PROGRAM:
The Choir of St. John’s College, Cambridge
March 29 / 7:30 PM
Memorial Church

PROGRAM
William Byrd: Civitas sancti tui
Henry Purcell: Remember Not, Lord, Our Offences
Rejoice in the Lord Alway
J. S. Bach: Trio super Herr Jesu Christ,
dich zu uns wend, BWV 655
Glen Dempsey, organ
Francis Poulenc: Mass in G Major, FP 89
Kyrie
Gloria
Sanctus
Benedictus
Agnus Dei
Dieterich Buxtehude: Praeludium in E Major, BuxWV 141
Glen Dempsey, organ
Jonathan Harvey: The Annunciation
Jonathan Dove: Gloria (Missa Brevis)

INTERMISSION
C. Hubert H. Parry: Hear My Words, Ye People
Edward Elgar: Imperial March, op. 32
Joseph Wicks, organ
William Harris: Faire Is the Heaven
James Burton: O Thoma!

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Please be considerate of others and turn off all phones, pagers, and watch alarms, and unwrap all lozenges prior to the performance. Photography and recording of any kind are not permitted. Thank you.

ARTISTS
Choir of St. John’s College, Cambridge
Andrew Nethsingha, director of music
Joseph Wicks and Glen Dempsey, organ

This program is presented by the Office for Religious Life in partnership with Stanford Live, with additional support from Clint and Mary Gilliland and the Stanford Department of Music.
THE CHOIR OF ST. JOHN’S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

The Choir of St. John’s College, Cambridge is one of the finest men’s and boys’ choirs in the world, known and loved by millions from its recordings, broadcasts, and concert tours. A cornerstone of the great English choral tradition since the 1670s, the choir is recognized for its distinctive, rich, and expressive sound and is now directed by Andrew Nethsingha.

The choir is made up of 18 Choristers and two Probationers, who are educated at the St. John’s College School. The alto, tenor, and bass parts are usually taken by 15 undergraduates who are students in the university as well as Choral Scholars, with two Organ Scholars assisting in the daily running of the choir. Services in the College Chapel follow the Cathedral tradition of the Church of England, with Evensong six days a week during term and Sung Eucharist on Sunday mornings. The choir’s services are frequently broadcast on BBC Radio 3. On the concert platform, the choir regularly performs in high-profile venues and festivals around the UK, with orchestras and ensembles including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the English Chamber Orchestra, and the Philharmonia Orchestra. Its busy international touring schedule includes the United States, Canada, Brazil, South Africa, Japan, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Europe.

Under Nethsingha’s direction, the singers receive a unique musical education in an extremely varied breadth of repertoire, from Renaissance polyphony and Haydn masses to 20th-century and specially commissioned contemporary music. Committed to engaging with a wide audience through digital innovations, St. John’s is the first British choir to broadcast its services live in weekly webcasts, and in 2011 it launched SJC Live, a unique online archive for music lovers and choirmasters.

A key innovation of Nethsingha’s is the establishment of St. John’s Sinfonia, a professional period ensemble formed with Margaret Faultless in 2011, with which the choir gives termly liturgical performances of Bach cantatas.

Under Nethsingha and former directors of music George Guest, Christopher Robinson, and David Hill, the choir has produced an extraordinary and extensive discography. In 2009 the choir signed with Chandos Records, and its first 11 CDs on the label—with music spanning 500 years—have garnered international critical acclaim: Howells’ St. John’s Magnificat; Hear My Words, popular choral classics; Laudent Deum, a CD of Lassus’ works including many previously unrecorded motets; On Christmas Night; Mozart Coronation Mass; Purcell’s My Beloved Spake; Samuel Sebastian Wesley’s Ascribe unto the Lord; Sheppard’s Gaude, gaude, gaude Maria; Tomkins’ When David Heard; an album of French organ masses, O Sacrum Convivium; and The Call, a second album of popular classics released in September 2015. The choir’s next release, Deo, with the music of Jonathan Harvey, an alumnus of St. John’s College, will be released on the new St. John’s/Signum record label in April 2016.

Renowned for championing contemporary music, the choir regularly commissions new works. Since 2014 it has performed world premieres of works by Nico Muhly, John McCabe, Michael Finnissy, Tim Watts, Philip Moore, James Welland, James Burton, and Alex Woolf. www.sjcchoir.co.uk

ANDREW NETHSINGHA

Performing as a conductor and organist in North America, South Africa, the Far East, and throughout Europe, Andrew Nethsingha has been director of music at St. John’s College, Cambridge since 2007. His innovations at St. John’s have included weekly webcasts and a termly Bach cantata series. His recordings for Chandos have been enthusiastically reviewed. His latest
St. John’s CD to be released, The Call, was Editor’s Choice in Gramophone magazine.

Andrew Nethsingha received his early musical training as a chorister at Exeter Cathedral, where his father was organist for over a quarter of a century. He later studied at the Royal College of Music, where he won seven prizes, and at St. John’s College, Cambridge. He held organ scholarships under Christopher Robinson at St. George’s Windsor and under George Guest at St. John’s, before becoming assistant organist at Wells Cathedral. He was subsequently director of music at Truro and Gloucester Cathedrals. Other recent positions have included artistic director of the Gloucester Three Choirs Festival and musical director of the Gloucester Choral Society.

He has served as president of the Cathedral Organists’ Association and has worked with some of the UK’s leading orchestras. Nethsingha’s concerts with the Philharmonia Orchestra have included many of the major choral works: Mahler’s Eighth Symphony, Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, Britten’s War Requiem, Brahms’ Requiem, Elgar’s The Dream of Gerontius and The Kingdom, Walton’s Belshazzar’s Feast, Poulenc’s Gloria, and Duruflé’s Requiem. He has also worked with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the London Mozart Players, Britten Sinfonia, the Aarhus Symfoniorkester, and the BBC Concert Orchestra. Recent conducting engagements have included the BBC Proms, Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw, and Tokyo’s Suntory Hall. He regularly runs choral courses in various countries.

His concerts during 2014 and 2015 have included the Verbier Festival in Switzerland, Hong Kong City Hall, Mexico City, St. Blasien in Germany, the Royal Festival Hall in London, the University of Veracruz, the Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys in the United States, Symphony Hall in Birmingham, the Esplanade in Singapore, the Liedjes Boys Choir in France, and the Royal Albert Hall in London. In November 2015 he conducted Mozart’s Requiem and Haydn’s Nelson Mass with the St. Thomas Choir and the Orchestra of St. Luke’s in New York City.

JOSEPH WICKS
Herbert Howells Organ Scholar Joseph Wicks is in his final year studying music at Cambridge University. He is also musical director of the Gentlemen of St. John’s. He spent his gap year as Organ Scholar of Hereford Cathedral and before this was the Walter Stanton Music Scholar and Sixth-Form Organ Scholar at Lancing College. He began his musical education as a chorister, later Bishop’s (Head) Chorister, of Salisbury Cathedral. Wicks began playing the organ 10 years ago and is a fellow of the Royal College of Organists (ARCO), having won the coveted Limpus Prize. Recent recital venues include King’s, Queen’s, and St. John’s Colleges in Cambridge and Hereford and Wells Cathedrals.

Joseph Wicks plays a large proportion of the world-famous Choir of St. John’s College’s daily services and also accompanies it on its busy broadcast, recording, and international tour schedules, most recently in Singapore and Hong Kong. In addition, he remains as committed as possible to singing. A graduate of the prestigious Genesis Sixteen training scheme, Wicks now sings with the Gesualdo Six, a vocal sextet whose members are St. John’s Smith Square Young Artists for the 2015–16 season and have recently performed on BBC Radio 3’s In Tune.

GLEN DEMPSEY
Junior Organ Scholar Glen Dempsey is in his first year studying music at Cambridge. His formative musical experiences were centered around the English choral tradition, firstly as a chorister in St. Mary’s in Bury St. Edmunds and later in the choirs of St. Edmundsbury Cathedral. Organ lessons with Michael Nicholas led to Dempsey being awarded a scholarship as a répétiteur to study at the Purcell School of Music. During this time, he performed in all the major concert halls of London as a soloist and chamber musician on the organ and piano and also conducted at Wigmore Hall.

In 2013 Dempsey served as Organ Scholar at St. George’s Chapel, Windsor Castle. In this role he was responsible for accompanying and directing the choir’s daily services and for training the choristers, as well as for playing at many events attended by the British royal family.

In 2014–15, he resided in the Netherlands and was the assistant organist of St. Nicholas’ Basilica, Amsterdam. Under the mentorship of Michael Hedley, Dempsey accompanied the majority of the choral services in the basilica and was responsible for conducting its various choirs and ensembles.