

Cathedral Concert Society

Onyx Brass Quintet



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"easily the classiest brass ensemble in Britain"

BBC Music Magazine

Monday 10 December 2018 | Sharow Church

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Patron: Julius Drake

Monday 10 December 2018 Onyx Brass

Niall Keatley, Alan Thomas *trumpets*
Andrew Sutton *horn*
Amos Miller *trombone*
David Gordon-Shute *tuba*

Programme:

Claudio Monteverdi (1567–1643)
Dmitri Shostakovich (1906–1975)
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
John Dowland (1563–1626)
Trad. arr Jackson
Bach
Bach

Deus in Adjutorium (Vespers of 1612)
Fugue in A flat major
Fugue in A flat major
Suite from Lachrymae
Shakespeare Suite
Chromatic Fugue
Fugue in G major "The Great"

– interval –

During the interval refreshments will be available at the back of the church.

Shostakovich
Thomas Tallis (1505–1585)
Tim Jackson (b. 1972)
Tim Jackson
Bach

Fugue in G major
Hymn Tune
Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis
Anything But
Nun komm der Heiden Heiland

we get on with



The Cathedral Concert Society is affiliated to Making Music, which represents and supports amateur performing and promoting societies throughout the UK. Registered Charity no. 1163277.

In the 25th year of Onyx Brass' residency in this world, we have brought to Ripon some of our most loved and cherished repertoire. The Golden Age is a time when brass playing became important and, moreover, spiritual. It was religious and became associated with the divine for at least 100 or 150 years. Beethoven was the first to stop using trombones in a religious context.

The Venetians had the first words to say from a brass point of view and together with uncle and nephew, Andrea and Giovanni Gabrieli, Claudio Monteverdi made his mark. With his *Vespers*, he filled the cathedrals with the brilliance of the sound of ascending scales in trumpets to really lift hearts. This technique is almost now clichéd and has been copied time and time again to glorious effect but he, without doubt, remains the master.

John Dowland was the exceptional British musician of his time. As a court musician, he would not have been as familiar with the power of brass. Nonetheless, his music speaks for itself in its beauty and simplicity. The *Suite from Lachrymae* highlights the dual nature of his personality. On the one hand, doleful and inward. On the other, dance-like and full of joy in his Galliards.

Johann Sebastian Bach, of course, was his own man and is, perhaps, the most revered of all composers. However, as with all of us, his influence from times past cannot be underestimated. A master of fugue writing, his consummate artistry in counterpoint was an example to all composers even now. Dmitri Shostakovich took Bach's Fugues and remodelled them completely but both composers could not possibly deny the influence of times past on their undeniably unique voices.

Tim Jackson, although a name not known to many of you, has carved out his own name in this new world. A great friend of Onyx Brass, Tim composes, arranges and plays principal horn in the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. An undoubted polymath, Tim writes music, some of which you will hear tonight, that shows both his versatility and his sense of humour. Tonight, the good folk of Ripon are getting the most accurate snapshot of Onyx Brass' previous 25 years it is possible to get: all the best music in the most wonderful of all places. We very much hope that you have a wonderful evening.

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Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2018, Onyx Brass continues to be the leading light in establishing the brass quintet as a medium for serious chamber music, presenting it in the entertaining and articulate style that has become the group's trademark. *Gramophone* hailed "some of the most thrilling chamber brass-playing of its kind".

Education is a large part of the remit of Onyx Brass: workshops and master-classes range from Primary School to the Juilliard School. The group is currently resident ensemble of Imperial College, University of London.

During 2014, Onyx Brass toured the country, bringing contemporary brass music to bandstands, parks and public spaces with a project called Tour de Brass! – part of the PRSF New Music Biennial.

Their programme includes some 20th century reworkings of works by Bach and others as well as works created for the brass quintet. Onyx has a particular commitment to commissioning and performing new works, especially by the celebrated and critically-acclaimed Tim Jackson. the ensemble's composer-in-association.

Niall Keatley, trumpet

Niall began his musical studies at the City of Belfast School of Music at the age of nine. While at the C.B.S.M he was a member of the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra and also played with a number of Brass Bands in the Northern Ireland area. In addition Niall was principal trumpet with the National Youth

Orchestra of Great Britain performing in some of Europe's finest concert halls. Niall was awarded a scholarship to study at the Royal Academy of Music where his teachers included Ian Balmain, James Watson and John Wallace. During this time Niall was a member of the European Union Youth Orchestra and also spent a short time with the Black Dyke Mills Brass Band. As a free-lance trumpet player Niall has performed with various orchestras including the London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Royal Ballet Sinfonia and BBC National Orchestra of Wales. In 2002 Niall performed Haydn's trumpet concerto on BBC television with the Ulster Orchestra as part of the BBC Last Night of the Proms, Proms in the Park series. As well as being a member of Onyx Brass, Niall has performed with a number of chamber ensembles including London Brass, LSO Brass, London Winds and the Wallace Collection.

Alan Thomas, trumpet

Alongside his work with Onyx Brass, Alan is also the Principal Trumpet of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, probably most famous for its performances in the BBC Proms season and most notably the Last Night of the Proms. Previous to this appointment he was Joint Principal Trumpet of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra from 2004–2013. Alan returned to the CBSO full-time as Section Leader Trumpet in November.

Alan studied at the Birmingham Conservatoire between 1996 and 2000

where he gained a first class honours degree. During this time he won the Shell/LSO prize, playing the Hummel Trumpet Concerto with the LSO in the Barbican, and won the Brass prize in the Royal Over-Seas League. He was also a winner of the Musicians Benevolent Fund's Charles Leggett Award.

Alan moved to London to study at the Royal College of Music under the guidance of Malcolm Smith, Andy Crowley and Paul Archibald. Whilst there, he gained experience freelancing with the London Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia, Royal Opera House, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, London Brass and Ensemble Modern. He returned to the Birmingham Conservatoire in 2004 as a trumpet tutor and was awarded Honorary Membership in 2006 and a Fellowship in 2012. He is also a Professor of Trumpet at the Royal College of Music.

Andrew Sutton, horn

Andrew began by playing the tenor horn at his local brass band in Bristol aged 8 but shortly swapped to the French horn, studying at the Royal Academy of Music with Derek Taylor and Richard Watkins. Like the other members of the quintet, while at music college he was a member of the European Union Youth Orchestra.

On leaving the RAM, Andrew has led a varied career in music. As well as being a member of the Orchestra of English National Opera and the English Chamber Orchestra, he plays regularly with the Philharmonia, BBC, Royal Philharmonic, Royal Opera House and London Symphony orchestras. With

these groups he has worked with some of the world's finest musicians and toured extensively around the globe. In addition to Onyx, he performs with other chamber ensembles such as London Winds, the Haffner Ensemble, the Wallace Collection and the Ensemble Modern of Frankfurt.

Andrew also teaches horn at Eton College. He is a member of the group Campaign for Real Ale.

Amos Miller, trombone

Amos studied at Oxford University and the Royal Academy of Music, learning with John Berry, Eric Crees, Denis Wick and Ian Bousfield, and playing principal trombone for the National and European Youth Orchestras. Having gained the Dip.RAM, the Academy's highest award for performance, he completed the Jazz Course at the Banff Center for the Arts in Canada, under artists such as Jim Hall and Kenny Wheeler. On leaving the RAM he was awarded the coveted Meaker Fellowship.

He now combines the post of principal trombone with the Royal Ballet Sinfonia (to which he was appointed in 2003) with a busy freelance career in which he has worked as guest principal trombone with all the major London orchestras, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, as well as the English Chamber Orchestra, Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, the London Sinfonietta and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. He has also appeared on more than thirty film soundtracks,

including *Lord of the Rings*, *Harry Potter*, *Terminator Salvation*, and *Inception*. Abroad, he has worked with Ensemble Modern of Frankfurt and is guest principal with the Orquesta Ciudad de Granada in Spain. He is also a member of the City of London Sinfonia.

He is the co-author of *Time Pieces for Trombone* for the Associated Board, and is the author of *A New Tune a Day for Trombone*, published by the Boston Music Company. He is a trustee of the Clarence Myerscough and Christopher Horn charitable trusts and is an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music.

David Gordon-Shute, tuba

David trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Cambridge University and the Royal Academy of Music. Through the fantastic experiences of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and the European Union Youth

Orchestra came a passion for music: both playing and teaching.

David regularly freelances with the major London orchestras including the LSO, RPO, LPO, Orchestra of the Royal Opera House and the BBC Orchestras and has enjoyed playing on various soundtracks including *The Two Towers* and *Zero Dark Thirty*. David has been the tuba teacher at Eton College since 2001, receiving a promotion in 2009 to Head of Brass. In addition, he has coached the tuba section of the NYO, the brass section of the Herts County Youth Orchestra and given masterclasses all over the world with Onyx Brass including the Juilliard School in New York.

David currently holds the posts of Founder/Member Onyx Brass, Principal Tuba in the Royal Ballet Sinfonia, the Orchestra for Birmingham Royal Ballet, and Head of Brass at Eton College.

With grateful thanks to the following for their generous support:

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RIPON YOUNG MUSICIANS OF THE YEAR 2018

The Cathedral Concert Society supported the Ripon Young Musician of the Year competition again this year and was delighted to present free concert tickets to the following talented young musicians who won their classes at the final concert in Sharow Church on Saturday 17 November:

Dulcie Jones
Eva Peel
James Kitchingman & Alexander Abrahams
Eva Scullion
Puyuan Ge
Kaavya Venkatesh
Alexander Abrahams

The standard of all the performances was once more extremely high.

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Monday 14 January 2019

Philip Smith *baritone*,
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