in addition to my role here at St Oswald's, I am Assistant Music Director for the Durham Singers, and I'm delighted to have arranged for them to come and give a concert at St Oswald's on **Saturday 8th November**. The centrepiece of the concert is Brahms' *German Requiem*, op. 45 – a masterwork of the choral repertoire, and one I'm very pleased to (finally!) tick off my musical 'bucket list'. This will also be the first chance to hear our recently-acquired Steinway in concert; we have, of course, heard it in services over the past couple of months, but Brahms' own arrangement of the accompaniment for his *Requiem* for piano duet (played by Alison Gill and myself) will give it a chance to really show off the full extent of its capabilities. Tickets are £15 (£10 for students), and available at ticketsource.co.uk/durhamsingers.

I'm also very grateful to the choir for giving a first outing to my new setting of a well-known stanza by Laurence Binyon, from his poem *For the Fallen*, the following day (**Sunday 9th**). I'd had a melodic fragment in mind for this for quite some time, and finally managed to sit down and write it out a couple of weeks ago, in time for Remembrance Sunday this year. My thanks to them for being such willing and able 'guinea pigs'!

Elsewhere, Choral Evensong on the **16th November** promises, as ever, to be a wonderful service, with a contemporary set of responses by Joanna Forbes-L'Estrange alongside some gems of the English late 19th / early 20th century repertoire for the canticles, anthem, and voluntary. I do hope you'll be able to join us for this and many other occasions this month – full details (up to the 23rd!) to be found inside.

David Harris, Director of Music

THIS MONTH

Sunday 2nd – All Saints' Day / All Souls' Day

Parish Eucharist, 11.00am

Anthem: *Give us the wings of faith*

Music: Ernest Bullock (1890 – 1979)

Text: Isaac Watts (1674 – 1748) – see CP #216 vv. 1, 3, 4

Voluntary: *Fugue in G minor, 'Little', BWV 578*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, 6.00pm

Anthem: *The long day closes*

Music: Arthur Sullivan (1842 – 1900)

Text: Henry Chorley (1808 – 1872)

*No star is o'er the lake,
its pale watch keeping,
The moon is half awake,
through grey mist creeping,
The last red leaves fall 'round
the porch of roses,
The clock hath ceased to sound,
the long day closes.*

*The lighted windows dim
are fading slowly.
The fire that was so trim
now quivers lowly.
Go to the dreamless bed
where grief reposes;
Thy book of toil is read,
the long day closes.*

*Sit by the silent hearth
in calm endeavour,
To count the sounds of mirth,
now dumb for ever.
Heed not how hope believes
and fate disposes:
Shadow is 'round the eaves,
the long day closes.*

Voluntary: *Eventide (Seven Chorale Preludes, Set II)*

Hubert Parry (1848 – 1918)

Find out more: facebook.com/music.at.st.oswalds Email: d.m.harris108@gmail.com
To join the church mailing list, email PZKashouris@gmail.com

Sunday 9th – Remembrance Sunday / Third Sunday before Advent

Parish Eucharist, 10.50 am

Anthem: *For the Fallen*

Music: David M. Harris (b. 1994)

Text: Laurence Binyon (1869 – 1943)

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them.

Voluntary: *Nimrod (Enigma Variations)*, op. 36 var. IX

Edward Elgar (1857 – 1934), arr. Robert Gower (b. 1952)

Evening Prayer with Hymns, 6.00pm

Voluntary: *I Giorni*

Ludovico Einaudi (b. 1955)

Sunday 16th – Second Sunday before Advent

Parish Eucharist, 11.00am

Anthem: *Deliver us, O Lord our God*

Music: Adrian Batten (c. 1591 - c. 1637)

Text: Psalm 106: 45-46

Deliver us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the heathen: that we may give thanks unto thy holy Name, and make our boast of thy praise. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting and world without end: and let all the people say, Amen.

Voluntary: *Allebreve in D*, BWV 589

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)

Choral Evensong, 6.00pm

Preces and Responses

Joanna Forbes-L'Estrange (b. 1971)

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in D

Charles Wood (1866 – 1926)

Anthem: *Evening Hymn*

Music: Henry Balfour Gardiner (1877 – 1950)

Text: anon. 5th-6th century; office hymn at Compline – see CP #13 for translation

*Te lucis ante terminum,
Rerum Creator, poscimus,
Ut pro tua clementia,
Sis praesul et custodia.*

*Praesta, Pater piissime,
Patrique compar Unice,
Cum Spiritu Paraclito,
Regnans per omne saeculum. Amen.*

*Procul recedant somnia,
Et noctium phantasmata:
Hostemque nostrum comprime,
Ne polluantur corpora.*

Voluntary: *Postlude in D minor*, op. 105 no. 6
Charles Stanford (1852 – 1924)

Sunday 23rd – Christ the King (Sunday next before Advent)

Parish Eucharist, 11.00am

Anthem: *What wondrous love is this*

Music: *The Southern Harmony* (1835), arr. Philip Moore (b. 1943)

*What wondrous love is this,
O my soul!*

*What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
To lay aside his crown
for my soul.*

*And when from death I'm free
I'll sing on.*

*And when from death I'm free
I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity
I'll sing on.*

*To God and to the Lamb
I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme,
I will sing.*

Voluntary: *Crown Imperial*

William Walton (1902 - 1983), arr. Herbert Murrill (1909 - 1952)

Evening Prayer with Hymns, 6.00pm

Voluntary: *November – Troika (The Seasons)*, op. 37a no. 11
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840 – 1893)