

'Canticles of Creation'

*An evening of music and words
celebrating God's creation*



*St Mary' Upper Street, N1 2TX
Thursday 28 September 2023 at 7pm
Free admission*

ST MARY'S

calling Islington home

Welcome to this evening of music and poetry honouring God's creation. Canticles are little songs (from Latin *canticula*) and tonight's concert features lyrics, both short and substantial, which are spoken or sung by many voices, in choirs or small groups or as solos.

The words and music reflect the inspiration and imagination of writers and composers over 800 years from 1224 to 2023. What they all have in common is a desire to celebrate our beautiful planet and the universe to which we all belong.

from **Canticle of the Sun**, by St Francis of Assisi

Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
who is the day and through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour:
and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather,
through which You give sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us,
and who produces varied fruit with coloured flowers and herbs.

Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your
love, and bear infirmity and tribulation.

Blessed are those who endure in peace,
for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.

Programme

Introduction: *Rev'd James Hughesdon*

'Canticle of the Sun' (1224) Read by Mike Bartholomew-Biggs
St Francis of Assisi (c 1181-1226)

Four movements from 'The Creation' (1797-98) St Mary's Choir
Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) and Players
dir. Tom Jesty

'The Heavens are Telling the Glory of God' (Creation, #14)

Trio: Patty Kostkova, Milton Bevan, Phil Sheppard

'Dawn Chorus' (2010)
Sasha Dugdale (b. 1974) Read by Nancy Mattson

'With Verdure Clad' (Creation, #9)

Soloist: Gisela Meyer

St Mary's Players
Tom Jesty, piano

'From Blossoms' (1986)

Li-Young Lee (b. 1957)

Read by Caroline Shuttleworth

'By Thee with Bliss' (Creation, #29)

Duet: Anna Cooper, Peter Brooks

St Mary's Choir
and Players
dir. Tom Jesty

'Song' (1962)

Maxine Kumin (1925-2014)

Read by Liz Rawlings

'Achieved is the Glorious Work' (Creation, #27)

St Mary's Choir
and Players
dir. Tom Jesty

INTERVAL: FREE REFRESHMENTS SERVED

Two Folk Songs:
'The Trees They Grow So High'
& 'The Ash Grove'
arr. Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Gisela Meyer
Tom Jesty, piano

'Thoughts in the Presence of Trees' (2017)
D.M. (David) Black (b. 1941)

Read by Eleanor Watson

'The Lost Words Blessing' (2019)
Songwriters: Julie Fowlis, Karine Polwart,
Seckou Keita, Kris Drever, Rachel Newton, Beth Porter,
Jim Molyneux, Kerry Andrew, Jackie Morris, Robert Macfarlane

Morley Folk Choir
St Mary's Choir
Tom Jesty, piano

'Blessing the Animals' (1997)
Yusef Komunyakaa (b. 1947)

Read by Christopher McKane

'Spiritual Thing' and 'Solid Ground'
Words and music: Woman Angel (2023)

Woman Angel

'Listen' (2018)
Barbara Crooker (b. 1945)

Read by Gerry Mannion

'The Mirror'
Words by A.A. Milne (1882-1956)
Music by Donald Wetherick

Gisela Meyer

'The Horses' (1956)
Edwin Muir (1887-1959)

Read by Mike Bartholomew-Biggs

'Wild Mountain Thyme' (trad.)
arr. Donald Wetherick

Tom Jesty, piano

'In the Beginning' (2023)
Norbert Hirschhorn (b. 1938)

Read by Nancy Mattson

'What a Wonderful World' (1967)
George Douglass
George David Weiss

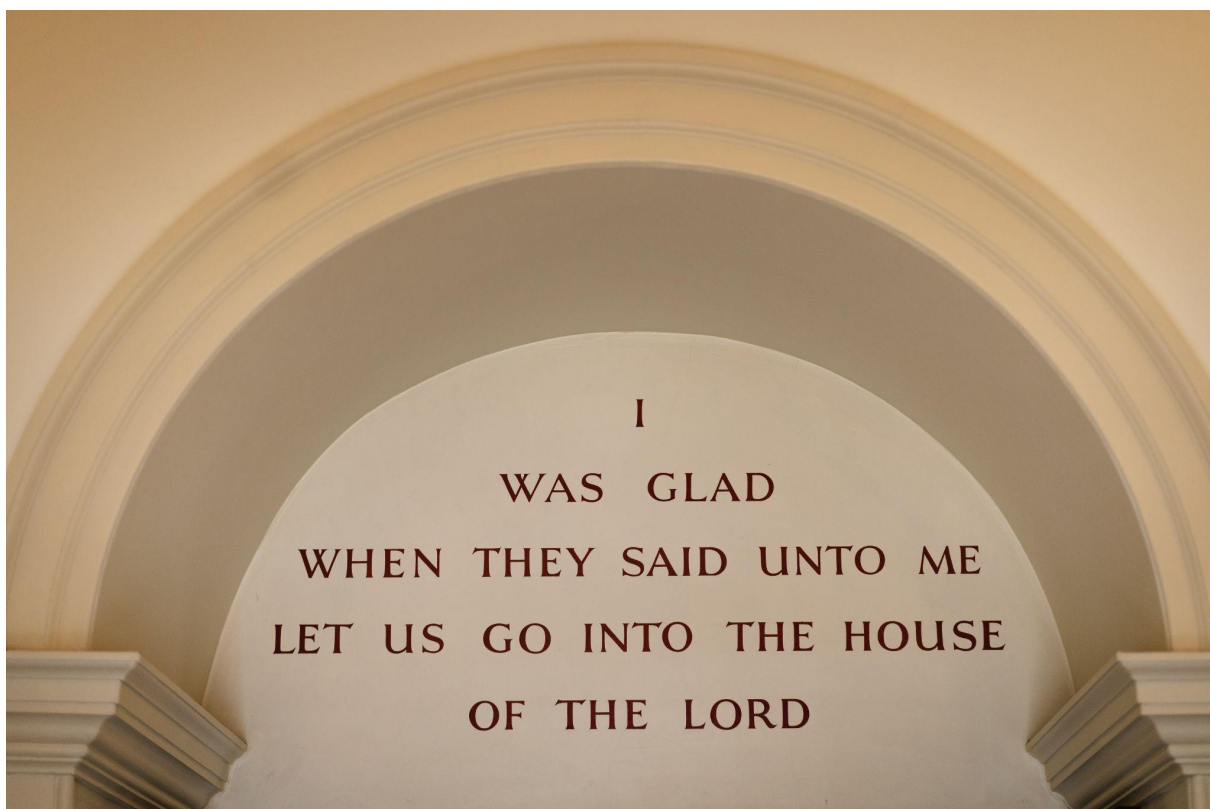
Iryna Kompaniyets
Jennifer Wallace, bass
Donald Wetherick, piano

'Nocturne' (2023)
George Szirtes (b. 1948)

Read by Nancy Mattson

'Big Yellow Taxi' (1970)
Joni Mitchell

Iryna Kompaniyets
Jennifer Wallace, bass
Donald Wetherick, piano



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