

Cameron Stanley is Principal Soloist and a Wesley Scholar in the Choir of Leeds Parish Church. He joined the Choir from the Parish Church's Parochial School (founded almost exactly two hundred years ago) and is now a High School Student at Abbey Grange Church of England High School on the Northern outskirts of the City. Cameron studies piano with Michael Rodgers and receives vocal coaching from Anita Wiencelewski, a name well-known to Doncaster Choral Society audiences! His younger brother Joshua also sings treble in the Choir and his older brother Ian is the Parish Church's Principal Countertenor. Cameron lives at Oakwood very near to Roundhay Park.

Claire Trafford, soprano, studied at Leeds College of Music and went on to qualify as a teacher. For many years she has been an active oratorio soloist and has sung the majority of the repertoire from the last four centuries, from Handel's *Messiah* through the great oratorios of the 18th and 19th centuries, including the Verdi *Requiem* and many major 20th century works. These have taken her all over the country, to Wimborne Minster, Peterborough, Norwich, Sheffield, Ripon, St Paul's and Bangor Cathedrals and the mighty Town Halls of Birmingham and Leeds. She is regularly asked to sing at Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals, gives recitals of English song and particularly enjoys singing in small ensembles with instrumentalists. Claire lives at Kilburn near Thirsk and leads a charmed life teaching solo singing at two very musical schools, Queen Mary's, Topcliffe and Ripon Cathedral Choir School.

Lucy Appleyard, contralto, grew up in the North Yorkshire village of Great Ayton where she began her singing career in the Christ Church children's choir *Throstle Nest* before progressing to the Church Choir where she sang until leaving school

Lucy completed an MMUS in 2006 at Leeds College of Music. She sang as a soloist for many of the college ensembles. With The New Music Ensemble she performed works by Morton Feldman, John Cage, Arvo Pärt, Louis Andriessen and Igor Stravinsky amongst others. From this grew a passion for performing contemporary music culminating in a performance of Maxwell Davies' *Miss Donnithorne's Maggot* for her final recital.

Lucy has performed countless operatic roles on the local and national stage and has worked professionally for Scottish Opera. Her love of Gilbert & Sullivan led to her singing at the Buxton International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival for the last five years. Her most recent roles include Little Buttercup (*HMS Pinafore*). Other operatic roles include Dido (*Dido & Aeneas*), Madam Flora (*The Medium*) and Mrs Lovett (*Sweeney Todd*).

She is currently principal alto for The *St Peter's Singers* directed by Dr Simon Lindley and sings with the new up and coming chamber choir *Ecclesia*. Lucy sings regularly for many choral societies in Yorkshire and beyond. Recent performances have included *Stabat Mater* (Rossini & Dvorak) and *Israel in*

Egypt (Handel) at Leeds Town Hall. Future engagements include Duruflé *Requiem* and Bach *St Matthew Passion*.

Away from performing Lucy conducts the Choir of St Aidan's Church in Leeds and teaches singing in schools throughout Yorkshire.

Philip Steel, tenor, hails from the West Midlands and was a boy chorister in the famous Choir of St Columba's, Sutton Coldfield. As an undergraduate, he read English in the University of Leeds and sang with the University Union Music Society's Chamber Choir and later as a Lay Clerk at Leeds Parish Church. After graduation, he has held a major administrative post at Leeds Trinity University College and is currently Head of Alumni Relations in the University of Leeds. He sings regularly at Ripon Cathedral and at Leeds Parish Church (where he is Choir Treasurer). Philip also sings with *Ecclesia* based at St Aidan's Church in Leeds. His general interests including running, on which he is very keen.

Paul Tidd, bass, started his musical career as a chorister at Emmanuel Parish Church, Southport, and where he first studied the organ with the then Organist, Stephen Attwater. He continued his organ studies with Dr Noel Rawsthorne, Organist Emeritus of Liverpool Cathedral. Paul took up his first appointment as Assistant Organist of Emmanuel, Southport, in 1987 and then in April 1993 Organist and Director of Music of St Luke's Parish Church, Southport, famous for its 'high ceremonial'. In the summer of 1996 Paul came to Leeds and in the September joined the Choir of Leeds Parish Church where he continues to sing as a Bass Lay Clerk and during this time has undertaken vocal tuition with James Griffett. In July 2011 Paul also took up the appointment of Organist of St John and St Barnabas, Belle Isle, Leeds. In connection with his musical endeavours Paul was elected a Fellow of the Guild of Musicians and Singers in June 2001. In Paul's professional life he has held the position of Director of Business and Finance of West Leeds High School since 1996 that in 2009 became Swallow Hill Community College. Other interests include: running, travel and railways.

David Houlder has been based in Leeds since moving to Yorkshire from Liverpool in 2003 after almost twenty years service as Sub-Organist of the Cathedral there. David served with much distinction for many years as Director of Music at Liverpool's historic Bluecoat School. Here in Yorkshire, he is Associate Conductor and Organist to Doncaster Choral Society, and Accompanist and Organist to Halifax Choral Society. Additionally, David is Organist for concerts by St Peter's Singers and recently conducted the Singers in an acclaimed account of Vaughan Williams's *Dona nobis pacem* and Mathias's *Ave Rex*. His interests include transport and photography.

Dr Simon Lindley is active in many aspects of music-making, locally, regionally, nationally and even internationally. He is Conductor of Doncaster Choral Society and of Sheffield Bach Choir. Simon is, in addition, Music Director of St Peter's Singers – now widely acknowledged as one of the finest chamber choirs in Britain – and of Overgate Hospice Choir and Leeds College of Music Community Choral Society. He is particularly well-known as an organist, accompanist as well as soloist, and is one of very few players left still involved in oratorio performances accompanied by organ alone without orchestra. Brought up in Oxford, Simon was educated at Magdalen College School and the Royal College of Music. Simon is Chairman of the Ecclesiastical Music Trust, the charitable branch of the English Hymnal Company of which he is a director; Dr Lindley sustains very close association with the City of London where his career began whilst a student well over forty years ago.

The National Festival Orchestra, Leader Sally Robinson, has a well-earned reputation as one of the country's leading theatre and concert orchestras. Based in the North of England, with members drawn from all over the UK, the musicians combine a breadth of professional experience that ranges from playing for top symphony, chamber and opera orchestras to West End and Broadway shows. Many of the players are solo performers in their own right and their great versatility is apparent in the orchestra's ability to play in many different styles - from Bach to Baccarach - from Strauss to Sondheim.

As the orchestra of the outstandingly successful *Sing Live UK*, NFO regularly plays to sell-out audiences at leading British concert venues, including the Bridgewater Hall, Birmingham Symphony Hall and The Sage, Gateshead. Through BBC radio and television broadcasts and its critically acclaimed performances as resident orchestra for the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival in Buxton, the orchestra has established an outstanding national – and even international - reputation. In addition the orchestra covers a busy round of concerts, shows, and choral performances with some of the country's finest choral societies. Highlights have included appearances at the London Palladium, The Royal Albert Hall, and also at huge festival events with stars such as soprano Lesley Garrett.

Noah Nazir is a healer and by trade is an acupuncturist. Following the Sufi mystical path under the guidance of Sheikh Nazim of Cyprus he is always journeying towards the Divine Presence – 'the activity of the God within us all'.