



BELFAST CATHEDRAL

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. ANNE



Music in Belfast Cathedral 2020

belfastcathedral.org

A Message from the Dean

As Dean of Belfast, it gives me great pleasure to commend this series of music events and services to be held at Belfast Cathedral throughout the coming year. Our Director of Music, Matthew Owens, has put together an exciting and innovative programme which will appeal to a wide range of musical tastes. We look forward to welcoming you to one of the most spectacular musical settings in the City of Belfast.

Stephen Forde, Dean of Belfast

Welcome!

I am thrilled to be the new Director of Music at Belfast Cathedral. Since beginning in September 2019 I have been planning what I hope you will find to be an exciting and diverse new programme of concerts and recitals for 2020, the details of which are in the pages that follow. Also highlighted within this brochure are some of the major Cathedral services sung throughout the year by Belfast Cathedral Choir and the newly-formed Belfast Cathedral Children's Choir.

You can be sure of a warm welcome when you visit, and we all look forward to seeing you.

Matthew Owens, Director of Music

Belfast Cathedral (the Cathedral Church of St Anne) has stood for over 100 years as a place of Christian worship in the heart of the City of Belfast. Featuring the 40-metre stainless steel *Spire of Hope* (added in 2007), detailed mosaics, elaborately carved stonework, and beautiful stained glass windows, this Hiberno-Romanesque building is one of the ecclesiastical and architectural highlights of Northern Ireland.

It sits at the heart of The Cathedral Quarter, which is known for its unique and artisan shops, wide variety of restaurants, and buzzing nightlife, close to the Titanic Quarter and the city centre itself.

Details of the services of Choral Evensong, Choral Eucharist, other services, and events, may be found by visiting www.belfastcathedral.org

Thursday 9 January, 1.10pm – 1.50pm (in the Quire)

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL

Jack Wilson (Assistant Director of Music-designate, Belfast Cathedral)

Jack Wilson, who begins as Belfast Cathedral's Assistant Director of Music later in 2020, launches the new series of lunchtime organ recitals on the mighty 70-stop, 4-manual Harrison and Harrison cathedral organ.

Admission: **free**

Retiring collection in aid of Belfast Cathedral Music and the wider work of Belfast Cathedral

Sunday 12 January, 3.30pm – 4.30pm

EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

A service of traditional readings, traditional congregational carols for Epiphany, and music for Epiphany with Belfast Cathedral Choir.

Admission to this service: **free, with a collection during the service**

Thursday 23 January 7.00pm – 8.00pm

CATHEDRAL BY NIGHT: MESSIAEN MEDITATION (I)

Matthew Owens (Director of Music, Belfast Cathedral) and **Ali Darragh** (reader) perform one of the great works of the early 20th century – Olivier Messiaen's *La Nativité du Seigneur* (*The Birth of our Lord*) in the first of three Messiaen Meditations in 2020. During the concert audience members are invited to walk around the vast, darkened spaces of Belfast Cathedral (with the main central space of the Nave cleared of chairs) whilst listening to the music and narration.

Admission: **£10.00, available from Belfast Cathedral Welcome Desk, and at the door**

All proceeds from this fundraising concert will support Belfast Cathedral Music and the wider work of the Cathedral

Thursday 13 February, 1.10pm – 1.50pm (in the Quire)

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL: A BACH CONTINUUM – 01/36

Matthew Owens (Director of Music, Belfast Cathedral) gives the first in a series of 36 recitals, exploring the complete organ works of J.S. Bach.

Admission: **free**

Retiring collection in aid of Belfast Cathedral Music and the wider work of Belfast Cathedral

Ash Wednesday 26 February, 5.30pm – 6.30pm

ASH WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

A Choral Eucharist for the beginning of Lent, including Allegri's famous *Miserere mei* and Byrd's *Mass for four voices*, sung by Belfast Cathedral Choir.

Admission to this service: **free, with a collection during the service**





Thursday 5 March, 1.10pm – 1.50pm (in the Quire)

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL

William Forrest (Organ Scholar, Belfast Cathedral)

Admission: **free**

Retiring collection in aid of Belfast Cathedral Music and the wider work of Belfast Cathedral

Wednesday 25 March, 7.30pm – 8.45pm

THE ULSTER CONSORT: VICTORIA VESPERS BY CANDLELIGHT

The Ulster Consort, Northern Ireland's newest professional vocal ensemble, and conductor Matthew Owens perform a special reconstruction of *Vespers for the Feast of the Annunciation* (which falls on 25 March), by the great Spanish Renaissance composer, Tomás Luis de Victoria.

Tickets: **£15.00, available from 24 February from belfastcathedral.org, Belfast Cathedral Welcome Desk, and at the door**

Thursday 2 April, 1.10pm – 1.50pm (in the Quire)

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL: A BACH CONTINUUM – 02/36

Matthew Owens (Director of Music, Belfast Cathedral) gives the second in a series of 36 recitals, exploring the complete organ works of J.S. Bach.

Admission: **free**

Retiring collection in aid of Belfast Cathedral Music and the wider work of Belfast Cathedral

Palm Sunday 5 April, 3.30pm – 4.30pm

PHILIP WILBY: ST MATTHEW PASSION

A devotional performance of Philip Wilby's *St Matthew Passion*, written in 2017 (Northern Ireland premiere) sung by Belfast Cathedral Choir, in the presence of the composer.

Admission to this service: **free, with a retiring collection**

Sunday 12 April, 11.00am – 12.15pm

EASTER DAY FESTIVAL EUCHARIST

Music to include Mozart's *Coronation Mass* and Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* sung by Belfast Cathedral Choir, with Belfast Cathedral Children's Choir.

Admission to this service: **free, with a collection during the service**

Sunday 12 April, 3.30pm – 4.20pm

EASTER DAY FESTIVAL EVENSONG

Music to include Dyson's *Evening Service in D*, and Hadley's *My beloved spake*, sung by Belfast Cathedral Choir.

Admission to this service: **free, with a collection during the service**

Saturday 2 May, 2.00pm – 6.00pm

BE A CHORISTER FOR A DAY

Back by popular demand, following the success of last year's initiative, Belfast Cathedral once again hosts a **free event** for children who love music. No experience is necessary! There will be fun musical and singing games, and new songs for the boys and girls to perform for their family and friends in the glorious space of Belfast Cathedral. Places are limited and will be offered on a first come, first served basis.

To register for a place and for more information please contact **BACFAD@belfastcathedral.org**

Ascension Day Thursday 21 May, 1.10pm – 1.40pm (in the Quire)

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL: MESSIAEN MEDITATION (II)

Matthew Owens (Director of Music, Belfast Cathedral) and **Ali Darragh** (reader) perform Olivier Messiaen's *L'Ascension* (*Four Symphonic Meditations for Organ*) in the second of this year's Messiaen Meditations. During the concert audience members are invited to walk around the cathedral whilst listening to the music and narration.

Admission: **free**

Retiring collection in aid of Belfast Cathedral Music and the wider work of Belfast Cathedral

Saturday 30 May, 10.00am – 5.00pm

COME & SING DAY: RUTTER REQUIEM

All singers and lovers of music are encouraged to come and sing in the glorious surroundings of Belfast Cathedral, learning one of the great works of the classical choral repertoire – John Rutter's *Requiem* – with one of the UK's leading choral conductors, Matthew Owens. The day will end with a performance from 4.00 – 4.30pm.

For further details, please email **music@belfastcathedral.org**

Sunday 31 May, 4.30pm – 5.00pm (in the Quire)

ORGAN RECITAL: MESSIAEN MEDITATION (III)

Matthew Owens (Director of Music, Belfast Cathedral) and **Ali Darragh** (reader) perform Olivier Messiaen's *Messe de la Pentecôte*, on the Feast of Pentecost, in the third of this year's Messiaen Meditations. During the concert audience members are invited to walk around the cathedral whilst listening to the music and narration.

Admission: **free**

Retiring collection in aid of Belfast Cathedral Music and the wider work of Belfast Cathedral

Thursday 4 June, 7.30pm – 8.45pm

THE ULSTER CONSORT: BRAHMS REQUIEM

The Ulster Consort, Northern Ireland's newest professional vocal ensemble and conductor Matthew Owens perform one of the great masterpieces of the Romantic era, Brahms's *German Requiem* in the composer's more intimate version for choir accompanied by four hands on one piano.

Tickets: **£15.00**, available from 24 February from **belfastcathedral.org**, **Belfast Cathedral Welcome Desk**, and **at the door**

Saturday 6 June, 3.00pm – 4.15pm

ORGAN RECITAL: MEMORIAL CONCERT FOR DAVID DRINKELL

The Ulster Society of Organists and Choirmasters, together with Belfast Cathedral, present a composite recital given in memory of David Drinkell, former Organist and Master of the Choristers at the cathedral.

Admission: **free**

Retiring collection in aid of Belfast Cathedral Music and the wider work of Belfast Cathedral

Thursday 11 June, 1.10pm – 1.50pm (in the Quire)

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL: A BACH CONTINUUM – 03/36

Matthew Owens (Director of Music, Belfast Cathedral) gives the third in a series of 36 recitals, exploring the complete organ works of J.S. Bach.

Admission: **free**

Retiring collection in aid of Belfast Cathedral Music and the wider work of Belfast Cathedral

Saturday 20 June, 1.10pm – 1.50pm

BELFAST CATHEDRAL CHILDREN'S CHOIR SPRING CONCERT

The choristers of Belfast Cathedral Children's Choir (founded in 2019) will perform their first concert with Jack Wilson (piano and organ), conducted by Matthew Owens.

Admission: **free**

Retiring collection in aid of Belfast Cathedral Children's Choir

Thursday 25 June

TICKET RELEASE FOR CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Six months before Christmas Day sees the release of tickets for the **Candlelight Christmas Concert** (21 December, priced £10.00 – £25.00) and the **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** (23 and 24 December, admission free), featuring Belfast Cathedral Choir (see details later in the brochure). Book early to avoid disappointment!

Thursday 2 July, 1.10pm – 1.50pm (in the Quire)

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL

Derek Collins (Organist and Master of the Choristers, St Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry)

Admission: **free**

Retiring collection in aid of Belfast Cathedral Music and the wider work of Belfast Cathedral



Thursday 20 August, 1.10pm – 1.50pm (in the Quire)

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL

Bogdan Reincke (Budapest, Hungary; winner of the 2019 Northern Ireland International Organ Competition)

Admission: **free**

Retiring collection in aid of Belfast Cathedral Music and the wider work of Belfast Cathedral

Thursday 24 September, 1.10pm – 1.50pm (in the Quire)

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL: A BACH CONTINUUM – 04/36

Matthew Owens (Director of Music, Belfast Cathedral) gives the fourth in a series of 36 recitals, exploring the complete organ works of J.S. Bach.

Admission: **free**

Retiring collection in aid of Belfast Cathedral Music and the wider work of Belfast Cathedral

Thursday 22 October, 1.10pm – 1.50pm (in the Quire)

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL

David Leigh (Organist and Assistant Master of the Music, St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin)

Admission: **free**

Retiring collection in aid of Belfast Cathedral Music and the wider work of Belfast Cathedral

Remembrance Sunday 8 November,
3.30pm – 4.30pm



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: FAURÉ REQUIEM

Ulster Orchestra, Belfast Cathedral Choir, Belfast Cathedral Children's Choir, Jack Wilson (organ), **Matthew Owens** (conductor)

Fauré's *Requiem* is performed as an act of remembrance at Belfast Cathedral, within a devotional service, and interspersed with war poetry.

Admission to this service: **free, with a retiring collection**

Thursday 19 November, 1.10pm – 1.50pm (in the Quire)

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL: A BACH CONTINUUM – 05/36

Matthew Owens (Director of Music, Belfast Cathedral) gives the fifth in a series of 36 recitals, exploring the complete organ works of J.S. Bach.

Admission: **free**

Retiring collection in aid of Belfast Cathedral Music and the wider work of Belfast Cathedral



Advent Sunday 29 November, 6.00pm – 7.15pm

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

A candlelit service of traditional readings, traditional congregational Advent carols, and music for Advent sung by Belfast Cathedral Choir.

Admission to this service: **free, with a collection during the service**

Friday 4 December, 7.30pm

THE ULSTER CONSORT: HANDEL'S MESSIAH

The Ulster Consort made its stellar debut with Handel's *Messiah* in December 2019; early booking for Handel's greatest oratorio is highly recommended.

Tickets: **£10.00 – £25.00; available from 24 February from belfastcathedral.org, Belfast Cathedral Welcome Desk, and (subject to availability) at the door**

Thursday 10 December, 1.10pm – 1.45pm (in the Quire)

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL

Ian Mills (President of the Ulster Society of Organists and Choirmasters)

Admission: **free**

Retiring collection in aid of Belfast Cathedral Music and the wider work of Belfast Cathedral

Sunday 20 December, 3.30pm – 4.00pm

CHILDREN'S CRIB SERVICE

A short telling of the Christmas story, with carols led by the Belfast Cathedral Children's Choir.

Admission to this service: **free, with a collection during the service**

Monday 21 December, 7.30pm – 8.45pm

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH KATHY CLUGSTON AND BELFAST CATHEDRAL CHOIR

Kathy Clugston (reader), **Jack Wilson** (organ),
Matthew Owens (conductor)

Early booking is advised for this concert when Belfast Cathedral Choir performs seasonal sacred music and lighter festive favourites, interspersed with readings – read by BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio Ulster presenter, Kathy Clugston – in the glorious surroundings of a candlelit Belfast Cathedral.

Tickets: **£10.00 – £25.00; available from 25 June from belfastcathedral.org and Belfast Cathedral Welcome Desk; tickets may be available at the door**

Proceeds from this concert will support Belfast Cathedral Choir and the wider work of Belfast Cathedral

Wednesday 23 December, 7.30pm – 8.45pm

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

A service of traditional readings, traditional congregational Christmas carols, and music for Christmas sung by Belfast Cathedral Choir and Belfast Cathedral Children's Choir, with Jack Wilson (organ), and Matthew Owens (conductor).

Admission to this service: **free, by ticket (tickets will be released on June 25th, 2020 – please see the cathedral's website, belfastcathedral.org for details)**

Christmas Eve, Thursday 24 December, 7.30pm – 8.45pm

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

A service of traditional readings, traditional congregational Christmas carols, and music for Christmas sung by Belfast Cathedral Choir and Belfast Cathedral Children's Choir, with Jack Wilson (organ), and Matthew Owens (conductor).

Admission to this service: **free, by ticket (tickets will be released on June 25th, 2020 – please see the cathedral's website, belfastcathedral.org for details)**

Christmas Eve, Thursday 24 December, 11.00pm – 12.15am

THE FIRST EUCHARIST OF CHRISTMAS

A Choral Eucharist to celebrate Christmas, with music including Widor's *Messe à deux chœurs et deux orgues*, Op. 36, sung by Belfast Cathedral Choir.

Admission to this service: **free, with a collection during the service**

Christmas Day, Friday 25 December, 11.00am – 12.15pm

CHRISTMAS DAY FESTIVAL EUCHARIST

A Choral Eucharist to celebrate Christmas, with music including Haydn's *Saint Nicholas Mass*, sung by Belfast Cathedral Choir.

Admission to this service: **free, with a collection during the service**





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**BELFAST CATHEDRAL IS
RECRUITING CHORISTERS**

For full details about auditioning for
Belfast Cathedral Children's Choir,
please contact the Cathedral's Director
of Music, Mr Matthew Owens

Email: **music@belfastcathedral.org**

Telephone: **028 90 328 332**

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Belfast
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The information given in this leaflet is correct at time of going to press but alterations may have to be made in exceptional circumstances.

For a copy or copies of this leaflet, please send a stamped-addressed-envelope to Belfast Cathedral, Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2HB.

Details of regular services, concerts, and events can also be found on the Cathedral's website and social media channels at

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belfastcathedral.org

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BELFAST CATHEDRAL

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. ANNE