

SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2025, 6.30PM | ST MARTIN'S CHURCH

Deborah Roberts Memorial Concert



DEBORAH ROBERTS, BEM
10 MAY 1952 – 9 SEPTEMBER 2024

WELCOME

This concert is a celebration of BREMF's late artistic director Deborah Roberts, BEM. It's wonderful to have the opportunity to come together to showcase some of the music about which she was most passionate, and to feature many of the performers and performance groups she began, participated in, encouraged and mentored. She leaves us an incredible legacy, and it is a delight to be able to share some of this with you tonight. Huge thanks are due to BREMF's new co-artistic directors Hannah Ely and Olwen Foulkes for curating and programming tonight's performance, to all of the performers for so generously giving up their time to take part, and to BREMF's dedicated and incredible team of volunteers for making it logistically possible.

It was a privilege and a pleasure for me to work closely with Deborah for 13 years, and to help bring her inspired and inspiring ideas to fruition. From staging the 1589 Florentine Intermedii complete with aerial dancers running down the walls of St Bartholomew's Church; inspiring primary school children to take part in a recreation of the medieval Feast of Fools; to staging early operas and events featuring musicians from across the globe; not to mention imagining and producing wonderful online content for BREMF@home during Covid, there are so many memorable BREMF events which would not have happened without Deborah's vision, passion and scholarship.

Donations made in connection with tonight's concert will be added to the Deborah Roberts Memorial Fund, which will be used to support the projects and programmes we know Deborah loved and championed. This will include continuing to nurture and develop young artists, and making it possible for groups from mainland Europe to visit the UK and perform at BREMF. We are very grateful to everyone for the donations to this fund.

Cathy Boyes, Festival Producer

We are not running a bar at tonight's event, but everyone is invited to join us for a reception after the concert. The interval will be fairly brief – as there are a limited number of toilets in the church, please feel free to use the toilets during the concert if you prefer.



THE PROGRAMME

Josquin des Prez c.1450–1521
Qui habitat in adjutorio altissimi

Giuseppe Scarani fl.1628–1642
Sonata Prima a 2 Op. 1 (1630)

Claudio Monteverdi 1567–1643
Hor che'l ciel e la terra

Hildegard of Bingen 1098–1179
O clarissima mater

Johann Sebastian Bach 1685–1750
Auf meinen Flügeln sollst du schweben
from Cantata BWV 213

William Byrd c.1540–1623
Civitas sancti tui

William Boyce 1711–1779
Symphony No. 2 in A major
1st movement: Allegro assai

**Kat Carson, Jenni Harper, Yvonne Eddy,
Amy Carson, Victoria Couper,
Angela Hicks** sopranos
**Luthien Brackett, Katharine Hawnt,
Helen Charlston, Clemmie Franks,
Emily Burn, Caroline Trevor** altos
**Daniel Thomson, Kieran White, Rory
Carver, Matthew Farrell, Jeremy Avis,
Matthew Jelf** tenors
**Michael Craddock, Andrew Robinson,
James Elias, Don Greig, Owain Park,
Stuart O'Hara** basses

Olwen Foulkes recorder
Oliver Webber violin
Kate Conway viola da gamba
Claire Williams harpsichord

Hannah Ely & Jenni Harper sopranos
Helen Charlston mezzo-soprano
Daniel Thomson tenor
Michael Craddock baritone
Owain Park bass
Oliver Webber & Julia Bishop violins
Kate Conway viola da gamba
Kristiina Watt theorbo

Voice
**Emily Burn, Victoria Couper &
Clemmie Franks**

Apollo's Cabinet with **Rory Carver** tenor
Teresa Wrann recorder
Sophia Prodanova violin
Jonatan Bought theorbo
Harry Buckoke viola da gamba

BREM F Consort of Voices
James Elias director

BREM F 415 Workshop Orchestra
Julia Bishop director



Francesca Caccini 1587–c.1641
Scenes from *La liberazione di Ruggiero dall'isola di Alcina*

Angela Hicks soprano, Alcina
Kieran White tenor, Ruggiero
Thomas Guthrie baritone, Nettuno
Kat Carson soprano, 1st Damigella
Kristiina Watt soprano, 2nd Damigella
Luthien Brackett soprano, 3rd Damigella
Hannah Ely soprano
Stuart O'Hara bass-baritone

Oliver Webber violin, director
Edmund Taylor violin I
Alison Bury & Sophia Prodanova violin II
Julia Bishop & May Robertson violin III
Wendi Kelly viola
Kate Conway & Harry Buckoke
viola da gamba
Pablo Tedejor-Gutiérrez cello
Emily Baines, Olwen Foulkes & Teresa Wrann recorders
Jonatan Bougt & Kristiina Watt theorbo
Claire Williams harpsichord

Interval

John Blow 1649–1708
Excerpts from *Venus and Adonis*
Overture – Cupid's Entry – Act I Tune –
The Graces' Dance – Gavatt – Ground

Alison Bury violin, director
Oliver Webber & Sophia Prodanova violin I
Julia Bishop, May Robertson & Edmund Taylor violin II
Wendi Kelly viola
Kate Conway & Harry Buckoke viola da gamba
Pablo Tedejor-Gutiérrez cello
Emily Baines, Olwen Foulkes & Teresa Wrann recorders
Yu-Wei Hu flute
Jonatan Bougt & Kristiina Watt theorbo
Claire Williams harpsichord

Traditional British folksong
arr. Muthuswami Dikshitar in
Nottuswaram c.1800
Paradevate Bhava

Ensemble Tempus Fugit
Debipriya Sircar voice, sitar
Emily Baines recorder
Jamie Akers lute
Katie De La Matter harpsichord



Anonymous 13th century
from Dublin Troper / Cotton Fragments
Angelus ad virginem

Anonymous 15th century
from Selden MS
Ecce quod natura

Margarita Cozzolani 1602–c.1677
Magnificat a 8

Alessandro Striggio 1536/7–1592
Ecce beatam lucem (motet in 40 parts)

BREMF Community Choir
Andrew Robinson director
Leah Stuttard harp

Rune
Angela Hicks soprano
Daniel Thomson tenor
May Robertson vielle
Jean Kelly harp

Musica Secreta
Amy Carson, Victoria Couper,
Yvonne Eddy, Hannah Ely sopranos
Luthien Brackett, Katharine Hawnt,
Natasha Stone, Caroline Trevor altos

Celestial Sirens
Claire Ashton, Maria Birch, Helen
Dewhurst, Marja Flipse, Agata Holloway,
Liz James, Clare Jarmy, Olly Parr, Blue
Pin, Rachel Taylor, Rosie Taylor sopranos
Anne Bonwit, Helen Burn, Bibi Lees,
Hannah Loach, Silvia Reseghetti
mezzo-sopranos
Elsbeth Barnett, Kat Elliott, Janet
Gascoine, Gill Kay, Kate Rouse,
Liz Webb altos
Kate Conway viola da gamba
Kristiina Watt theorbo
Claire Williams organ
Laurie Stras director

John Hancorn director



A message from Clare Norburn who co-founded BREMF with Deborah and was co-Artistic Director with her for 15 years till 2017:



I am sorry not to be able to join you today in person but I will be thinking of you all.

There are no words really to sum up the great gaping hole left by Deborah's loss. But here are some inadequate words from the writer in me, which Deborah helped to release, about her legacy to us all – and to me personally.

Deborah's loss is tragic for so many individuals personally and professionally. My heart goes out to Maurice and Joe and the BREMF community. Her legacy lives on in the wonderful festival she has created and the lives of so many musicians and ensembles she has helped to create and grow.

How fiercely Deborah loved BREMF. She would have taken on a dragon for you. And all that love and energy and dedication – actually those things are never lost. They are what lives on – and will live on immediately in her legacy of the very many musicians and ensembles she helped on their adventures.

Deborah certainly left her mark on me. The work I went on to do when I left BREMF eight years ago, developing my company The Telling... Well, The Telling wouldn't exist if it weren't for Deborah and her enthusiasm for me to try my wings. Deborah supported me in the early days of The Telling when I really didn't know what I was doing, taking baby first steps to see what happened when I threw together music and theatre. When it was time for me to focus on The Telling and step down from BREMF in 2017, Deborah invited us back for the first tour of I, Spie in 2021 and when she learnt that my hearing loss had led me to decide to retire from performing, she invited me to do my last concert in Brighton in October 2024 – which sadly turned out to be the very day of her funeral. What a challenging day that was for me.

I'm so grateful, Deborah, for the journey we shared over those 15 years – the laughter and your strength, during the challenging moments. I'm sure your BREMF colleagues have lined you up a wonderful memorial and that the music will sound on up in the heavens, long after the last note fades.



SUPPORT THE MEMORIAL FUND

If you would like to make a donation to the Deborah Roberts Memorial Fund, you may do so in cash or by card at the back of the church. You may also donate online at bremf.org.uk/donate by scanning here:



There is a bookstall at the back of the church where some of Deborah's books and music are being sold in aid of the Deborah Roberts Memorial Fund. Many thanks to Laurie Stras for masterminding and organising this.






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