

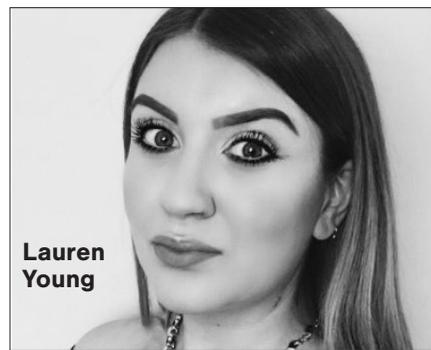
**etc** | ADVERTISING FEATURE



**Ben Smith**



**Gemma Summerfield**



**Lauren Young**



**Penelope Cousland**



**Jolyon Loy**

# A harmonious collaboration

**JOAN MCFADDEN**

**T**HE culmination of Bearsden Choir's fiftieth anniversary season is now only three weeks away. In Glasgow's City Halls on Sunday 19th May the choir will be joined by five superb professional soloists and the orchestra of McOpera Ensemble all under the baton of their Director of Music, Andrew Nunn, in a performance of one of the greatest works in the classical choral repertoire, J S Bach's Mass in B Minor.

This is the first time the choir will have performed the B Minor but it will be the perfect showcase of their musical talents as they merge seamlessly with the professionals to produce breath-taking results.

Gemma Summerfield, soprano, 'swept the board' at the 2015 Kathleen Ferrier Awards winning both 1st Prize and the Loveday Song Prize. More recently in 2018 she also won the Susan Chilcott Award for Singers.

"This is the first time she has performed with the choir. "I know Andrew Nunn, the choir's musical director, from the RCS" she says. " I was a member of Les Sirènes under his baton. I'm delighted to work with him again." She loves singing Bach and thinks the concert will be very well-received.

"I've performed it on multiple occasions around the world and have enjoyed it every time. It's really worth people giving this concert a go; the music is so powerful and emotional that it never disappoints."

Lauren Young, mezzo-soprano, is equally excited about the opportunity. "I've heard the choir before and having

them behind me is amazing," she says. "They are fantastic – they sound so professional and Andrew's enthusiasm is so infectious that we all respond well to it. We're all drawn in, all part of a huge effort and it's a wonderful chance both to be involved and for the audience to enjoy. Young people are desperate for these opportunities and this is something really special – it's so good for the soul."

**LOVE AND PASSION**

PENELOPE Cousland, mezzo-soprano, revels in the challenge of working with a difficult piece of music. "The music is so difficult but so rewarding," she says. "The joy of working on such a hard piece is knowing you're contributing to it culminating in an amazing performance. Choral concerts where professionals and amateurs come together with that sheer love and passion for the music are quite rare. It's a two-way street – I take their appreciation, enthusiasm and enjoyment and put it into my performance and I never become complacent."

Ben Smith, tenor, sang with the choir last December and is delighted to be part of this event. "I became involved with the Bearsden Choir when the tenor that was singing the Messiah last December was indisposed," he says. "I'm lucky to be asked back for the B Minor. The one thing that stood out straight away was the sheer number of singers in the choir. They all look like they're having such great fun making music which is really important for the sound and for the audience."

Jolyon Loy, bass baritone, has worked with Andrew Nunn in the past and was delighted to be recruited for the B Minor. "Andrew's got great vision and he really pushes us all to give our best," he says. "That wall of sound

behind you along with the orchestra is always a great moment, as well as knowing we're all working together to give our best performance."

**GREAT COLLABORATION**

THE orchestra, McOpera Ensemble, has previously collaborated with the choir. "Bearsden Choir wanted professional players and we're passionate about working with singers,"

says Sue Baxendale of McOpera. "The members of the choir all love choral music and are driven by it which creates a very special togetherness. The B Minor will be a total team effort, with that very special buzz of being in the moment with the adrenaline kick we're all addicted to, working side by side to produce the best performance possible. I would recommend this concert to all music lovers. It will be wonderful!"



# MASS IN B MINOR JS BACH

SUNDAY 19TH MAY 2019 / 4:00PM  
GLASGOW CITY HALLS

TICKETS:  
City Halls Box Office,  
Choir members or  
enquiries@bearsdenchoir.co.uk

£20 / £17.50 / £5

