

# Cantori Domino

Maurita Phillips-Thornburgh, Artistic Director  
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## The British are Coming! The British are Coming!

May 24, 2009 • 4 pm

Sir David Willcocks  
Jonathan Willcocks

They're witty. They're charming. They're fun. And they'll be here on May 24.

Returning for a fifth exciting engagement with Cantori Domino, Sir David Willcocks is the legendary embodiment of the British choral tradition.

And his son Jonathan is keeping the tradition alive, both as a conductor and a composer.

Starting with Jonathan's children's opera, *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*, you'll be charmed by a novel musical representation of a classic tale.

Then, you'll relive the era of the Napoleonic wars with Haydn's masterpiece, the *Lord Nelson Mass*, followed by Jonathan's companion piece, *A Great and Glorious Victory*.

### *Admiral Lord Nelson – A Hero's Hero*

Admiral Horatio Nelson (1758-1805) was the great British naval hero of the Napoleonic Wars. More than 200 years after his death at the Battle of Trafalgar, he is still loved and respected as a great military figure who has captured the imagination of the public.

Haydn's "Lord Nelson Mass," although originally written as "Mass in Time of Distress," (Napoleon being the cause of the distress), quickly became associated with Nelson's victory at the Battle of the Nile in 1798, against the same formidable enemy.

The Battle of the Nile was a crushing loss for the French navy, but a big gain for archaeology thanks to the discovery of the Rosetta Stone, key to translation of Egyptian hieroglyphics. (It was a double loss for the French, of course, because where's the Rosetta Stone now? The British Museum.)

Seven years later, with Bonaparte still threatening England and much of Europe, Nelson engaged the French

and Spanish fleets at Trafalgar off the coast of Spain in October of 1805. Using unorthodox and risky naval tactics – forming two columns instead of the usual single column, for a dangerous head-on approach – badly outnumbered by the enemy, and with a storm brewing, Nelson won the battle decisively without losing a single British ship. The greatest cost was his own life. He died aboard the HMS Victory, knowing the battle had been won.

Despite Nelson's somewhat waggish quote during the Battle of the Nile (and evidently, at other times) that "Before this time tomorrow, I shall have gained a peerage or Westminster Abbey," he was given a grand state funeral at St. Paul's Cathedral in January of 1806.

Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson represents a life of heroism, duty and brilliance in times of great turbulence and unrest. It is no wonder that he has inspired music of the same heroic magnitude.

## The Pied Piper of Hamelin

Jonathan's opera for children uses

Robert Browning's famous poem, brought to life by children's voices, tenor, narrator, and by the crackling use of percussion and brass. You'll be

charmed by the Pied Piper, horrified by the rats, and...well, even if you already know how it all ends, you'll love listening to how it all unfolds! Jonathan is justly renowned for his work with children, and you'll find out why with this brainy and fun musical story.

## Lord Nelson Mass

This setting of the traditional mass is a late work in the life of Josef

Haydn, the composer who bridged the gap from the baroque to the classical. Lord Nelson may have been present in Austria at one of the first performances of this mass. Listen for the contrasting, almost symphonic, styles of the various

movements. Of especial note is the canon form of the Credo and Gloria sections showing Haydn's baroque roots.

A man of deep religious sensibilities, Haydn has infused this work with the agitation and distress of wartime, as well as the comfort and nobility of faith, ending in a gloriously beautiful "Dona nobis pacem" – grant us peace.

## A Great and Glorious Victory

This powerful setting of texts from contemporary accounts of Trafalgar, the Book of Common Prayer and the Latin Requiem Mass evokes the sensation of being on the sea. Its shifting rhythms and lush harmonies charge familiar words with new power, including the famous "England expects that every man will do his duty" sung by the tenor soloist.

Jonathan notes in his preface that the third movement recalls "a storm of the greatest severity that threatened the lives of all who had sur-

vived the battle. In the face of such universal mortal danger, sailors of all three nations set aside enmity and sought to save each other from shipwreck and drowning, the injured and imperilled being cared for regardless of nationality, with many receiving refuge on the surviving ships of other nations...the ultimate victory for humanity in the face of the greater forces of nature."

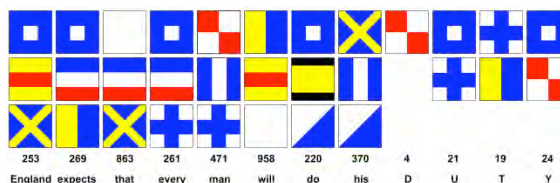
Britain's unquestioned dominion over the seas began the 19th century with the Battle of Trafalgar, and so this piece fittingly ends with one of the 19th century's best-loved and enduring hymns, sung by both the choir and the audience.

### *Lieutenant Pasco Reports...*

...from on board the HMS Victory...

"His Lordship came to me on the poop [deck], and after ordering certain signals to be made, about a quarter to noon, he said, "Mr. Pasco, I wish to say to the fleet, "ENGLAND CONFIDES THAT EVERY MAN

WILL DO HIS DUTY" and he added "You must be quick, for I have one more [signal] to make which is for close action." I replied, "If your Lordship will permit me to substitute expects for confides the signal will soon be completed, because the word expects is in the vocabulary, and confides must be spelt." His Lordship replied, in haste, and with seeming satisfaction, "That will do, Pasco, make it directly."



We are grateful that this performance is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission

### You won't want to miss this concert!

Sunday, May 24, 2009 at 4 pm  
First United Methodist Church  
1008 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica

Maurita Phillips-Thornburgh  
• Artistic Director •



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