



Enfield Choral Society

Conductor: Mark Sproson

presents

Land of the Midnight Sun

A concert of Scandinavian
and Baltic music

Saturday 27th June, 7:30pm
St Mary Magdalene Church



Part 1 - Daytime

Grieg: Morning (from Peer Gynt – arr. Sproson)

This piece was written as incidental music for Henrik Ibsen's play "Peer Gynt", and evokes the rising of the sun. It is more often heard as an instrumental piece, but Mark Sproson has arranged it such that voices of the choir are the instruments.

Raminsh: Ave Verum Corpus

Ivant Raminsh is a Canadian composer of Latvian descent. This is his setting of the 13th century Eucharistic chant "Ave Verum Corpus", a meditation on Christ's suffering on the cross.

Grieg: In Heaven Above

Performed by the ECS Chamber Choir with solo by David Carter

Grieg: Ave Maris Stella

Performed by the ECS Chamber Choir

Grieg: Wedding Day at Troldhaugen

Piano solo performed by Bohdana Ravliuk

The Norwegian title of this piece is "Bryllupsdag på Troldhaugen", which literally translates as "Wedding Anniversary at Troldhaugen". It was written by Grieg (who lived in Troldhaugen, just south of the Norwegian city of Bergen) to mark his 25th wedding anniversary.

Lauridsen: O Magnum Mysterium

Composer Morten Lauridsen says of this piece “For centuries, composers have been inspired by the beautiful ‘O magnum mysterium’ text depicting the birth of the new-born King amongst the lowly animals and shepherds. This affirmation of grace to the meek and the adoration of the Blessed Virgin are celebrated in my setting through a quiet song of profound inner joy.”



Interval



Part 2 - Nighttime

Ešenvalds: Stars

This piece by Latvian composer Ēriks Ešenvalds has a rather unusual form of accompaniment – a selection of tuned wine glasses. The ethereal quality of their sound forms a fitting accompaniment to words reflecting on the wonder of stars seen from a dark hill.

Lauridsen: Soneto de la Noche

Lauridsen writes “Pablo Neruda’s ‘Soneto de la noche’ (*Sonnet of the night*) from the ‘Noche’ section of his *Sonetos de Amor*, has long been my favourite love poem and speaks eloquently of an everlasting, eternal love that transcends death while reaffirming

life. My *a capella* setting in the original Spanish of this gorgeous poem is predominantly quiet, serene, and folk-like, utilizing direct harmonies accompanying long, lyrical vocal lines.”

Lauridsen: Sure on this Shining Night

On this piece, Lauridsen says “James Agee’s wonderful ‘Sure on this shining night’ is a lyric choral song, with piano, which I have set much like a song from the American musical theatre stage.”

Gjeilo: Aurora

Piano solo performed by Bohdana Ravliuk

Gjeilo: Northern Lights

Ola Gjeilo described Northern Lights (written over a decade before “Aurora”) as his “most Norwegian production in years”. It is a setting of words from Song of Songs, describing a “‘terrible’, powerful beauty”, which he sees “profoundly reflected in the northern lights” with their “powerful, electric quality that must have been both mesmerizing and terrifying to people in the past, when no one knew what it was and when much superstition was attached to these experiences.”

Gjeilo: Luminous Night of the Soul

The final piece of this evening’s concert builds to a rousing conclusion. In contrast to many of the other works included in this concert, the piano part is written as more than an unassuming accompaniment, intended by Gjeilo to be an equal partner to the choir.

Enfield Choral Society Members

Sopranos

Rosalinda Azukaeme, *Noelle Bailey, Sarah Bowen*, Mary Brannan, Ruth Cappleman, Janet Champion, Fiona Charlton, Elaine Childs, Helen Childs, *Therese Conway*, Maria Costa, Lesley Cruden, Izzy Dann, Louise Dash, Marion George, Caroline James, *Sue Jeffreys*, Stephanie Lane, Susan Layzell, *Justine Marlowe, Jan Metcalfe, Wendy Michaelson*, Sandra Mortimer, Linda Nevin-Drummond, Anne Rehahn, Bridget Robson, Margret Twinn, Hilary Whent, Claudy Woolfson, Katty Zwicky

Altos

Clare Davies, Theresa Davis, *Margery Dey, Judith Garrad, Lesley Jordan*, Hilary King, Rhona, Lewry, Hilary Luckcock, Brid McGregor, Geraldine O'Hara, Geraldine Orfeur, Liz Pallace, *Margaret Pateman, Teresa Place*, Tamara Sivanandan, Josepha Scotney, Vivien Taylor, Heather Webster

Tenors

Nicholas Bowater, Graham Davis, Philip Elmer, *Roderick Elmer*, Michael Laurie, Andrew Marven, David Norfolk, Simon Tweedy, *Christopher Willett*

Basses

John Abbott, Steven Adderley, Pat Birchall, *David Cater*, Paul Guppy, Ed Harrison, *David Luckcock*, Ian Mackenzie, Colin Milburn, *Andrew Place*, Paul Ready

Italics denotes members of the ECS Chamber Choir

Mark Sproson – Musical Director

Mark has been involved in choral music for most of his musical career. He graduated in Music from Bristol University, specialising in composition and performing as a singer, lutenist & percussionist as well as directing performances of his own works.



Since moving to London in 1994, he has sung with several high-profile choirs, performing regularly in London's major concert venues and on BBC radio and television. He has taken part in numerous commercial recordings and sung in almost every country in western Europe.

He now specialises in choral conducting, having founded his renowned chamber choir HELIOS Voices in 1999, and gone on to direct numerous choirs and choral societies including the Harlow Chorus, Genesis Chorale and Chigwellian Choral Society.

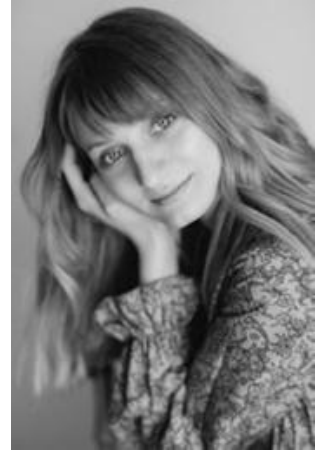
Mark is a trustee of the Association of British Choral Directors (ABCD), an organisation which promotes training, education and development of choral directors with the aim of improving standards in all choral activity.

Mark joined Enfield Choral Society in 2004, and last year the choir celebrated his 20th anniversary with a season of special concerts, including performances of Bach's Magnificat, Jenkins' The Armed Man, and some of Mark's own arrangements of pop songs from the 60s and 70s.

Other choral compositions and arrangements by Mark have been performed by choirs around the world. In the summer of 2018, we performed the world premiere of his composition "A Crowd of Stars" for choir and jazz band.

Bohdana Ravliuk – Piano

Bohdana Ravliuk is a Ukrainian pianist currently finishing her Artist Diploma in Collaborative Piano at the Royal College of Music, where she studies with Simon Lepper and Richard Uttley. Before moving to the United Kingdom, she completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the Academy of Music in Moldova.



Bohdana is a Young Artist of the Oxford International Song Festival for the 2026–2027 season with her duo partner, soprano, Natalka Pasicznyk. Recently, she was awarded the Titanic Memoriam Prize for Best Piano Performance in the Lies Askonas Competition and won the London Song Festival Schubert Song Prize alongside soprano, Siri Marklund. As part of the festival, they worked closely with Joseph Middleton and gave the Schubert Song Prize Winners' Recital at St James's Church in London. They also look forward to returning as recital artists for the London Song Festival in 2026. Bohdana will also appear in the Royal College of Music Vocal Showcase at Wigmore Hall this June. Other recent collaborations include the Dean & Chadlington Music Festival in the Cotswolds, as well as appearances in the Royal College of Music Piano Festival 2026.

Bohdana has participated in numerous international festivals and masterclasses, including Klaipėda Piano Masters in Lithuania and Feuerwerk Einbeck in Germany under the artistic direction of pianist Gintaras Januševičius. In 2025, she took part in the Ticino Musica Festival in Lugano, Switzerland, where she worked closely with pianist Ulrich Koella on chamber music repertoire, performing works by Brahms and Schumann. This year, she will return to the Ticino Musica Festival with her newly formed piano trio Concordia.

Since moving to England, Bohdana has become particularly passionate about promoting Ukrainian classical music, with a special focus on art song repertoire from her homeland. She is committed to sharing her culture with audiences across the United Kingdom and regularly takes part in charity concerts and cultural events.

Please join us for our future events

Autumn Concert

Saturday 14th November, 7:30pm
Enfield Baptist Church, Cecil Road



Brahms - Requiem
Schubert - Stabat Mater
Vaughan Williams - Toward the unknown region

Christmas Concert: 19th December 2026, St Stephen's Church

Enfield Choral Society is a friendly, thriving, non-auditioned SATB (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) amateur choir of 60 plus members, with a mix of ages. We welcome new members in all voice parts, so if you're over 16, enjoy singing (and can sing in tune and follow a conductor) why not give us a try? Rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings, from 7.30 to 9.30pm at St Stephen's Church Hall, Bush Hill Park, EN1 2BA. We'll be meeting for the next three weeks to start working on music for our autumn concert, before taking a break until September. For further details, email membership@enfieldchoralsociety.org.uk.

For more information about ECS, please see:

Website: www.enfieldchoralsociety.org.uk
Facebook: facebook.com/enfieldchoralsociety
Instagram: instagram.com/enfieldchoralsociety1938

