

the
barnby
choir

SINGING DAY

with Keith Orrell

Ola Gjeilo

Luminous Night of the Soul
The Ground

Keith Orrell

The Sacrifice

Saturday 10 February 2024

10.00am – 4.30pm

**Wilmslow Methodist Church
Kings Close Wilmslow SK9 5AR**

Programme

Ola Gjeilo

Luminous Night of the Soul

The Ground

Ola Gjeilo grew up in Norway. He began playing piano and composing when he was five years old and learned to read music when he was seven. In his undergraduate career, Gjeilo studied at the Norwegian Academy of Music before transferring to the Juilliard School in New York and subsequently to the Royal College of Music in London, where he received a Bachelor's degree in composition. He continued his education at the Juilliard from 2004, receiving his Master's degree in 2006, also in composition. From 2009 to 2010 Gjeilo was composer-in-residence for Phoenix Chorale. He currently resides in Manhattan, working as a freelance composer, and has become a favourite of choral ensembles for his inventive and melodic compositions for chorus. The American magazine *Classics Today* had this to say: "Gjeilo's work is well-crafted, singer-friendly and sensitive to text, and mindful of how it will touch a listener's ear and heart, the 'pleasure' index is high."

Luminous Night of the Soul, written in 2011, is a dramatic, moving and uplifting work influenced by Gjeilo's wish to feature the piano more heavily in choral music as an equal partner to the choir, aided and supported by a string quartet. The Ground, also for piano and string quartet, is based on a chorale motif from the last movement of his Sunrise Mass, developed by the composer into a beautiful free-standing anthem.

Keith Orrell

The Sacrifice

This exciting work is based on George Herbert's poem *The Temple*. It is his only poem that introduces Jesus Christ in the first person. He relates the story of his own suffering, abandonment and isolation in the only story in *The Temple* that has a pre-determined and familiar ending – indeed it ends with Christ pronouncing his own death. And though there are references within the poem to Christ's love for mankind, in general 'The Sacrifice' appears to be an exercise in condemnation, blame and incredulity, peppered with quotes from the Bible that highlight the bitterness that Herbert attributes to Christ. Dylan Thomas would have approved: the Christ of this poem does not go gently into his good night.

Timetable

Registration and coffee 9.30

Session 1 10.00 – 11.15

Break 11.15 – 11.30

Session 2 11.30 – 12.30

Lunch 12.30 – 1.30

A light lunch of soup and a roll (£6) is available, or you can visit one of the many supermarkets or cafés in Wilmslow. Cake will also be on sale.

Session 3 1.30 – 2.30

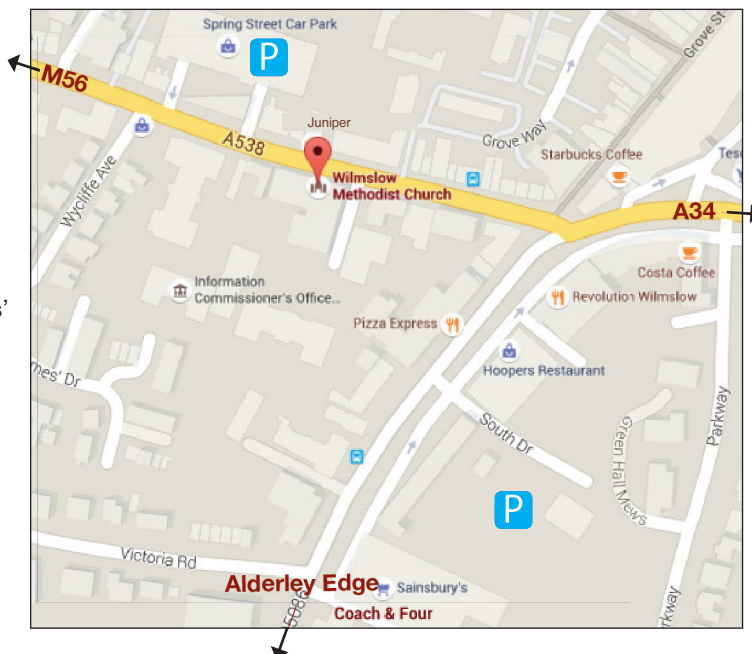
Break 2.30 – 2.45

Session 4 2.45 – 3.45

At 4.00 pm family and friends are invited to join us for an informal performance lasting for approximately 30 minutes.

Map

There is a multi-storey car-park opposite the Church on Water Lane, and further public car-parking behind Hooper's department store (approx. 5 minutes' walk).



Keith Orrell



We are delighted to welcome back Keith Orrell as our music lead for this Singing Day. Keith is a versatile and vibrant choral and orchestral conductor and music leader based in the north-west of England.

He is currently the Musical Director of the William Byrd Singers of Manchester (since 2009) and the Liverpool Welsh Choral (since 2004). In 2011 he took up the choral directorship of the Pennine Spring Music Festival. Keith recently retired after thirteen years as Vocal Projects Leader of Wigan Music Service, where he made a strong impact on the development of singing in schools in the area. His seventy-six Let's Sing! projects and concerts had a massive impact on the singing experiences of around fifty thousand children in the area and has left a lasting legacy. He is also a dedicated church musician, organist and pianist, and is the

Director of Music at the church of St Agnes and St Pancras in Liverpool.

He was Chorus Master of the Hallé Choir in Manchester for seven years, working with leading international conductors such as Kent Nagano and Mark Elder, and has acted as a guest Chorus Master for other symphony orchestras in the UK, including the BBC Symphony Orchestra. When residing in the Midlands in the 1980s, he founded the Shropshire-based chamber choir, the Beaumaris Singers, and directed them until 2004. More recently he also worked briefly as Director of Music at Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral. He has also led children's choirs, youth choirs and larger mixed adult choirs such as the Birmingham Singers, Stone Choral Society, Staffordshire Youth Choir and Wigan Youth Choir, and has directed youth instrumental ensembles, including Wigan Youth Orchestra.

He continues to lead popular choral workshops and courses and is a member of ABCD (the Association of British Choral Directors), the ISM (Independent Society of Musicians) and the RCO (Royal College of Organists). His qualifications include a BA (Hons) in music from Liverpool University, a PGCE (with distinction) in music teaching, ARCM (piano) and ARCO (organ).

Tomek Pieczora



Tom is a freelance pianist, organist, and musical director based in Manchester. He studied Music at the University of Manchester whilst holding the Pilling Trust Organ Scholarship at St. Ann's Church. Tom works with choirs and orchestras, schools and universities across the region, supporting music-making with professionals and amateurs alike. He is the accompanist for Gatley Choir, the RNCM Chamber Choir and Symphony Chorus, and the National Children's Choir of Great Britain, and we were delighted when he accepted the post of accompanist with The Barnby Choir in March 2022.