



LUMEN DE LUMINE

New sacred and spiritual choral music

LUMEN CHAMBER CHOIR

Directed by Benjamin Thiele-Long

About Lumen de Lumine

The idea for this album came to me in the most surprising of circumstances. While standing on top of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland I saw the Northern Lights for the very first time. As I watched the most unbelievable array of colours move across the sky, I was both overwhelmed and inspired by their scale and brilliance.

Choral music has been a passion of mine for many years and the experience of the Aurora reminded me of the overwhelming emotion I felt when I heard Howell's *Collegium Regale* for the very first time. The complex range of emotions and images that can be invoked by something as simple as the human voice has always fascinated me. But while familiar pieces will always retain their beauty, there is something magical about discovering new music.

The experience got me to thinking about how Lumen, an amateur chamber choir, could help provide an opportunity for new and emerging composers to have their music discovered. By making it possible for them to have their work recorded and distributed by a commercial label, and not have to bear the full cost of a whole album themselves, we could provide a platform for their music be heard by a wider audience.

The idea represented an enormous leap of faith and I have been lucky to direct a wonderfully talented choir who were willing to join the adventure, and to have the support of Adrian Green and Convivium Records; who believed that a project of this kind could succeed.

I am incredibly proud of what the choir, the composers and the supporters have been able to achieve together. In Lumen de Lumine we have created an innovative new project, both lighting the way for the future of these composers and hopefully the future of choral music itself.

Benjamin Thiele-Long,
Director and Founder of Lumen





Soprano

Antoinette Bakke
Kate Gledhill
Kaytie Lee
Victoria Shooter
Sara Simon-Vermot



Alto

Gabi Benton-Stage
Naomi Finn
Rachael Fletcher-Brown
Tamara Klemich



Tenor

Matthew Clark
Sam Olivier
David Taylor
Ian Thiele-Long



Bass

Andreas Hansen
Barry Hopwood
William Moss
Jim Taylor

Sam Olivier

Sam Olivier studied composition with Adam Swayne and Arthur Robson. Notable works include: a triangle concerto premiered by the Chichester Sinfonietta; *Howl*, which took a recording of Allen Ginsberg's infamous poem of the same name and set it to music merging bop style jazz with serial and minimalist techniques; and new Christmas choral works for an alternative Yuletide concert of entirely new music including a work in reaction to a commissioned painting from a local artist. Sam currently works in arts management at a leading London music venue.

01. *There is no dusk to be*

Text from: An Eternity,
Archibald MacLeish, 1892 - 1982

*There is no dusk to be,
There is no dawn that was,
Only there's now, and now,
And the wind in the grass.*

*Days I remember of,
Now in my heart, are now;
Days that I dream will bloom,
White the peach bough.*

*Dying shall never be,
Now in the windy grass;
Now under shaken leaves,
Death never was.*



Carmen Bradford

Carmen has been working for the past few years as a composer for the media industry, and her music has been used globally across television, documentary, film and advertising. A former member of Lumen, her time singing with the choir was a huge inspiration for *My people hath been lost sheep*, which is her first composition for choir.

02. *My people hath been lost sheep*

Jeremiah 50:6

*My people hath been lost sheep:
their shepherds have
caused them to go astray,
they have turned them away
on the mountains:
they have gone from
mountain to hill,
they have forgotten
their resting place.*



Simon Whiteley

Simon is a Lay Clerk at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. Simon tours and records with some of the best-known choirs and ensembles in the world, including EXAUDI, The Tallis Scholars, The Cardinal's Musick and Tenebrae. He also runs and sings in the internationally renowned a cappella group, The Queen's Six.

Educated at Royal Holloway University of London (where he was a choral scholar in the Chapel Choir), he won both the Pompilia Legge Scholarship and the Driver Prize for excellence in the Performing Arts. He has performed as a soloist in many operatic and oratorio works. He is recorded as a soloist with James Bowman and Fiori Musicali on the CD *Zelenka: Requiem in C Minor*.

03. The way of life

From the first chapter of the Didache,
c. late 2nd Century AD

The way of life is this:

**"First, you shalt love the God who
made thee, secondly, thy neighbour
as thyself; and whatsoever thou
wouldst not have done to thyself,
do not thou to another."
Amen.**



Benjamin Thiele-Long

Benjamin is a composer and choral director with over 15 years' experience directing choirs of all abilities. Formerly a choral scholar of Royal Holloway, University of London and Lay Clerk of Guildford Cathedral, Benjamin has worked with professional and amateur choirs, and is the founder of the chamber choir Lumen. As a composer has written a number of sacred and secular choral works for choir, theatre and musicals.

04. Dreams

Paul Laurence Dunbar, 1872 – 1906

What dreams we have and how they fly

**Like rosy clouds across the sky;
Of wealth, of fame, of sure success,
Of love that comes to cheer and bless;
And how they wither, how they fade,
The waning wealth, the jilting jade -
The fame that for a moment gleams,
Then flies forever, -dreams, ah -dreams!**

O burning doubt and long regret

**O tears with which our eyes are wet,
Heart-throbs, heart-aches,
the glut of pain,
The somber cloud, the bitter rain,
You were not of those dreams - ah! well,
Your full fruition who can tell?
Wealth, fame, and love, ah!
love that beams, upon our souls,
all dreams - ah! dreams.**



Michael Wolniakowski

Chicago-native Michael Wolniakowski is a conductor, composer, and editor. His vision is a magnet for organisations who aim to forge new paths, build solid programs, and champion for new music and living artists. He currently works as a full-time composer and vocal coach, and is General Editor for Tempo 1st Press. In 2016, he was named Composer-in-Residence for the Oak Park Concert Chorale (Oak Park, IL) and in early 2017, he was named Composer-in-Residence for the music department at Kansas City Lutheran High School (Kansas City, MO). Michael studied at Concordia University Chicago and published his first work while still an undergraduate. His graduate work in choral conducting and composition was completed at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL and his post-graduate work in composition and creative orchestral transcription was completed at the Royal College of Music in London.

05. *Beati quorum via*

Psalm 119

*Beati quorum via integra est,
qui ambulant in lege Domini.*

*Blessed are the undefiled in the way,
who walk in the law of the Lord.*



Matt Wetmore

Matt has composed works across a variety of media, from solo and chamber works to large ensembles and electronics. He has received numerous commissions and his music has been performed nationally and internationally by the University of Louisville Cardinal Singers and Collegiate Chorale, the Lake Junaluska Singers, the East Carolina University Chamber Singers, the University of Oklahoma Chorale, the Louisville Chamber Choir, the Rutgers University Kirkpatrick Choir, and many others, with performance venues ranging from music festivals in America, to cathedrals in Europe, to the Great Wall of China.

He earned his Bachelor's in Music Theory and Composition at East Carolina University studying under Ed Jacobs, Mark Taggart, Mark Richardson and Marc Faris, and his Master's in Music Composition and Choral Conducting at the University of Louisville, studying under Krzysztof Wolek and Kent Hatteberg, respectively.

06. *O Sapientia*

Unknown, c. 6th Century AD

*O Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodisti,
attingens a fine usque ad finem,
fortiter suaviterque disponens omnia:
veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.*

*O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
reaching from one end to the other,
mightily and sweetly ordering all things:
Come and teach us the way of prudence.*



Brian Moles

Brian Moles is an organist, teacher, singer and composer, based in Portsmouth. A Master's in Music graduate from Royal Holloway University of London, he has been both an organist at a cathedral in Cardiff, and a Lay Clerk at St Albans Cathedral. He is currently Director of Music at St Mary's Church in Portsmouth, where he directs the mixed voice choir. Recent works have included a Mass setting written for Portsmouth Cathedral Choir, and a motet for Good Friday, *Ecce Lignum Crucis*, premiered in 2018.

07. Most glorious Lord of life

Sonnet LXVIII, Amoretti and Epithalamion,
1595 Edmund Spenser 1552-99

*Most glorious Lord of life, that on this day
Didst make Thy triumph over death and sin,
And having harrowed hell, didst bring away
Captivity thence captive, us to win.
This joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin,
And grant that we may for whom Thou didst die,
Being with Thy dear blood clean washed from sin,
May live forever in felicity.*

*And that Thy love we weighing worthily,
May likewise love Thee for the same again;
And for Thy sake, that all like dear didst buy,
With love may one another entertain.
So let us love, dear Love, like as we ought;
Love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.*

Clive Whitburn

Clive is a classically trained composer who is interested in collaborations across art forms, with visual artists, poets, writers, dancers, actors and musicians. His work explores at least one of three elements: issues he care passionately about, the physical placement of performers and story telling.

08. Who is my neighbour?

Text based on Luke 10, Matthew 25, Fatal Journeys Vol 3 Part 1.
Statistics based on Improving Data on Missing Migrants, International Organisation for Migration, Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (2017)

*Love your neighbour as yourself,
Do this and you will live, Who is my neighbour?*

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in,
Who is my neighbour?*

*Twenty two thousand five hundred deaths and
disappearances of migrants recorded in the last
four years, At least sixty thousand migrants
have died this century.*

*For each nameless death, there's a family
missing a loved one, Truly I tell you what ever
you did for the least of these brothers and
sisters of mine you did for me
Love.*



COMPOSERS

Kit Grahame

Kit Grahame is an Australian composer now residing in London. He has been a choral singer since childhood and has been writing sacred and secular music for choirs since 2003. His compositions have been performed by choirs in Australia and the United States.

09. *Lullaby*

"*Lullaby*" by W.H. Auden. Used by permission of Curtis Brown, Ltd.
Copyright © 1940. All Rights reserved

*Lay your sleeping head, my love, Human on my faithless arm;
Time and fevers burn away, Individual beauty from
Thoughtful children, and the grave, Proves the child ephemeral:
But in my arms till break of day, Let the living creature lie,
Mortal, guilty, but to me, The entirely beautiful.*

*Soul and body have no bounds: To lovers as they lie upon
Her tolerant enchanted slope, In their ordinary swoon,
Grave the vision Venus sends, Of supernatural sympathy,
Universal love and hope; While an abstract insight wakes
Among the glaciers and the rocks, The hermit's carnal ecstasy.*

*Certainty, fidelity, On the stroke of midnight pass
Like vibrations of a bell, And fashionable madmen raise
Their pedantic boring cry: Every farthing of the cost,
All the dreaded cards foretell, Shall be paid, but from this night
Not a whisper, not a thought, Not a kiss nor look be lost.*

*Beauty, midnight, vision dies: Let the winds of dawn that blow
Softly round your dreaming head, Such a day of welcome show
Eye and knocking heart may bless, Find the mortal world enough;
Noons of dryness find you fed, By the involuntary powers,
Nights of insult let you pass, Watched by every human love.*



Margaret Tesch-Muller

Margaret is an Australian composer currently based in the United States. Her compositions include works for choir, solo piano and chamber ensembles and have premiered in the Sydney Opera House, Melbourne Recital Hall, Brighton Festival Fringe and Dublin.

10. *Et lacrimatus est Jesus*

John 11:35

Et lacrimatus est Jesus.

Jesus wept.



COMPOSERS

Barry Hopwood

Barry has had a long and varied career in the music industry. At present he is Director of Music in a Central London prep school, but started his career as a freelance musician, specialising in Musical Theatre and moving on to be a Director of a music education business in the North East of England before settling in London 20 years ago.

11. *Agnus Dei*

John 1:29

*Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.*

12. *The Lord's prayer*

Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.



Joanna Gill

Originally from Scotland, Joanna is a classically trained composer who found her love for writing contemporary choral music after studying under the world-renowned royal composer, Paul Mealor. Joanna's passion for music and media then brought her to London where she undertook a Master's in composing music for film and television. Joanna has been pleased to have her music performed by various choirs including the London Contemporary Voices and in several venues around the UK; Hampton Court Palace, St. Peter's Eaton Square, St. Martin in the Fields, St. Andrews University, Edinburgh and Kingston Upon Thames.

13. *Safe in the arms of He*

From: Love Oliver
Andy and Jennifer Gill

*Beautiful Baby Boy.
So calm. So Sweet. Gorgeous Boy.
No child, loved more than he.
Such love, Show-eth he.
Safe in the arms of he,
our gorgeous baby.*

*Held in the arms, of our Lord.
No child, loved, more than he.
We weep with he, we long for you.
Safe in the arms of He.*



*O nata lux de lumine,
Jesu redemptor saeculi,
Dignare clemens supplicum
Laudes precesque sumere.*

*Qui carne quondam contegi
Dignatus es pro perditis,
Nos membra confer effici
Tui beati corporis.*

*O Light born of Light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
with loving-kindness deign to receive
suppliant praise and prayer.*

*Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
for the sake of the lost,
grant us to be members
of thy blessed body.*

14. O nata lux

Unknown, c. 10th Century AD

Composed in loving memory of Christina Camera, and included on this album to commemorate its first performance at the launch of the *Lumen de Lumine* project in 2017.

Benjamin Thiele-Long

ST NICHOLAS

About St Nicholas, Denston

This album was recorded and produced at the beautiful church of St Nicholas in Denston, Suffolk.

Although there has been a church on the site since at least the 12th Century, the current church of St Nicholas was built in stages, much due to the funding of John Denston, whose family had been lords of the manor since the late 1300s.

Between 1475 and 1485 the church was totally rebuilt as a 'hall church', with a continuous celestory and open roof running from end to end of the building, which is what lent itself to recording given the volume of space within the nave to allow the sound to grow. This design is considered the most significant single development (both aesthetically and architecturally) in late medieval parish church building.

The interior of the church is filled with incredible carvings, evidencing the highly skilled East Anglian woodworkers of the 15th Century. Most notable are the beasts resting at the end of each pew. Among the 64 animals can be found creatures both real and mythical, including rabbits, an elephant, a griffin and a basilisk.

Among one of the most interesting features of the church however is the double cadaver tomb. Although a slightly macabre focal point, the table tomb, with its two cadavers realistically depicted as shrouded in body bags, are an incredibly rare sight in churches today.

As a whole, the church documents most of the extraordinary history of faith, from foliate heads in the stained glass, probably connected to old tree worship of centuries before, to the Royal Arms of Queen Anne, a tradition started by Henry VIII during the Reformation, and reinstated again after the Restoration.

St Nicholas sits at the heart of a wonderful village community in Denston, and Lumen are very grateful for the local support in hosting us for the three days of recording.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank our special gold Kickstarter sponsors, some of whom have asked that the disc be dedicated in the name of a loved one who is no longer with us.

Alastair and Felicity Finn
 Brit Eva Bakke
 Cara Turtington
 Chloe Grimmett
 Christina Camera
 Christopher and Jennifer Bond
 David Taylor and Martin Kinna
 G Lipman
 Gillian and Philip Long
 HeartStyles
 Hilary and Mark Fletcher-Brown
 James and Bobbie Honeywell
 Karen Hancock
 Laura Hammett Ltd
 Marc and Theresa Simon-Vermot
 Marta and Robert Thiele
 Michael Smith and Kaytie Lee

Monica and Peter Krögler
 Nancy Crombie
 Naomi Finn
 Papa Clark
 Raymond and Barbara Simon-Vermot
 Robin Farmer
 Rune Bakke
 Russell Bowden
 Sara and Olivier Simon-Vermot
 Stephen and Mara Klemich
 Steve Chevis
 Sue and Richard Benton-Stage
 Timothy Albrecht
 Tom "Poppy" Bourke
 Uncle Vernon and
 Aunt Gayle Harmon
 Victoria Shooter

We would also like to say an enormous thank you to our corporate sponsor, Cognito.

Cognito

With special thanks to:

Adrian Green, Andrew King, Adaq Khan, Charles and Judith Wilson, David Taylor & Martin Kinna, Diana Shooter, Father Alan Green, Fiona Evans, Heather Philips, James Biddulph & Federico Baca, James Langley, Michael Pearson & Rachel Durant, Molly Neuman, Naomi Finn, The parish of St. Nicholas, Denston, The parish of St. John on Bethnal Green, Rachael Fletcher-Brown, Sam Harrison Kay.



LUMEN DE LUMINE

SOPRANO

Antoinette Bakke
Kate Gledhill
Kaytie Lee
Victoria Shooter
Sara Simon-Vermot

ALTO

Gabi Benton-Stage
Naomi Finn
Rachael Fletcher-Brown
Tamara Klemich

PRODUCER

Andrew King

DIRECTED BY

Benjamin Thiele-Long

ENGINEERING AND

MASTERING

Adaq Khan

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Naomi Finn

VIDEO AND

PHOTOGRAPHY

James Langley and
Sam Harrison Kay

TENOR

Matthew Clark
Sam Olivier
David Taylor
Ian Thiele-Long

BASS

Andreas Hansen
Barry Hopwood
Will Moss
Jim Taylor

EXECUTIVE

PRODUCER

Adrian Green



COPYRIGHT

This digital booklet is made freely available through the website www.conviviumrecords.co.uk for personal use and reference only.

Copyright subsists in all recordings, associated artwork and supporting imagery from Convivium Records, including within this digital booklet. It is illegal to copy this / them in whole or in part, for any purpose whatsoever, without permission from the copyright holder, Convivium Records Ltd. Any unauthorized copying, reproduction, distribution, re-recording, broadcasting or public performance of this or any other content provided by Convivium Records Ltd. will constitute an infringement of copyright.

To apply to use any recordings, associated artwork and supporting imagery from Convivium Records, including any content within this digital booklet, for anything other than personal use, please email: hello@conviviumrecords.co.uk

Applications for a public performance licence should be sent to:
Phonographic Performance Ltd, 1 Upper James Street, London W1F 9DE.
For more on copyright, please visit: www.conviviumrecords.co.uk/copyright

