

Anybody interested in joining the **Promenade Choirs** can visit the **Promenade** website www.promenade.org.uk or call Christopher on 07905 006078.

The next choir rehearsal will be on 25th April. The next concert will probably be on 10th July.



Promenade Choirs

Tsunami Requiem

by Chris Williams

directed by

Christopher Goldsack

The Walrus and the Carpenter

Percy Fletcher

Magnificat

Arvo Pärt

St Peter's Church,

Hersham

20th March 2022

the **RCS**herriffTrust
advancing the arts in Elmbridge



The Walrus and the Carpenter

by Percy Fletcher

text from *Through the Looking Glass*

by Lewis Carroll

Liebeslieder Waltzes (nos. 1, 5, 2)

by J. Brahms

translated by Christopher Goldsack

Magnificat

by Arvo Pärt

solo soprano – **Camilla Jeppeson**

Interval

Tsunami Requiem

by Chris Williams

Fishing Carol – Kyrie

Lullaby – Pie Jesu

Interlude

Tsunami – Dies Irae

Threnody – Agnus Dei

piano – **Camilla Jepsen**

percussion – **Mark Rogers**

organ – **Gareth Giles**

Chris Williams writes about the **Tsunami Requiem**:

“The devastating effects of the tsunami on December 26th 2004 meant that the world would never be the same again for families and communities across the world.

The following year I was commissioned by two choirs to write a composition for their Christmas concerts. But living in India and having witnessed the effects of the tsunami only months before, I could not view Christmas in the same light as usual. What I wanted to do was tell the story of that tragic day, and instead proposed a requiem about the tsunami.

The first movement, *Fishing Carol*, tells the story of a typical day in a fishing village, beginning as the sun rises over the boats lined up on the shoreline. The children sing *Kyrie eleison* (Lord, have mercy) as the boats are rolled out to sea.

The second movement, *Pie Jesu*, is a lullaby sung to calm the children who have a premonition of the tsunami.

The third movement is an instrumental interlude, the calm before the storm, which explodes into the *Dies Irae* (Day of Wrath) depicting the tsunami itself. The stirring movement ends with the chorale-like *Lachrymosa* juxtaposed with the children's bewilderment and despair at the destruction and loss.

The final movement is a threnody (lament) set to the words of the *Agnus Dei* (O Lamb of God) for unaccompanied choir.”

It is the second time the Promenade Choirs have sung this wonderful and moving work – they last sang it in 2016. It was members of the choir who asked that we sing it again.

Likewise, it is the second time the choirs have performed *The Walrus and the Carpenter*, having first sung it in 2009. A few of the members who sang it then are here tonight supporting the current choirs. The composer, Percy Fletcher, is most remembered for his military and brass band music, but this is a delightful cantata for children's choir, based on a nonsense text from Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass*. It is a tribute to the current members of the Junior Choir that I have chosen to do it with them. It is not easy, which is why I had never performed it again.