

Sunday 5th May 10am
St. Catwg's Church, Llangattock

FESTIVAL SERVICE

To highlight the seasonal message of rebirth we welcome back our Festival soloists, choir and players to perform one of J.S. Bach's most joyous Easter cantatas, *Ein Herz, das seinen Jesum lebend weiß* (A heart that knows Jesus is alive), heard as originally intended as part of a church service.

Here is the great composer in full swing, the miracle of spiritual renewal calling for some exceptional high octave singing from this year's tenor, Bach specialist Charles Daniels.

Another undoubted Festival highlight!

Sunday 5th May 7.30pm
St. Edmund's Church, Crickhowell

SURPRISING REVELATIONS!

C.P.E. Bach: Magnificat

Pergolesi: Dixit Dominus

J.S. Bach: Whitsun Cantata BWW 34, O ewiges Feuer

Arvo Pärt: Veni Sancte Spiritus

Festival Baroque Orchestra

Soloists

Áine Smith and Carys Davies (soprano)

Catherine King (alto)

Charles Daniels (tenor)

Robert Davies (bass)

Tonight the unexpected gifts given to the disciples at Pentecost and to Mary at the Annunciation find their perfect expression in musical settings by a Bach family double-act: father, Johann Sebastian and son, Carl Philipp Emanuel, both giant composers of their time. If J.S. Bach's *Cantata* captures the pure joy of the disciples' spiritual awakening, then C.P.E. Bach's *Magnificat* is both ebullient and dramatic. Intriguingly, the younger man's work also pays homage by referencing his father's own setting.

In our bid to bring hidden gems into the light we programme another neglected choral masterpiece from the pen of Pergolesi. This composer's pioneering style prefigures Mozart's own and seems perfectly suited to a setting of the Psalm *Dixit Dominus*, which is full of messianic prophecies.

Amidst the energetic crossfire of these pieces we'll also experience a "still small voice of calm", by courtesy of Arvo Pärt's setting of Come Holy Spirit from his *Berliner Mass*. Nirvana at last!

Monday 6th May at 3pm
Clarence Hall, Crickhowell

MAY STREET OPERA (TEA INCLUDED)

Tomos Owen Jones: The Egg chamber cantata

Benjamin Britten: Canticale: Abraham and Isaac

Complementing the heavenly call of our Festival is *The Egg*, a one-act cantata based on Andy Weir's famous story, "You were on your way home when you died". It's an uplifting tale that describes the human condition, from life to death and beyond. Full of wit and insight, Tom's piece charts an individual's intriguing musical tutorial with his creator that is both lyrical and enchanting.

It's performed alongside Britten's *Canticale II*, a dramatic retelling of the story of Abraham and Isaac.

TICKETS

Friday Concert £12.00

Saturday & Sunday Concerts £20.00

Monday recital including tea £10.00

Students/Under 18s free

To buy a ticket you can:
Visit our website (see below)
email crickchoral2018@gmail.com
Call 07816 991501
Or visit Webbs of Crickhowell

 [CrickhowellChoralSociety](https://www.facebook.com/CrickhowellChoralSociety)  [ChoralCrick](https://twitter.com/ChoralCrick)

www.crickhowellchoralsociety.org

ALL DETAILS CORRECT AT TIME OF PUBLICATION.
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1042098

CRICKHOWELL MUSIC FESTIVAL

3RD MAY - 6TH MAY 2024



Heaven Calling

A musical banquet that's heaven-sent!

Webbs
OF CRICKHOWELL

THE BEAR
HOTEL

MID WALES MUSIC TRUST



Crickhowell Choral Society
Singing in the Usk valley. Yn canu yng Nghwm Wysg

HEAVEN CALLING

A MUSICAL BANQUET THAT'S HEAVEN-SENT!

Welcome to our 28th Festival! Prepare to be inspired by music that will turn your gaze heavenward.

Here come some extraordinary pieces by leading C17th and C18th composers that explore the mysteries of the creator spirit and its life-affirming force.

Saturday's programme sees us celebrating music's muse and patron, St Cecilia, who through her art could commune with angels. Purcell's wonderful *Ode* highlights music's universal power in sounds that seem equally heaven-sent.

Complementing this is a first performance in England and Wales of an overlooked masterpiece by Antonio Lotti. His *Mass for 3 Choirs* brings marvellous insights into a composer's creative imagination.

In contrast, Sunday focuses on two miraculous interventions in human history, with music for Pentecost and the Annunciation. Who better to capture the outpouring of the spirit on the disciples than the great J.S. Bach in the joy of his cantata *O eternal fire*. The surprising news brought by Gabriel to Mary receives an equally rapturous response in C.P.E. Bach's setting of her song, the *Magnificat*. Hearing these pieces by father and son will add a further dimension to the programme.

Equally inspiring is our star lineup of soloists, which this year includes several of our former scholars who are now making a name for themselves on the professional circuit. All should hold us spellbound!

Monday's Bank Holiday event is special too, complementing perfectly our heavenly gaze theme. Originally written for students at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama by prize-winning composer (and former Choral Society Scholar) Tomos Owen Jones, this setting of *The Egg* is something out of the ordinary. A search for the meaning of life itself, it charts an individual's conversation with the Almighty in music that is both captivating and poignant. Don't miss this one!

But we launch this year's events literally on a high with 'VRi' (translating as 'up'), the legendary Welsh folk band. This amazing trio breathes new life into traditional songs with its unique mix of earthy dance tunes and classical poise.

CRICKHOWELL MUSIC FESTIVAL

3RD MAY - 6TH MAY 2024



Aine Smith



Carys Davies



James Hall



Charles Daniels



Robert Davies



Catherine King

Friday 3rd May at 7.30pm Clarence Hall, Crickhowell

WELSH FOLK NIGHT

With **VRi**... "a landmark in Welsh Music" (Folk London)

Launching this year's Festival in suitably high spirits is one of the Welsh folk scene's class acts. With numerous 5-star reviews and awards, **VRi** have unearthed long-lost nuggets that shed new light on a vibrant folk tradition. These three exceptional musicians harness a rare aesthetic, pumping out their native foot-stomping dance tunes whilst maintaining the poise and finesse of a string quartet. It's a cross-genre that's hitherto unheard of in Wales and is guaranteed to hold you speechless!



VRi

Saturday 4th May at 7.30pm St. Edmund's Church, Crickhowell

MUSIC'S MUSE

Purcell: Ode for St Cecilia's Day: Hail bright Cecilia!
Lotti: Missa Vide Domine laborem meum
(a first modern performance)

Festival Baroque Orchestra

Soloists

Áine Smith and Carys Davies (soprano)
James Hall (countertenor)
Charles Daniels (tenor)
Robert Davies (bass)

Purcell paid homage to music's patron saint with some exceptionally inspired writing, even by his high standards. His large-scale *Ode for St Cecilia's Day* is a vocal tour de force for soloists and choir alike, extolling music's divine virtues and power. Here the composer has much to live up to, with music being elevated to a primary source of the universe and "soul of the world" whilst different instruments give perfect expression to the human condition.

A composer's vital creative spark is also very much in evidence in Antonio Lotti's highly original mass setting, *Missa Vide Domine laborem meum*. Its title (*Behold my work O Lord*) is apt, since this piece certainly seems worthy of heavenly attention!