

Sheffield Bach Choir
www.sheffieldbachchoir.org.uk
Summer Concert 2018
Saturday 9 June 2018 at 7.30 pm
ST MARK'S CHURCH, BROOMHILL
supporting the Broomhill Festival
England at War and at Peace



In the Summer of the 1918 Armistice Centenary Year, the Bach Choir presents a programme of glorious English music including two of the best-loved *Songs of Farewell* by Sir Hubert Parry [who died exactly a century ago this year of 'Spanish' Flu]. Also heard will be Ralph Vaughan Williams's double choir setting of *Te Deum laudamus* from the 1928 service for the Enthronement of Cosmo Gordon Lang as Archbishop of Canterbury. From Sir Edward Bairstow, Organist of York Minster from 1913 to his death in office in 1946, comes one of the finest anthems in the English language, *Lord, Thou hast been our refuge*, music first heard at St Paul's Cathedral in 1917 at the Festival of the Sons of the Clergy, for which it had been composed.

Special pride of place will go to the expressive and beautiful *Requiem* by Robert Lucas Pearsall of Millsbridge [1795-1856], one of the greatest English musicians and musicologists of his day. It is Pearsall's choral setting of *In dulci iubilo* that is so very often heard at Christmas time, while his madrigal, *Lay a garland*, is in the repertoire of many choirs of taste and discernment. The *Requiem*, composed in 1853/4, was saved for posterity by means of a fair

copy made in 1858 by the composer's daughter and the piece has been very recently published by the Church Music Society for the Pearsall Project Group in London. It is believed that the *Requiem* was never performed during its composer's lifetime, even though it was one of an extensive group of works written specifically for the musicians of the monastic Cathedral in the Swiss City of St Gallen.

Guest Baritone, Quentin Brown from Leeds, will sing a group of George Butterworth's deeply affecting songs to texts by A E Housman [1859-1936] from the famous cycle *A Shropshire Lad* as well as a number of popular ballads from late Victorian and Edwardian England including Yorkshire-born composer Haydn Wood's *Roses of Picardy*. Organist David Houlder will be at the magnificently restored St Mark's Organ, work recently undertaken to great acclaim by the organ builders, Wood of Huddersfield.

**NEARER THE ARMISTICE ITSELF
IN THE WEEK OF REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

"LEST WE FORGET"

A further significant date falls later in the year, when the main work in a concert in Sheffield Cathedral on Saturday 17 November at 7.30 will be Sir Karl Jenkins's *The Armed Man*, A Mass for Peace. Composed for the Millennium, this work fuses elements of medieval tradition, the folk and dance song heritage of Europe, incanted solo singing and magnificent choral provision. The National Festival Orchestra will be in attendance and our soloists include Yorkshire-based mezzo Hannah Mason and three other celebrated singers each with strong links with Sheffield – Nicola Hook, Jeremy Dawson and Thomas Asher. The organist will be Alan Horsey.

Earlier in the Autumn, the Bach Choir, again at Sheffield Cathedral, on Saturday 6 October and also at 7.30, presents a programme of French music, culminating in Duruflé's effulgent *Requiem* founded on plainchant themes. Also included will be Poulenc's *Organ Concerto* with Cathedral Organist Thomas Corns as the soloist.

CONGRATULATIONS IF YOU'VE READ THIS FAR!
Now let's interest others in supporting this very special concert!
Let's aim to sing to a really packed Church in June