



Dvořák Mass in D

Parry Songs of Farewell

musical director Simon Mercer
organ Roger Briscoe

soloists Debs Shaw
Kate Mercer
Peter Quayle
Colin Hill

St Matthew's Church, Hayfield
Sunday 23rd April 2023, 7.30pm

Hayfield Singers' Spring Concert

Parry's *Songs of Farewell* are a cycle of six unaccompanied motets composed in the final year of his life. They are as much a personal leave-taking as they are a poignant tribute to so many of his pupils who made the ultimate sacrifice on the Western Front. The first five songs set very powerful English poetry of the 16th to 19th centuries and the final song sets verses 5–15 of Psalm 39. The textures expand from four parts, through five, six and seven, culminating in eight-part double choir. They are, without doubt, the finest choral music written by an Englishman since the time of Byrd, Tallis and Purcell.

Dvorák's *Mass in D* was commissioned by Josef Hlávka, the wealthy architect, patron, and founder of the Czech Academy, for the consecration of the new chapel beside his castle in Luzany. Written in 1887 for chorus, soloists (all four of whom are drawn from the choir) and organ, it is a work of great beauty and poise with flowing, lyrical melodies and characterful rhythmic cross-currents.

Roger Briscoe will accompany with his usual musical sensitivity on the magnificent Viscount Organ.

Do please, come and join us for an evening of contemplative, tuneful and beautiful music.

Tickets are available in advance from choir members, or from Hayfield News or High Street Books, New Mills, at £10 for a seat with an unrestricted view. Restricted-view tickets at £8, plus any unsold £10 tickets, will be available from 7pm on the night. Please see www.hayfieldsingers.org.uk/tickets for full details of ticketing arrangements.

Hayfield Singers welcome everyone of all ages and abilities to their concerts. The church has disabled access and if you require support with particular seating, please ask at the door. We will do our best to accommodate you. Equally, children are very welcome as we firmly believe that everyone should be able to experience live classical and choral music and aim to bring this to Hayfield through our performances.



www.hayfieldsingers.org.uk