

**Avebury Vocal Ensemble (AVE)** is a Chamber Choir of some 30 singers, performing a wide range of serious and light-hearted choral music both a capella and accompanied. Each year one Christmas concert is held in Avebury, and the remaining five to six annual concerts each year take place – often by invitation – in churches and halls throughout North Wiltshire, including, on three occasions, the prestigious Summer School at Marlborough College. The choir has also travelled to France on two occasions to give concerts in the alpine towns South of Geneva. The choir prides itself on sight-reading (just four rehearsals before each concert) and ensemble. A CD, 'Sing Ave Sing' is available, one track of which immediately succeeded the Queens Speech on Christmas Day on Classic FM in 2009.

**Sir Peter Beale** has conducted AVE since its inception and has recently been a guest conductor in Swindon, Salisbury and Romsey. Between times he sings tenor, acting as a Deputy Lay Clerk in both Salisbury and Wells cathedrals as well as in several choral groups, chiefly in Wiltshire. As a tenor soloist, his rôles range from parts in Gilbert and Sullivan operas to oratorios such as Messiah and The Creation. From his early years, music was ingrained. Following six years as a chorister in St. Paul's Cathedral, he became a Choral Scholar at Cambridge. He subsequently trained as a medical doctor, culminating in a career in the British Armed Forces for which he was knighted in 1992; but wherever he served he formed, conducted and took part in choirs when the care of his patients allowed. Now living in Avebury, he is delighted to be working with the singers from AVE.

**Simon Dinsdale:** A former Organ Scholar of Chichester Cathedral, Simon travels extensively throughout the UK as accompanist, continuo player and organist to a number of choirs, and regularly plays at cathedrals up and down the country. He has been sub-organist at The Royal Memorial Chapel, The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst since 2005 where he has the pleasure of playing week by week the largest Allen digital organ in the UK.

**Mary Phillips** read music at York university and later won the John Lobb Memorial Award for singing, and studied with Corinne Shirman-Sarti and Liz Bryce. She conducted Noyes Fludde and The Happy Prince in 2014-15 and Rutters Mass of the children in June.

# Avebury Vocal

## ENSEMBLE

### Concert Programme

Church of the Holy Cross Ramsbury

Saturday 18 April 2015

7.30 pm

*Conductor:* Sir Peter Beale

*Organist:* Simon Dinsdale

*Soprano:* Mary Phillips



INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME  
From Sir Peter Beale

You have extended yet again a welcome to Avebury Vocal Ensemble (AVE). Thank you. We have grown accustomed to the splendid Church of the Holy Cross and its acoustic which is so suitable for voices. We are indeed grateful to be performing there.

This time in the Spring of 2015 we remember once more the horrors of events one hundred years ago and present Joseph Haydn's 'Mass in time of War'. However, there seems to be nothing bellicose in this music, which is another example of Haydn's mastery of form and melody. Certain sections are scored for soloists and as usual Haydn favours the soprano part, so we welcome Mary Phillips from London who previously sung with us in Weber's Mass some four years ago. The Mass will form the bulk of the first half.

After the interval we will be performing a mixture of choral numbers chiefly from the 16th and 20th centuries. It is striking that these two centuries contain such rich choral music particularly from Great Britain. I draw your attention to John Ireland's 'Greater love hath no man than this' which traditionally is sung in Westminster Abbey on Remembrance Sunday and illustrates Ireland's mastery and understanding of the voice and drama.

Later on we become more light-hearted with 'The Teddy Bear's Picnic' and 'The Continental' which sing themselves!

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FUTURE AVE CONCERTS

Saturday 25th July: St Thomas Church Salisbury  
*in support of SSFA*

17 October 2015: to be confirmed

Wednesday 16th December: St Mark's Church Swindon

Sunday 20th December: St James' Church Avebury

For details see [www.aveburyvocal.org](http://www.aveburyvocal.org)

Programme

Locus Iste Anton Bruckner (1824 - 1896)

Mass in Time of War Joseph Haydn (1732 - 1809)  
*Kyrie Eleison /Gloria*

Soprano: Mary Phillips Tenor: Dick Millard  
Contralto: Alison Benfield Bass: David Edwards

O Nata Lux Thomas Tallis (c 1505 - 1585)

Mass in Time of War Joseph Haydn (1732 - 1809)  
*Credo / Sanctus/ Benedictus/ Agnus Dei*

----- **Interval** -----

Greater Love Hath No Man John Ireland (1879 - 1962)

Selig Sind die Toten Heinrich Schütz (1585 - 1672)

Crucifixus Antonio Lotti (c 1667 - 1740)

*Organ solo: Simon Dinsdale*

Toccata from Twelve Pieces by Théodore Dubois (1837 - 1924)

Weep O Mine Eyes John Bennett (c 1575 - c 1614)

Mother I Will Have a Husband Thomas Vautor (c 1580 - ?)

Teddy Bears Picnic (arr Andrew Carter) John Bratton (1867 - 1947)

The Continental (arr David Blackwell) Con Conrad (1891 - 1938)

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