

# THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL HEREFORD 2022 23–30 JULY



Festival Preview  
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# WELCOME TO HEREFORD 2022

75 years ago, in 1946, the Three Choirs Festival was revived in Hereford after a gap of seven years during the Second World War. Much of that year's festival was carried over from the fully-planned programme for 1939, which had been cancelled at the outbreak of war days before it was due to take place.

So, as we contemplate the shape of a post-Covid world, the theme of the 2022 Hereford festival is one of re-imaginings. The week begins with a rare performance of Dvořák's *Requiem*; this was his counter-suggestion when he was invited to set Cardinal Newman's poem *The Dream of Gerontius*, which for some reason did not appeal to him. Fortunately, this text was more to Elgar's taste and at the other end of the week we present his masterpiece. Along the way you can hear two strikingly different interpretations of the mediaeval poem *Stabat mater*, by Poulenc and Richard Blackford, and the universal genius of Bach re-imagined by composers as diverse as Elgar, Stravinsky and Webern. One piece scheduled to be performed at the 1939 festival was the premiere of Finzi's *Dies natalis* and there will be a rare opportunity to hear this work as originally planned, with a soprano rather than tenor soloist. Other highlights include Haydn's *The Creation*, performed by the Three Cathedral Choirs and Mahler's Fourth Symphony.

A major figure in mid 20th-century British musical life was Sir George Dyson and he played a significant role in the post-war re-establishment of the Three Choirs Festival. Another piece planned for performance in 1939, which was first heard in 1946, was his large-scale work *Quo vadis* and, following the success of our performance of his *The Canterbury Pilgrims* a few years ago, we are delighted to be reviving this fine work.

Of course, this is only a small part of the programme on offer in Hereford in 2022: look out for the full booking brochure next spring. We look forward to welcoming you next year!

**Geraint Bowen**  
**Hereford Artistic Director**



*Festival Supporters:*

**The Mumford Memorial Trust**



# EVENING PROGRAMME TO INCLUDE:

## SATURDAY 23 JULY

**Dvořák** Requiem

## SUNDAY 24 JULY

**Rolf Martinsson** Ich Denke Dein (*UK premiere*)

**G Mahler** Symphony No 4

## MONDAY 25 JULY

**Dyson** Quo Vadis

## TUESDAY 26 JULY

**Haydn** The Creation

## WEDNESDAY 27 JULY

**Bach/Webern** Ricercare

**R Strauss** Metamorphosen

**Richard Blackford** Pietà

## THURSDAY 28 JULY

**Luke Styles** Hear My Voice (*premiere, festival commission for the TCF Youth Choir and Hilary Summers*)

## FRIDAY 29 JULY

**Bach/Stravinsky** Variations on 'Von Himmel hoch'

**Finzi** Dies natalis

**Britten** The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra

**Poulenc** Stabat mater

## SATURDAY 30 JULY

**Elgar** The Dream of Gerontius

We invite you to get closer to the work of the Three Choirs Festival through Patronage. We also offer the opportunity to support concerts directly. Please contact our Development Manager, Grace Green, to discover the impact your gift could have:

01452 768 933 | [grace.green@3choirs.org](mailto:grace.green@3choirs.org)

## FEATURING

Philharmonia Orchestra (in residence)

Three Choirs Festival Chorus

Cathedral Choirs of Hereford, Gloucester and Worcester

Three Choirs Festival Youth Choir

## CONDUCTORS

Geraint Bowen ♦ Samuel Hudson ♦ Adrian Partington ♦ Kwamé Ryan

## SOLOISTS

Alex Ashworth ♦ Gwilym Bowen ♦ Ruairi Bowen ♦ Matthew Brook

Catherine Carby ♦ Sarah Connolly ♦ Jess Dandy ♦ Jennifer Johnston

James Oxley ♦ Joanne Lunn ♦ Nicky Spence ♦ David Stout ♦ Božidar Smiljanić

Hilary Summers ♦ Anita Watson ♦ Roderick Williams

## PLUS

Organist Henry Fairs

Finnish male voice choir Valkia and flautist Sami Junnonen  
premiere a new work by Cheryl Francis Hoad

Fretwork celebrate the 400th anniversary of Matthew Locke

Pianist Mark Bebbington plays Vaughan Williams and his contemporaries

National Youth Orchestra of Wales

Stuart Jackson song recital *and much more to be announced in March 2022...*

## KEY DATES

Full programme announced **Friday 25 March 2022**

Patrons booking opens **from Friday 1 April 2022**

Members booking opens **from Monday 11 April 2022**

General booking opens **from Wednesday 27 April 2022**

If you'd like access to priority booking and other exclusive benefits, whilst supporting the work of the Three Choirs Festival, patronage or membership might be for you. To find out more, please contact our Box Office:

01452 768 928 | [info@3choirs.org](mailto:info@3choirs.org)