



St. George's Anglican Church
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The Choir of St. George's Anglican Church, Halifax
under the direction of Paul Halley, presents

In The Round III

A concert of glorious choral music from the 16th to the 21st centuries
Sunday, June 13th at 7:00 PM

The choir of Saint George's Anglican Church, under the direction of Paul Halley, will perform its third annual "In the Round" concert of choral music on Sunday 13 June at 7.00 PM in the church on Brunswick Street. The inaugural concert was sold out and received glowing reviews in the Chronicle Herald.

This year's concert is centered on four pieces composed for double choir by Jacob Handl, Heinrich Schütz, William Harris and the contemporary "mystic" John Tavener. With one choir in the north gallery and the other in the south, the music moves back and forth across the sanctuary until both choirs combine, offering the audience below a true taste of celestial stereo.

The program also includes pieces by Samuel Barber, Felix Mendelssohn and the renaissance Mexican composer, Juan Gutiérrez de Padilla. Several contemporary composers will also be featured in the program including Benjamin Britten, Colin Mawby and Morten Lauridsen. Halley's own composition, "My Beloved Spake" features the combined forces of trumpet, organ and choir in a setting of the text from the Song of Songs.

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Saint George's Anglican Church - popularly known as "the round church" - is an ideal venue for the presentation of so much of the great sacred choral literature of our heritage, says Paul Halley. "Aside from the architectural splendour and crystal clear acoustics of the church," he explains, "the interior design allows for the placement of singers and players in any number of configurations, using the circular galleries as well as the chancel to generate what has been termed 'surround sound as God intended it.'"

At three points during the concert the audience will be invited to stand and join in singing one of the great traditional hymns. With one choir and the organ in the chancel, another choir in a side gallery, trumpet in the rear gallery and the audience below, the effect is quite exhilarating. As the Chronicle Herald reviewer said of the first year's concert:

"With the choir leading the singing, the audience lost all fear of exposure and sang out lustily with roof-raising effect. The descants, composed by Halley, who also arranged the hymns, capped the harmonies with a sunny elegance that was enhanced and sweetened by Dietz's rounded and honeyed tone"

The concert is being held to raise money for music at Saint George's, which has one of the most active programs of church music in the country. All proceeds will go to the Friends of St. George's Society fund for supporting music at the church. Tickets for general admission will be \$25 (\$15 for students) and will be available at Duly Noted on Brenton Street, by secure on-line payment on www.fsgsociety.org, and at the door. \$60 patron tickets (\$35 tax receipt) are also available for those who would like to make a special contribution to the ongoing work of the Friends of St. George's Society.

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