



MESSAGES

CHORAL ANTHEMS OF LIFE AND LOVE

THE CHAPEL CHOIR OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, DURHAM
CONDUCTED BY BARNEY HOWARD

Tracklist

1	Hear My Prayer, O Lord <i>Henry Purcell</i>	2.59
2	Remember Not, Lord, Our Offences <i>Henry Purcell</i>	4.00
Four Canticles Op.78 Amy Beach		
3	i Bonum Est Confiteri	5.18
4	ii Deus Misereatur	5.53
5	iii Cantate Domino	5.16
6	iv Benedic, Anima Mea	5.03
7	Messages <i>Ben Rowarth</i>	6.35
8	The Promise Which Was Made Unto The Fathers <i>Edward Bairstow</i>	6.02
9	The Day Draws On With Golden Light <i>Edward Bairstow</i>	4.04
10	Music, When Soft Voices Die <i>Edward Bairstow</i>	2.34
11	Know Ye Not <i>Edward Bairstow</i>	6.10
12	Behold, Bless Ye The Lord <i>Francis Jackson</i>	2.05
13	Up To Those Bright And Gladsome Hills <i>Francis Jackson</i>	6.09
14	Sing Praise to God <i>Francis Jackson</i>	4.34
15	The King Of Love My Shepherd Is <i>Edward Bairstow</i>	5.42
Total running time		72.29

Programme Note

MESSAGES

That Sir Edward Bairstow, a member of University College, failed both his music Bachelors and Doctorate examinations at first attempt is extraordinary, but even more so that he would then go on to be Professor of Music at the same Durham University for 17 years from 1929 to 1946. His biography remarks that, over that time, he steadily raised the standard 'until the Durham degrees became the most difficult in the world'. In his early anthems, such as *The Promise Which Was Made unto the Fathers* (1903) and *Know Ye Not* (1906), a clear demonstration of his academic grasp of counterpoint shines through. Yet

Bairstow's development as a composer is evident in his later works, such as the hymn-anthems presented here, written in his years as Head of Department.

In its formative years, the Durham degree offered an alternative to the strictly residential courses offered by Oxford and Cambridge and therefore attracted many talented men who sought degrees alongside pre-existing professional musical commitments. One such student was Francis Jackson, who had been a chorister at York Minster under Bairstow. He received his Bachelor of Music in 1937 from Bairstow's department, before seeing active service in the

Programme Note

Second World War with the 9th Lancers in North Africa. There, in the desert, he wrote a set of songs and played the organ of Tunis Cathedral after the city's liberation in 1943. After his return, he took over as Organist of York Minster upon Bairstow's death, serving in the post for 36 years until 1982. Towards the end of this role (during which he received his doctorate from Durham in 1957) he wrote the three anthems sung here: so distinctly 'Jackson' in their vocal writing, but with the taught conventions of counterpoint still evident in their composition. The second of these, *Up to Those Bright and Gladsome Hills* (1984), was written for St Bride's, Fleet Street, which held David Knowles' funeral in October 2024.

David, a lover of music, had sung in the Chapel Choir of University College in his undergraduate days and had requested the two Purcell anthems *Hear My Prayer, O Lord* and *Remember Not, Lord Our Offences* for his funeral. One of his contemporaries within the

college chapel choir, the Newcastle-born composer Ben Rowarth, has written a commissioned piece, *Messages*, in memoriam, setting remarks about David around his death to music.

The process of choosing the music for this recording focused on honouring both David and the musical legacy of the university, with which he was greatly involved. Whether through the messages of salvation proclaimed by the Easter anthems by Bairstow, or through the messages of the love of God in the works of Jackson, the optimism and sensitivity that David embodied in his life and work was an underlying factor in the formation of the programme. This optimism also inspired the inclusion of the Four Canticles by early 20th-century composer Amy Beach, previously unrecorded in full, which gloriously articulate the message of God's righteousness in the psalms.

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Texts

1 Hear My Prayer, O Lord

Psalm 102

Hear my prayer, O Lord,
and let my crying come unto thee.

2 Remember Not, Lord, Our Offences

The Litany, Book of Common Prayer

Remember not, Lord our offences,
nor th'offences of our forefathers;
neither take thou vengeance
of our sins, good Lord
But spare us, good Lord.

Spare thy people,
whom thou hast redeem'd
with thy most precious blood,
and be not angry with us forever.
Spare us, good Lord.

3 Bonum Est Confiteri

Psalm 92: 1-4

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy Name, O most Highest;
To tell of Thy loving-kindness early in the morning, and of Thy truth in the night-season;
Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the lute, upon a loud instrument, and upon the harp.
For thou, Lord, hast made me glad through Thy works, and I will rejoice in giving praise for the operations of Thy hands.

Texts

4 Deus Misereatur

Psalm 67

God be merciful unto us, and bless us,
and shew us the light of His
countenance, and be merciful unto us:
That Thy way may be known upon earth,
Thy saving health among all nations.
Let the people praise thee, O God, yea,
let all the people praise Thee.
O let the nations rejoice and be glad,
for Thou shalt judge the folk righteously,
and govern the nations upon earth.
Let the people praise Thee, O God,
let all the people praise Thee.
Then shall the earth bring forth her
increase, and God, even our own God,
shall give us His blessing.
God shall bless us, and all the ends of
the world shall fear Him.

5 Cantate Domino

Psalm 98

O sing unto the Lord a new song, for He
hath done marvellous things.
With His own right hand, and with His
holy arm, hath He gotten Himself the
victory.
The Lord declared His salvation, his
righteousness hath He openly shewed in
the sight of the heathen.
He hath remembered His mercy and
truth toward the house of Israel, and all
the ends of the world have seen the
salvation of our God.
Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all
ye lands, sing, rejoice, and give thanks.
Praise the Lord upon the harp, sing to the
harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.
With trumpets also and shawms, O shew
yourselves joyful before the Lord the King.
Let the sea make a noise, and all that
therein is, the round world, and they that
dwell therein.
Let the floods clap their hands, and let
the hills be joyful together before the

Texts

Lord, for He cometh to judge the earth.
With righteousness shall He judge the
world, and the people with equity.

6 Benedic, Anima Mea

Psalm 103: 1-4, 20-22

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and all that
is within me praise His holy Name.
Praise the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all His benefits;
Who forgiveth all thy sin, and healeth
all thine infirmities;
Who saveth thy life from destruction,
and crowneth thee with mercy and
loving-kindness;
O praise the Lord, ye angels of His,
ye that excel in strength, ye that fulfil
His commandment, and hearken unto
the voice of His words.
O praise the Lord, all ye His hosts,
ye servants of His that do His pleasure.
O speak good of the Lord, all ye works of
His, in all places of His dominion, praise
thou the Lord, O my soul.

7 Messages

Ben Rowarth

You
you were
you are
humour
kind
caring
loyal
Endless passion
life
A daily friend
humble
Ceaseless
Curiosity
Cheerful
You gave hope
You gave strength
You brought joy to the world
Endless enthusiasm
Passion for life
Puckish sense of humour
(Absolutely fascinating)
The happiest person I've ever known
You

Texts

You were
You are
our memory
You loved life
and the world loved you back

8 The Promise Which Was Made Unto The Fathers

Acts 13: 32, 33;
The Song of Solomon 2: 11, 12;
Psalms 145: 21

The promise which was made unto the
fathers,
God hath fulfilled the same unto us their
children, in that He raised up Jesus
again. Alleluia!

For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over
and gone;
The flowers appear on the earth; the time
of the singing of birds is come.

And let all flesh give thanks unto His holy
Name for ever and ever, Amen.

9 The Day Draws On With Golden Light

4th or 5th Century Latin hymn
Translated T. A. Lacey

The day draws on with golden light,
Glad songs go echoing through the
height,
The broad earth lifts an answering cheer,
The deep makes moan with wailing fear.

For lo, He comes, the mighty King,
To take from death his power and sting,
To trample down his gloomy reign,
And break the weary prisoner's chain.

Maker of all, to Thee we pray,
Fulfil in us Thy joy today.
When death assails, grant, Lord, that we
May share Thy Paschal victory. Amen.

10 Music, When Soft Voices Die

Percy Bysshe Shelley

Music, when soft voices die,
Vibrates in the memory;
Odours, when sweet violets sicken,
Live within the sense they quicken.

Rose leaves, when the rose is dead,
Are heaped for the beloved's bed;
And so thy thoughts, when thou art gone,
Love itself shall slumber on.

11 Know Ye Not

Romans 6: 3, 4;
Colossians 3: 1-4

Know ye not, that so many of us as were
baptised into Jesus Christ were baptised
into His death?
Therefore we are buried with Him by
baptism into death: that like as Christ was
raised up from the dead by the glory of
the Father, even so we also should walk
in newness of life.

Texts

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those
things which are above, where Christ
sitteth on the right hand of God.
Set your affection on things above, not
on things on the earth.

For ye are dead and your life is hid with
Christ in God.
When Christ, who is our life, shall appear,
then shall ye also appear with Him in
glory.

12 Behold, Bless Ye The Lord

Psalms 134

Behold, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants
of the Lord;
Which by night stand in the House of the
Lord.
Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and
bless ye the Lord.
The Lord that made heaven and earth,
bless thee out of Zion.

Texts

13 Up To Those Bright And Gladsome Hills

Henry Vaughan, based on Psalm 121

Up to those bright and gladsome hills,
Whence flows my weal, and mirth,
I look and sigh for Him who fills,
Unseen, both heaven and earth.

He is alone my help and hope,
That I shall not be moved;
His watchful eye is ever ope,
And guardeth His beloved.

The glorious God is my sole stay,
He is my sun and shade;
The cold by night, the heat by day,
Neither shall me invade.

He keeps me from the spite of foes,
Doth all their plots control;
And is a shield, not reckoning those,
Unto my very soul.

Whether abroad amidst the crowd,
Or else within my door,
He is my pillar and my cloud
Now and for evermore.

14 Sing Praise To God *Johann Jakob Schütz*

Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.

With healing balm my soul He fills
and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power hath made
His gracious mercy keepeth:
By morning glow or evening shade
His watchful eye ne'er sleepeth:
Within the kingdom of his might
Lo! All is just, and all is right:
To God all praise and glory!

Then all my gladsome way along,
I sing aloud Thy praises,
That men may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises:
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory.

Texts

15 The King Of Love My Shepherd Is *H. W. Baker*

The King of love my Shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am His,
and He is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul He leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
Thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight
from Thy pure chalice floweth!

Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,
but yet in love He sought me;
and on His shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

And so through all the length of days,
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
within Thy house forever.



THE CHAPEL CHOIR OF
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE,
DURHAM

Photo: Sam Hole

In Memory of David Knowles

David Knowles spent three incredibly happy years at University College Durham, taking part in music, theatre, sports and social life with more energy than it now seems possible to believe.

He produced and directed dramas that made the most of the castle: a haunting Dracula, on the move around the college, and a stunning Bacchae with music from his friend, the composer Ben Rowarth.

He founded the college's mixed lacrosse team and, when on tour with the Durham Revue, discovered cricket, which led to his later efforts to found a cricket club in London, the Larkhall Wanderers. It never troubled him that his sporting prowess was limited to raw enthusiasm.

David read Theology and focused his studies on Biblical Hebrew (alongside five other ancient languages - none of them

Latin or Greek). He took this to Strasbourg in an Erasmus year and, after gaining a First, on into MA studies.

He played viola in orchestras and sang in the college choir. He renewed that interest first with the choir of Geneva's Anglican church and later, when he returned to London as a journalist, singing with the choir of St. Bartholomew the Great.

His journalistic reputation was made by the decisions he took at the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine to mount a daily podcast, 'Ukraine: The Latest', converting the Telegraph's social media resources into a chronicle of the war, listened to around the world. But his memory at Castle lives on in the great many friendships he made there. They were enough to last a lifetime.

Peter and Kaye Knowles



Photo of David Knowles
Credit: Peter and Kaye Knowles

Biographies

The Chapel Choir of University College, Durham is the liturgical choir of the oldest constituent college of Durham University. The choir is formed of choral and organ scholars from across the university and it plays a vital role in the life of the college. The primary function of the choir is to sing the college evensongs and eucharists within term time, supplementing worship within the chapels of the college. University College is unique within the university in having two chapels: the 11th-century Norman Chapel, purported to be the oldest standing building in Durham, and the 16th-century Tunstall Chapel, which houses the college's Harrison and Harrison organ.

The choir's extracurricular roles include outreach events, charity work and other projects within the wider area of the North East of England. The choir enjoys extensive touring opportunities to various cathedrals and concert venues within the UK, as well as touring abroad. The college maintains a close relationship with Durham Cathedral and the choir is fortunate to sing there on a regular basis. This album, the first since the pandemic, marks the choir's continued dedication to the musical life of Durham and the wider British choral tradition.

Biographies



Photo: George Gray

Biographies

Barney Howard grew up in London and was introduced to classical music aged 11 in school: after joining the school's oratorio choir, the first piece he ever took part in was a performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. Later, with the Tiffin Boys' Choir, he performed at venues such as the Royal Opera House, the Royal Albert Hall, the Royal Festival Hall and the Barbican Centre.

Barney is also a timpanist and orchestral percussionist, specialising in historical performance practices on the timpani, and has made comprehensive editions of timpani music for works such as Purcell's operas *King Arthur* and *Dioclesian*. He was both timpanist and principal percussionist of the Thames Youth Orchestra, as well as a guest timpanist and percussionist for various orchestras in West London. Barney is a keen choral singer, singing in various liturgical choirs in London and the North East of England. He was a choral scholar under Dr Martin Neary and Laurence Williams at St Michael

and All Angels', Barnes, where he continues on occasion to sing under Owen Elsley, and has performed in many cathedrals around the UK, such as St Paul's, Exeter, Winchester, Westminster Abbey, York Minster and at Worcester for the Three Choirs Festival, as well as on Gabrieli's *An English Coronation* album under Paul McCreesh in Ely.

As Director of Music of University College, Durham, Barney conducts the chapel choir in services, choosing music for the liturgical calendar. With the choir, he has conducted concerts and services around the United Kingdom and Europe, as well as for outreach projects in the North East. Alongside choral conducting, Barney has conducted orchestras in performances of, for example, Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto in Durham Cathedral, overtures by Wagner, and the orchestral music of British composers such as Elgar, Delius and Butterworth.



Photo: Sam Hole

Biographies

Alan Erdelyi has held the Senior Organ Scholarship at University College, Durham since October 2024. Prior to this, he was organ scholar and subsequently acting Assistant Director of Music at All Saints Kingston.

While at school, Alan studied organ with Richard Gowers and became an Associate of the Royal College of Organists in January 2024, aged 18. Alongside his work as an organist, Alan is an enthusiastic singer and violinist, and is currently pursuing a degree in Engineering.



Photo: Sam Hole

Biographies

Henry Hiscock began learning the organ after eight years as a pianist, quickly developing a strong interest in choral and liturgical music. He was awarded an organ scholarship at University College, Durham, during which time he performed at prestigious venues including Ely Cathedral, St George's Chapel, Windsor, and Durham Cathedral.

In his second year, Henry was appointed Director of Hatfield College Chapel Choir, Junior Organ Scholar at University College, and Organ Scholar at the College of St Hild and St Bede. He continues to balance his musical work as an organist and pianist while pursuing a degree in Physics.



Photo: Sam Hole

Performers

The Chapel Choir of University College, Durham

Sopranos

Bethany Davis
Sofia Lang
Arielle Loewinger
Kate Ryan
Josephine Sim
Edie Tunnicliffe

Altos

Sophie Essenhigh
Thomas Good
Emma Kerrigan
Hannah Mayes
Beth Mitton

Conductor

Barney Howard

Organist

Alan Erdelyi
Tracks 3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15

Tenors

Harry Gordon
Matthew Holloway-Strong
Tom Klafkowski
Euan McGarr

Basses

David Caroe
Michael Doyle
Joseph Hornsby
Ed Kirker
Tom Parker
Sebastian Till

Organist

Henry Hiscock
Tracks 2, 4 and 9

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Credits

MESSAGES

THE CHAPEL CHOIR OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, DURHAM

Conductor

Barney Howard

Organists

Alan Erdelyi and Henry Hiscock

Choir Manager

Kate Ryan

Recorded

St Cuthbert's Chapel, Ushaw College, Durham, 25-27 April 2025

Engineer

Adaq Khan

Producer

George Richford



Creative Director

Mike Cooter

Executive Producer

Adrian Green

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