

# THE CARICE SINGERS



GEORGE PARRIS  
Founder & Conductor

"Of the newer British choirs currently emerging,  
few can match The Carice Singers for musicality  
and beauty of tone"

ALEXANDRA COGHLAN, **GRAMOPHONE MAGAZINE 2016**

**ABOUT US &  
CONCERT PROGRAMMES 2022**





# ABOUT US

**The Carice Singers is emerging as one of the most distinctive vocal ensembles in the UK, defined by its unique sound and imaginative choice of repertoire.**

Founded in 2011, the ensemble began life performing Elgar's part-songs, naming itself after the composer's daughter and only child. Carice Elgar Blake (1890-1970) was a huge source of support and inspiration to her father. Just as she showed a quiet but resolute sense of duty in securing his legacy, so is the group committed to promoting curiosity and appreciation for its ever widening repertoire amongst people of all ages.

The Carice Singers' recordings for Naxos and the *BBC Music Magazine* have been praised for their "captivating interpretations" (*Choir & Organ Magazine*) and "beautifully belnded tone" (*The Guardian*). The choir has performed in the UK, Ireland, Finland and Germany, and has been invited to the Cheltenham Music Festival, Kings Place, St Andrews Voices, and the Oxford Lieder Festival.



# GEORGE PARRIS

Having now lived, studied, and worked as a choral conductor and ensemble singer in Helsinki for three years, George Parris has undergone a radical transformation in his knowledge of choral repertoire and understanding of the subtle differences in musical culture across different countries.

He founded The Carice Singers only a few days after his eighteenth birthday and acted as the choir's sole Artistic Director, Conductor, and Manager for its first eight years, making his first recording for the Naxos label aged 20.

His recent studies at the Sibelius Academy, Helsinki, have seen him assist his main teacher, Nils Schweckendiek, in a project with the Croatian Radio and TV Choir, work under such visiting teachers as Sir Roger Norrington, Justin Doyle, and Paul Hillier, and observe professional choirs in Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Latvia, and Estonia.

**"With George Parris in charge, creative interpretations can be anticipated."**

CLIVE PEACOCK, *LEAMINGTON COURIER*







## ASSOCIATE COMPOSER: **MATTHEW WHITTALL**

Canadian-Finnish composer Matthew Whittall is a hugely exciting addition to the team. Inspired by natural phenomena, poetry and landscape art, his music combines the Old and New World, Western and non-Western, sacred and secular, classical and folk.

**"I'm thrilled to begin this relationship with The Carice Singers. Their fresh, pure, youthful sound is hugely inspiring for a composer, and their varied and sensitive programming takes listeners on journeys that forge poetic links across nations and centuries".**

For its tenth anniversary The Carice Singers commissioned *Songs of Travel*, a new multi-movement work, from Matthew which received its world premiere at the Cheltenham Music Festival on 3rd July 2021.



# CONCERT PROGRAMMES







# SONGS OF TRAVEL

As the theme of migration continues to be a major talking-point in the world today, this programme contains music about travel created in many cases by nomadic poets or migrant composers.

Two settings of poems by Ernst Viktor Knape:

**Jean Sibelius** *Män från slätten och havet*

**Einojuhani Rautavaara** *Sommarnatten*

**Arnold Bax** *Five Greek folksongs*

**Alex Freeman** *Calle sin nombre*

**Undine Smith Moore** *We shall walk through  
the valley in peace*

**Matthew Whittall** *Songs of Travel*

**70 mins, excluding an interval**

**16 singers and conductor**



# A TEACHER'S PRIDE

RVW  
150

Ina Boyle (1889-1967) studied with Vaughan Williams for sixteen years, making her one of his longest-standing students. She went on to become the most prolific Irish composer of the twentieth century. Only now is her music beginning to receive the recognition that Vaughan Williams had hoped for it. This programme combines their choral works to mark the RVW150 anniversary, including the stunning *Mass in G Minor* and a number of previously unperformed and unpublished pieces by Ina Boyle.

**Ralph Vaughan Williams**

*O Vos Omnes*

**Ina Boyle**

*'Gaelic Hymns': The light'ner of the stars*

*Jesu, thou son of Mary*

*The Guardian Angel*

**Vaughan Williams**

*A Prayer to the Father of Heaven*

*Three Shakespeare Songs*

**Ina Boyle**

*Caedmon's Hymn*

**Interval**

**Ina Boyle**

*Holy art thou*

*Love is the plant of peace*

**Vaughan Williams**

*Mass in G minor*

**75 mins, excluding an interval**

**16 singers and conductor**



A Renaissance painting depicting a man and a woman in period attire. The man, on the left, wears a white turban and a brown robe, looking down at a small book or tablet he is holding. The woman, on the right, wears a red dress with a large white ruffled collar and a crown, looking towards the man. The background is dark and indistinct.

# MIRACULOUS LOVE

During the early twentieth century composers across Europe were joining a wider artistic urge to recreate the cultural atmosphere of the Renaissance. Here are three enchanting examples from France, Italy and England, in each case prefaced by chansons and madrigals from their Renaissance forebears. What ties them all together: love and its many mysteries, the potency of which seems not to have diminished.

**Guillaume Dufay** *Je vueil chanter de ceur joyeux  
Par le regard de vos beaux yeux*

**Claude Debussy** *Trois chansons de Charles D'Orléans*

**Claudio Monteverdi** *Si, ch'io vorrei morire  
Zefiro torna e'l bel tempo rimena*

**Luigi Dallapiccola** *Due cori di Michelangelo  
Buonarroti il giovane*

**John Farmer** *Fair Phyllis I saw sitting*

**Thomas Weelkes** *Lady, your eye*

**Thomas Morley** *Miraculous Love  
My bonny lass, she smileth*

**E. J. Moeran** *Phyllida and Corydon*

**70 mins, excluding an interval**

**12 singers and conductor**



# VIGILIA ESTONIAE

This programme celebrates **Galina Grigorjeva's** 60th birthday with the UK premiere of her 2017 work *Vespers*. Having spent much of her creative life in Estonia, we also include sacred choral works which serve to contextualise her music and honour the diversity of styles that have become vitally important to this 'singing nation'.

**Galina Grigorjeva**

*Dark Night of the Soul*

**Cyrillus Kreek**

*Taaveti Laulud:*

*Psalm 121, 'Päeval ei pea päikene sind vaevama'*

*Psalm 104, 'Õnnis on inimene'*

*Psalm 84, 'Kiida, mu hing, Issandat!'*

**Evelin Seppar**

*Psalm 129*

**Alfred Schnittke**

*Three Sacred Hymns*

**Grigorjeva**

*Vespers*

*In Paradisum*

**70 mins, excluding an interval**

**16 singers, and conductor**



# NOCTURNE

A painting of a dark, stormy sea at night. The sky is a deep, swirling purple and blue, with a faint, horizontal band of lighter blue and white near the horizon. A small, dark boat is visible in the distance, its lights reflecting on the water. The water is dark and turbulent, with whitecaps visible. The overall mood is mysterious and somnambulant.

Exploring the most ultraviolet of nights, this programme of Nordic and British choral works from the twentieth century presents innovations in choral writing and vocal soundscapes infused with somnambulant mysticism.

<b>Kenneth Leighton</b>	<i>Evening Hymn</i>
<b>Per Nørgård</b>	<i>Nocturne: Summer's sleep</i>
<b>Kaija Saariaho</b>	<i>Nuits, Adieux</i>
<b>Edmund Rubbra</b>	<i>Tenebrae Nocturne</i>
<b>Elizabeth Maconchy</b>	<i>Nocturnal</i>
<b>Gustav Holst</b>	<i>The Evening Watch</i>
<b>Einojuhani Rautavaara</b>	<i>Lorca Suite</i>

**70 mins, excluding an interval**  
**12 singers and conductor**



# RECENT RECORDINGS

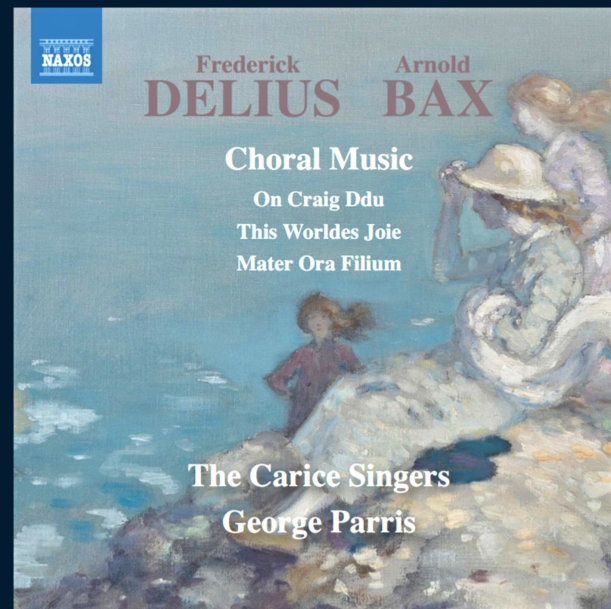
## Frederick Delius and Arnold Bax: Choral music

Naxos 8.573695 (May 2017)

**MusicWeb International "Recording of the Month"**  
*"Superb ... a stunning disc in every aspect ... virtually faultless. Intonation and diction are perfect."*

ROB BARNETT, MICHAEL WILKINSON, &  
JOHN FRANCE, *MusicWeb International*

*"The performances are top-notch throughout"*  
JAMES MANHEIM, *AllMusic.com*



## John Ireland & E. J. Moeran: Choral Music

Naxos 8.573584 (July 2016)

*"I cannot fault this CD. The choral singing by The Carice Singers supported by their musical director George Parris is inspired."*

JOHN FRANCE, *MusicWeb International*

*"vigorous attention to detail and ... beautifully blended tone."*

FIONA MADDOCKS, *The Guardian*



## Peter Warlock: Choral Music

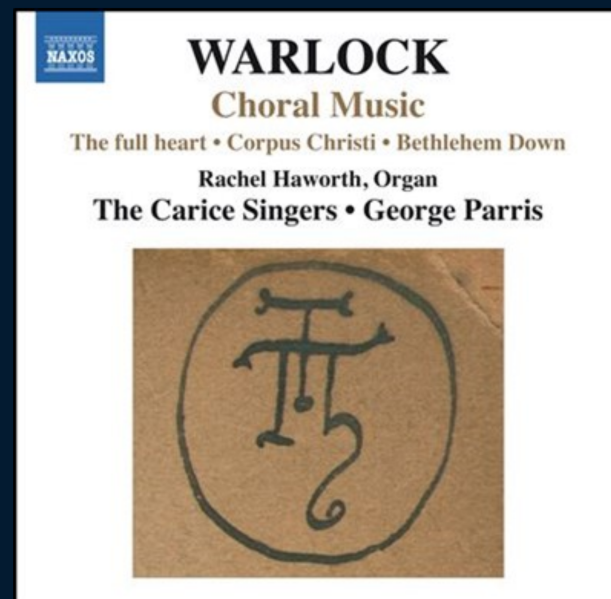
Naxos 8.573227 (July 2014)

*"Glows with warmth, every phrase buffed and burnished with careful musicality"*

ALEXANDRA COGHLAN, *Gramophone*

*"The Carice Singers are totally at one with this repertoire, [...] captivating interpretations"*

SHIRLEY RATCLIFFE, *Choir & Organ Magazine*



## CONTACT US

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