



M The
Mackintosh
Choir

Songs of the Soul

Missa pro Defunctis
Cherubini

Feel the Spirit
Sir John Rutter

Musical Director:
Au Arias

Accompanist:
Gordon Cree

Mezzo Soprano:
Cheryl Forbes

Sunday 15th June 2025 at 7pm

St John's-Renfield Church
22 Beaconsfield Road Glasgow G12 0NY

www.mackintoshchoir.com

CHARITY NUMBER SC049999





The Mackintosh Choir

Welcome to the Mackintosh Choir's Summer Concert 2025. Whilst this is being written, the sun is blazing down, very uncharacteristically for Scotland. Hopefully this wonderful weather will last until we see you at the concert!

This year, our repertoire is slightly different from our previous concerts. Rather than a variety of songs, we are singing a single composition in each half.

In the first half we will be singing *Feel the Spirit*, which comprises seven traditional African/American spirituals arranged by our patron Sir John Rutter, CBE. It begins with the rousing "Joshua fit the battle of Jericho", which is followed by some subdued and moving pieces and ends with the even more rousing "When the saints go marching in". We are delighted to have the solos in this piece sung by the wonderful mezzo-soprano, Cheryl Forbes. Cheryl will end the first half of the concert with a solo piece.

The second half will bring you the more sombre *Requiem in C Minor* by Luigi Cherubini (1760 - 1842). Cherubini's music seems to

have fallen out of fashion in comparison to his contemporaries Beethoven, Schumann and Brahms, all of whom greatly admired this *Requiem*. Indeed, Beethoven regarded Cherubini as the greatest living composer of his era. The *Requiem* was written in 1816 to commemorate the anniversary of the execution of King Louis XVI and was a huge success at the time. We hope we can convey the beauty, emotion and solemnity of this piece to you tonight.

If you like what you hear tonight, please think about joining us. We have vacancies in all sections. For more information, please visit www.mackintoshchoir.com, contact secretary@mackintoshchoir.com or speak to one of the choir.

Our Christmas concert is here on Sunday 14th December 2025 at 7pm. We hope to see you there.

Have a wonderful summer.



~ Songs of the Soul ~

FEEL THE SPIRIT

Spirituals are a form of African-American religious folk music that originated in the American South. They were a way for enslaved people to express their faith, resist oppression, and maintain a sense of community. Spirituals combine elements of European and African musical traditions, resulting in a unique and powerful style and this great heritage has fired the imagination of composers, performers, and audiences for more than 100 years.

Feel the Spirit is a cycle of seven of these familiar spirituals expertly arranged by Sir John Rutter CBE for mezzo-soprano solo and mixed

choir. The complete cycle showcases the rich heritage of the spiritual and includes well-loved titles – “Steal away”; “I got a robe”; and “When the saints go marching in”.

The Mackintosh Choir first performed this song cycle at our summer concert in 2015. We were highly honoured to be conducted by Sir John Rutter CBE himself and even more delighted when he agreed to become our patron.

~ Cherubini ~

MISSA PRO DEFUNCTIS

Cherubini’s Requiem in C minor was triumphantly premiered on January 21, 1817, in a memorial concert below the abbey church of St. Denis to commemorate the anniversary of the executions of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. The bodies of the long-deposed monarchs had been searched for and found a few years earlier and were finally being laid to rest in the crypt of St. Denis.

The success of Cherubini’s Requiem was immediate; and it was so overwhelming that Berlioz claimed the piece had gained a virtual monopoly over memorial concerts in France. Beethoven said that, if he himself should write a requiem, this one would be his only model; the work was performed at Beethoven’s memorial service. For Schumann, the piece was ‘without equal.’

Although this beautiful work was admired by many composers at the time, it fell into obscurity along with most of the rest of Cherubini’s music. So, the Mackintosh Choir are delighted to have the opportunity to introduce this beautiful piece to a new audience.

Cherubini’s Requiem is scored for chorus and orchestra, but, surprisingly, does not feature vocal soloists. Also notable is the work’s unusual ending, where the music fades away in a long, haunting diminuendo that Berlioz said, “surpasses anything of the kind that has been written.”

The Choir

Musical Director: Au Arias
Accompanist: Gordon Cree

Susan Anderson	Kenneth James	Linda Nicholl
John Bonthron	Anne Marie Kane	Anne-Janine Nugent
Cathy Bradley	Iain Kennedy	Cathy O'Neill
Willy Briody	Elliot Kirkby	Alexander Palko
Janet Burnley	Eunice Lancaster	Celia Richardson
Brenda Burke	Jenny Lancaster	Sylvia Rossi
Marion Cargill	Julie Lusk	Carol Sallows
Noreen Carroll	Kate Macdonald	Gordon Saunders
Margaret Craig	Barbara MacGillivray	Diane Scott
Vanessa Dunn	Marvyn Mackay	Alison Short
Geraldine Flanigan	Allan Marshall	Fiona Slavin
Diane Fotheringham	Marie McKenna	Jennifer Smith
Barbara Gemmell	Jim McKinlay	Alice Soutar
Josie Goodale	Robert Marshall	Monica Spence
Sheila Graham	Richard Milburn	Zsolt Szarka
Sandra Gray	Geraldine Murphy	Fiona Wallace
Ernie Horan	Jim Murphy	Avril Taylor
Carole Hoy	Angus Murphy-Lennox	Mary Weeple

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

If you enjoyed this evening, why not come and join us for our next concert.
We have room for new members in all sections.

To find out more, contact:
secretary@mackintoshchoir.com



Programme

Feel the Spirit

Trad. arr. Sir John Rutter

Joshua fit the battle of Jerico
Steal away
I got a robe
Sometimes I feel like a motherless child
Ev'ry time I feel the spirit
Deep river
When the saints go marching in

Soloist Cheryl Forbes

I'll Walk with God

Webster/Brodzsky

- INTERVAL -

Requiem in C Minor

Luigi Cherubini

Introitus
Graduale
Dies Irae
Offertorium

- o Offertorium
- o Quam Olim
- o Hostias

Sanctus
Pie Jesu
Agnus Dei





■ **Au Arias** is a Glasgow-based music director and composer, originally from Argentina. His international career spans six countries (Turkey, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Brazil, and Argentina) where he has worked as a conductor and had his music performed at festivals and concerts.

He made his professional debut in 2014 with the critically acclaimed premiere of his opera *Gruta de Ninfas* in Argentina. Since then, he has held key appointments, including opera director at the Izmir State Opera and the Samsun State Opera in Turkey where he conducted over 70 professional productions. In the UK, he has appeared as guest conductor of The Cobweb Orchestra in North England and currently serves

as Music Director of The Mackintosh Choir and the Anstruther Philharmonic Choir in Scotland.

As a composer, Au is known for his choral-orchestral works, particularly *Tango Mass* and *Gruta de Ninfas*, as well as his bandoneon concerto *Diagonal 80*, commissioned by the National Congress of Argentina Chamber Orchestra. His music - often described as “neo-impressionist” - integrates lyrical melodies, harmonic richness, and exploratory textures, drawing also on electro-acoustic elements and contemporary sound practices. *Tango Mass* premiered in 2024 with The Mackintosh Choir to wide acclaim. He is currently a selected composer in Making Music’s “Adopt a Music Creator” scheme, and has been commissioned to develop a new piece.

Alongside his compositional and conducting work, Au runs a private studio in Glasgow, offering tuition in piano and composition. He is also a passionate mountain-biking enthusiast who enjoys exploring Scotland’s landscapes.

www.auarias.com



■ **Gordon Cree** was born in Ayrshire and was classically trained in piano and singing at the RSAMD (now the RCS).

In a career that has entered its fourth decade, he has established a formidable reputation as both a solo artiste and as a pianist/musical director, as well as being in demand as an arranger, orchestrator and conductor for orchestras such as the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, The BBC Concert Orchestra, The Halle Orchestra, The Scottish Festival Orchestra, The Scottish Concert Orchestra, The National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, The Auckland Sinfonia (New Zealand), The Adelaide Symphony Orchestra (Australia), L’Orchestre de l’Opera de Lyon (France) and the Pacific Symphony Orchestra (California). He has also worked extensively as personal musical director to

several well-known artistes, including Ken Dodd, Roy Hudd, Moira Anderson, Kenneth McKellar, Anita Harris and Paul Daniels.

As a solo artiste, he has appeared in concert, cabaret, pantomime and summer season, including three seasons at the Nevele Grande Stardust Room (New York); two summer seasons at Blackpool Winter Gardens; appearances in the “The Good Old Days” at Leeds’ world-famous City Varieties Music Hall, and is a popular guest entertainer aboard cruise liners.

In 1990 he was awarded Scottish Young Organist of the Year; in 1997 he won the Sir Hugh S. Robertson Prize for Scots Song; in 2009 he was admitted to the British Ring of the International Brotherhood of Magicians; in 2012 he was elected a Fellow of the Guild of Musicians and Singers; and in April 2019 he received the “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the Scottish Music Hall and Variety Theatre Society – an award which has been given to several legends of Scottish entertainment, including Jack Milroy, Johnny Beattie and Jimmy Logan.

He is currently the president of the Scottish Showbusiness Benevolent Fund and a custodial trustee of the Pollokshaws’ Wurlitzer.



■ **Cheryl Forbes** was born in Falkirk and won scholarships to all five of the major UK music conservatoires at age 17, accepting those from The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where she studied under Johanna Peters. She later did postgraduate studies at the RSAMD, before studying under Marilyn Horne in New York.

Past engagements include Songlines at The Edinburgh International Festival, The Sloan’s Opera (*Manageress/Wife*) for NOISE Opera; Gianni Schicchi (*Zita*), *Madama Butterfly* (*Suzuki*), *Eugene Onegin* (*Larina*) and *Suor Angelica* (*Mistress of the Novices*) for Opera Bohemia; *The Gondoliers* (*Inez*) and covers in *Le Nozze di Figaro* (*Marcellina*), *Flight* (*The Older Woman*), *Nixon in China* (*Third Secretary*), *The Gondoliers* (*Duchess*), *Utopia Limited* (*Lady Sophy*) and *Candide* (*The Old Lady*) for Scottish Opera; Bartok’s

Village Scenes for BBC Radio 3; *Classics Unwrapped* for BBC Radio Scotland; John Rutter’s *Feel the Spirit*, conducted by Rutter himself; Ravel’s *Sheherazade* with the Glasgow Sinfonia; Wagner’s *Wesendonck Lieder* with the Edinburgh Symphony Orchestra; the inaugural *Songtellers* concert of the St. Andrews Voices festival; Brahms’ *Alto Rhapsody* with The Edinburgh Singers; Verdi’s *Requiem* with the Orchestra of Scottish Opera; Verdi’s *Requiem* with The Edinburgh Singers; Mendelssohn’s *Elijah* (*The Angel*) with Dundee Choral Union; as well as concerts, oratorio, recitals, cruise appearances, galas and intimate cabarets across the UK and abroad, alongside television and radio broadcasts, the most recent of which being her surprise musical appearance on BBC 1’s *A View from the Terrace*, closing the Euros Cup Final episode, and the BBC4 broadcast of *D’Oyly Carte* and Scottish Opera’s joint production of *The Gondoliers*.

Cheryl’s hometown honoured her in 1992 with the Falkirk Scroll of Honour and again in 2016 with Falkirk Personality of the Year. In 2023 she was inaugural winner of The Robert Presley Professional Development Award at the final at Covent Garden.





Acknowledgements and Thanks

The Mackintosh Choir would like to thank:-

Au Arias - Musical Director

Gordon Cree - Accompanist

Avril Taylor - Chair of the Trustees

Celia Richardson - Ticket Convenor

Pro Sound Services - Sound Engineers

Natalie Campbell - Artwork

Scottish Print - all our printing

St John's-Renfield Church management and volunteers

The choir trustees and volunteers

Special thanks to our additional accompanists:-

Alan Kitchen; Linda Norris; Michal Gajzler.



Dates for your diary

Our Christmas concert will be on

Sunday 14th December 2025 in St John's-Renfield Church.

We look forward to seeing you there.



The Mackintosh Choir is a registered Scottish charity, and we rely on subscriptions, fundraising and donations to continue to bring music to the community. If you would like to make a donation, please get in touch with our Secretary:- secretary@mackintoshchoir.com