

Peterborough Choral Society

A Walk with John Clare

Summer Concert 2026

Saturday 11th July 2026

St Botolph's Church, Helpston

Registered Charity 1006609 Members of Making Music



Programme

Nature awakens...

"Spring" from *The Four Seasons*, Antonio Vivaldi, arr. B. Smith

Into the woods...

Poem - *Wood Anemone*, John Clare

"Where'er You Walk" from *Semele*, G.F. Handel

Au Joli Bois, Charles Tessier

Der Lindenbaum, Franz Schubert

"Ombra Mai Fu" from *Serse*, G.F. Handel

Her I Love (text by Clare), A. Kerney

Linden Lea, R. Vaughan Williams,

The Oak and the Ash, E. Bairstow, arr. B. Smith

The Birds and the Bees...

Poem - *A Spring Morning*, John Clare

The Silver Swan, Orlando Gibbons

Sweet Honey Sucking Bees, John Wilbye,

The Nightingale, Thomas Weelkes,

Of All the Birds, John Barlet

"Cuckoo" from *Friday Afternoons*, Benjamin Britten

"Habanera" from *Carmen*, Georges Bizet

Bluebird, Charles Stanford

The Lark in the Clear Air, Trad., arr. B. Smith

Let's Do It, Cole Porter, arr. B. Smith

Through the Fields...

Poem - *The Beanfield*, John Clare

Fields of Gold, Sting, arr. Emerson

Vincent, Don McClean

"Sunday" from *Sunday in the Park with George*, Stephen Sondheim

Translations

By Bradley Smith

Au Joli Bois, Charles Tessier

Au joli bois je m'en vais.
Mon père et ma mère ont leur foi juré
Que dans six semaines mariée serai
À un vieux bonhomme que je tromperai.
Droit en Cornouailles je l'envoyerei.

To the lovely wood I go.
My father & mother have sworn in faith
That in six weeks I will be married.
To an old man who I will deceive.
Straight to Cornwall (pun on cuckoldom) I
will send him.

Der Lindenbaum, Franz Schubert

Am Brunnen vor dem Tore,
Da steht ein Lindenbaum;
Ich träumt' in seinem Schatten
So manchen süßen Traum.

By the well, before the gate,
stands a linden tree;
in its shade I dreamt
So many a sweet dream.

Ich schnitt in seine Rinde
So manches liebe Wort;
Es zog in Freud' und Leide
Zu ihm mich immer fort.

I carved into its bark
many a word of love;
It drew me in joy and sorrow
Ever stronger to it.

Ich musst' auch heute wandern
Vorbei in tiefer Nacht,
Da hab' ich noch im Dunkel
Die Augen zugemacht.

Today also, I had to walk
past it in the dead of night;
There, even in the darkness
I closed my eyes.

Und seine Zweige rauschten,
Als riefen sie mir zu:
Komm her zu mir, Geselle,
Hier findest du deine Ruh'!

And its branches rustled
as though they were calling to me:
'Come to me, friend,
here you will find rest.'

Die kalten Winde bliesen
Mir grad' in's Angesicht,
Der Hut flog mir vom Kopfe,
Ich wendete mich nicht.

The cold wind blew
straight into my face,
my hat flew from my head;
I did not turn back.

Nun bin ich manche Stunde
Entfernt von jenem Ort,
Und immer hör' ich's rauschen:
Du fändest Ruhe dort!

Now I am many hours' journey
Away from that place;
And yet I still hear the rustling:
'There you would find rest.'

"Habanera" from *Carmen*, Georges Bizet

L'amour est un oiseau rebelle
que nul ne peut apprivoiser,
et c'est bien en vain qu'on l'appelle,
s'il lui convient de refuser.
Rien n'y fait, menace ou prière.
L'un parle bien, l'autre se tait:
Et c'est l'autre que je préfère,
Il n'a rien dit mais il me plaît.
L'amour! L'amour! L'amour! L'amour!
L'amour est enfant de Bohème,
il n'a jamais, jamais connu de loi;
si tu ne m'aimes pas, je t'aime:
si je t'aime, prends garde à toi!

L'oiseau que tu croyais surprendre
battit de l'aile et s'envola ...
l'amour est loin, tu peux l'attendre;
tu ne l'attends plus, il est là!

Tout autour de toi, vite, vite,
il vient, s'en va, puis il revient ...
tu crois le tenir, il t'évite,
tu crois l'éviter, il te tient.
L'amour! L'amour! L'amour! L'amour!
L'amour est enfant de Bohème,
il n'a jamais, jamais connu de loi;
si tu ne m'aimes pas, je t'aime:
si je t'aime, prends garde à toi!

Love is a rebellious bird
that nobody can tame,
and you call him quite in vain
if it suits him not to come.
Nothing helps, neither threat nor prayer.
One man talks well, the other stays mute:
It's the other one that I prefer,
He's silent but I like his looks.
Love! Love! Love! Love!
Love is a gypsy's child,
it has never, ever, known a law;
If you love me not, then I love you;
If I love you, you'd best beware!

The bird you thought you had caught
beat its wings and flew away ...
love stays away, you wait and wait;
when least expected, there it is!

All around you, swift, so swift,
it comes, it goes, and then returns ...
you think you hold it fast, it flees
you think you're free, it holds you fast.
Love! Love! Love! Love!
Love is a gypsy's child,
it has never, ever, known a law;
If you love me not, then I love you;
If I love you, you'd best beware!

The Performers

Peterborough Choral Society

The Society was founded in 1991 after the Peterborough Philharmonic Choral Society disbanded. The choir comprises amateur mixed voices and we perform two classical concerts a year, with a lighter summer concert. We have performed a wide classical repertoire since our inauguration. Our Musical Director, Bradley Smith, is an internationally renowned and inspirational voice coach, who directs choirs locally as well as across the country. He supports us to improve our voices through tips and techniques and inspires us, has great enthusiasm, humour and provides creativity in concert production.

We are deeply passionate about musical excellence. Members know that singing is not only great fun, but is shown by overwhelming evidence to support mental health and wellbeing. Joining others to sing boosts the brain and reduces pain and has influence on all aspects of our spiritual, emotional and physical lives. Singing together provides a sense of social cohesion working together to one aim and communicating with others to tell a story.

Tonight's performance will show us singing the lighter side of music so please enjoy.

The Choir rehearses once a week in term time in St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Netherton, PE3 9RF. We always welcome new singers who want to enjoy singing and share with others. You don't need to read music to join. We have an active committee and organise fundraising events throughout the year.

Our President is the Very Revd Chris Dalliston, Dean of Peterborough, and our Patron is Howard Goodall, conductor and composer. Peterborough Choral Society is a member of Making Music (the national society for Choral Societies) and is a registered charity.

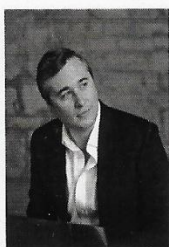
Peterborough Choral Society Members

Cathy Aidley, Nigel Blanchford, Jonathan Bowers, Heidi Brookes, Claire Bysshe, Charles Coxon, Mary Cragg, Hilary Croft, Julie Crossman, Alison Deansmith, Marion Druitt, Linda Elliott, Jane Greene, Mark Harris, Verity Harris, Pat Hemsley, Jane Hogg, Ruth Hutton-Searle, Barbara King, Anita Kosciecha, Mary Lawrence, Jeremy Letts, Sue McKenzie, Fiona McKnight, Sandra Miles, Rachel Neads, Kathryn Parsons, Erica Pilkington, Simon Richards, Alison Rogers, Clare Strak, Viorica Tataru, Julie Tate, Trevor Thomas, Susan Walker, Margaret Wilson, Rohan Wilson, Lesley Wright

We would like to thank the following **Friends of Peterborough Choral Society** for their support and generosity:

Ann Ardron, Simon Bysshe, David Crossman, Beryl Dennis, Liz Dryburgh, Alan Eldred, Brian Gibson, Norma Greener, Ray Hemingray, Jim Hogg, Anne McDonald, Isabella Naylor-Leyland, Fiona Parker, Barbara Tomlinson, Maria Ursuleac, Ian Wilson.

If you would like to become a friend of the Society please see the QR code at the end of the programme.



Bradley Smith - Musical Director

Bradley studied at St John's College, Cambridge, and the Royal Academy of Music where he won the Blythe-Buesst Aria Prize and the Tom Hammond Opera Prize.

As a singer he is regularly engaged to sing the evangelist and tenor solos in the Bach *Passions*, Handel's *Messiah*, and other repertory staples with major orchestras internationally. Recent recital engagements include performances with Angela Hewitt in Italy and Stephen Devine in London. Operatic highlights include roles at English National Opera, Theater

Magdeburg, Theater an der Wien, the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music, Glyndebourne, the Théâtre Champs-Élysées, the Buxton International Festival, and Opera Holland Park.

Alongside a demanding performance career, Bradley maintains a full schedule of conducting and teaching. Bradley runs several choirs, including the Peterborough Choral Society. He has conducted much of the orchestral oratorio repertoire and runs a professional consort that performs throughout the UK. He is in demand as a vocal coach and teaches professional singers and students at leading London conservatoires. He also teaches at Cambridge University, primarily at Trinity Hall, Downing, Selwyn, Sidney Sussex, and St John's Colleges. Bradley is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a Fellow of the Guild of Musicians and Singers, and was appointed as an Associate of the Royal Academy, an honour bestowed upon leading musicians who have distinguished themselves within their field.



Amelia Monaghan - Soprano

Amelia is in regular demand as an oratorio soloist, with recent engagements including Haydn's *The Creation* (Sherborne Abbey Festival), Gounod's *Mors et Vita*, Mozart's C minor mass, Bach's *St John Passion* (Trinity College Choir and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment), and Mozart's *Exultate, Jubilate* (London Mozart Players and Sherborne Abbey Festival). Other solo engagements include Handel *Dixit Dominus*, *Messiah* and *La Resurrezione*, Rutter *Magnificat*, Faure *Requiem*, Berlioz *L'Enfance du Christ*, and Finzi *In Terra Pax*. Amelia studied for

undergraduate and master's degrees in English Literature at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge and sang with the choir of Trinity College during her time as a student. She now works and sings in the city, studying with Bradley Smith. As a choral singer, she has enjoyed consort singing with Trinity College vocal octet, 'King Henry's VIII', Franco-English group, 'Ensemble Rejoyce', and has recorded discs on Hyperion and Naxos under the direction of Stephen Layton with Trinity choir, and Graham Walker with St. John's Voices.

