

**Orpheus Choir of North Herts  
St Mary's Church, Pirton  
15 March, 2025**

**O Nata Lux** Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

**Mass for 4 voices** William Byrd (1543-1623)

The performance is interspersed with readings from theatre director Bill Barclay's *The Secret Byrd* produced in 2023 as part of Byrd 400.

**Kyrie:** Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord have mercy

**Gloria:** Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth...

**Credo:** I believe in one God...

**Sanctus:** Holy Lord, God of Hosts, Heaven and Earth are full of thy glory.

**Benedictus:** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Agnus Dei:** Lamb of God, have mercy upon us; grant us peace.

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***INTERVAL***

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**Locus Iste** Anton Bruckner (1824-96)

**Piangerò la sorte mia** G F Handel (1685-1759)

Sandra Eagle, Soprano

**O pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth**

From Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*

read by Phil Rowe

**Se pieta di me non senti** G F Handel (1685-1759)

Helen Martin, Soprano

**Organ: Chorale Prelude on the Passion Chorale**

My heart is filled with longing Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

**The Lord's Prayer** John Sheppard (c. 1515-1558)

**Ave Maria** Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

**Reading** Belinda Copson

Dear March, come in. Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

**Weep you no more, sad fountains** John Dowland (1563-1626)  
...rest you, then, rest, sad eyes! melt not in weeping while she lies sleeping,  
softly now, softly lies sleeping. George Laslett, Tenor

**Sa nuit d'été** Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

Morten Johannes Lauridsen is an American composer: professor emeritus of composition at the USC Thornton School of Music in Los Angeles.

*If, with my burning hands, I could melt the body surrounding your lover's heart ... how the night would become translucent...*

**Reading** Sally Hadley  
March William Cullen Bryant (1794-1878)

**Asleep in the deep** Arthur Lamb & Henry Petrie (1897)

The song relates how the lovers cleave to each other as their ship sinks in a storm (John and Clifton have added a 2<sup>nd</sup> verse). John Burden, Bass

**Crossing the Bar** Charles Hubert Parry (1848-1918)  
This is a setting of a short poem by Tennyson that compares death with the process of putting out to sea.

**The Long Day Closes** Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

The plaintive harmonies, and the text's touching meditation on death, have meant that *The Long Day Closes* has traditionally been sung at the funerals of members of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company.

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**Anne-Marie Hetherington** studied at Birmingham University and the Royal Academy of Music. She has performed widely in concert and has broadcast for BBC radio and television and for Classic FM.  
Anne-Marie is Assistant Head Teacher at Hitchin Boys' School.

**The Orpheus Choir** was founded in 1969 by John Railton. It is based in Hitchin and welcomes applications from new singers.

**Future Concerts:**

- June 21<sup>st</sup>, 7pm St Martin's, Preston
- July 5<sup>th</sup>, 7pm St Mary's, Walkern