

CIRENCESTER  
CHORAL  
SOCIETY

**Conductor: Carleton Etherington**



**SAINT PAUL**

**Felix Mendelssohn**

*(1809–1847)*

**Eva Ganizate** *soprano*

Andrew Dickinson **Paul Curievici** *tenor*

**Andrew Finden** *bass*

**Cirencester Choral Society**

**Corinium Camerata**

*Leader: Andrew Court*

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7.30 pm Saturday 2nd May 2009

The Bingham Hall, Cirencester

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**Saint Paul (Paulus)—An Oratorio (Op 36)** was Mendelssohn's first oratorio, completed in 1836 after the death of his father, who had taken an active interest in its composition. With a text based largely on excerpts from the New Testament *Acts of the Apostles*, the work tells the story of Saul's persecution of the Christians, the martyrdom of Stephen, Saul's conversion and his subsequent life as the Christian missionary, Paul. The musical form - recitatives and arias, interspersed with choruses - owes much to that developed by Handel, Haydn and especially Bach, whose music Mendelssohn much admired and promoted during his short life. The inclusion also of chorales was undoubtedly influenced by Bach's *Passions*. It was Mendelssohn who, in 1829, brought wider attention to Bach's choral music by organising and conducting the first performance outside Leipzig of the *St Matthew Passion*, over 100 years after it was written. His love of Bach's music is further revealed in *Saint Paul* with the setting of *Wachet auf* (Sleepers, wake) both in the opening overture and as a chorale.

The work was instrumental in reviving interest in oratorio and establishing Mendelssohn as one of the major composers of the day. Its success motivated Mendelssohn to write a second oratorio, *Elijah*, which became the more popular of the two. As a result, *Saint Paul* is much less well known today and only occasionally performed - not since 1913 by this Society. It nevertheless contains fine choral music and deserves to be heard, especially in 2009, the bicentenary of Mendelssohn's birth and the year in which the Catholic Church is officially celebrating the St Paul Jubilee to mark, approximately, the 2000th anniversary of *his* birth.

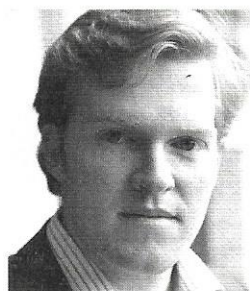
**Tonight's Soloists** are from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (GSMD) and appear by kind permission of the Principal.



**Eva Ganizate** (*soprano*) is from Paris and began her formal vocal studies at the age of 13 at the Maîtrise de Radio France. She then attended the Conservatoire National de Région de Rueil Malmaison in her home city and came to London and GSMD as an undergraduate in 2005. Since then she has had numerous recital, oratorio and operatic engagements in France and in London. Eva also studied at the Paris Conservatoire in 2007, and is now on the opera course at GSMD, where she recently won the second prize in the Clonter Opera awards.



**Paul Curievici** (*tenor*) started out as a chorister at Guildford Cathedral, but then took a more circuitous route than some to conservatoire life - taking a degree in Philosophy and Politics and then a graduate job before deciding that none of that was as much fun as singing! He is now a second-year postgraduate student at GSMD. Paul performed in several operatic roles before joining GSMD and has since made his Barbican solo debut in Judith Weir's *The Vanishing Bridegroom*.



**Andrew Finden** (*baritone*) studied at the University of Southern Queensland and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. He won several awards in Australian singing competitions before coming to the UK in 2007 to take the opera course at GSMD. Recent engagements have included *Messiah* in this year's London Handel festival and operatic roles with the London Symphony Orchestra, at the Barbican, and the Israeli Philharmonic. At a day's notice, Andrew ably stepped into the bass solo role in our 2007 performance of Haydn's *Creation* and we are delighted to welcome him back this evening.



# Saint Paul

## Part One

### 1 Overture

### 2 Chorus of Christians

Lord, Thou alone art God, and Thine are the heaven, the earth, the mighty waters. The Heathen furiously rage, Lord, against Thee, and against Thy Christ. Now behold, lest our foes prevail, and grant to Thy servants all strength and joyfulness, that they may preach Thy word.

### 3 Chorale

To God on high be thanks and praise,  
Who deigns our bonds to sever,  
His cares our drooping souls upraise,  
And harm shall reach us never.  
On him we rest, with faith assur'd,  
Of all that live the mighty Lord,  
For ever and for ever.

### 4 Recitative (*Soprano*)

And the many that believed were of one heart, and of one soul. And Stephen, full of faith and full of power, did great wonders among the people. And they of the Synagogue were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake. Then they suborned men who were false witnesses, which said:

#### The False Witnesses (*Basses*)

"We verily have heard him blaspheme against these holy places, and against the law: ourselves have heard him speak."

#### Recitative (*Soprano*)

And they stirred up the people and the elders, and came upon him, and caught hold of him, and brought him to the council, and spake:

### 5 Chorus of the people

"Now this man ceaseth not to utter blasphemous words against the law of Moses, and also God! "Did we not enjoin and straitly command you, that you should not teach in the Name you follow? And lo! ye have filled Jerusalem throughout with your unlawful doctrine! " He hath said, and our ears have heard him, Jesus of Nazareth, He shall destroy all these our holy places, and change all the customs which Moses delivered us."

### 6 Recitative (*Soprano*)

And all that sat in the council looked steadfastly on him, and saw his face as it had been the face of an angel. Then said the High Priest: "Are these things so?" And Stephen said:

#### Recitative Stephen (*Tenor*)

"Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken to me.

The God of glory appeared unto our fathers, delivered the people out of their afflictions, and gave them favour. But they understood it not. He sent Moses into Egypt, for he saw their afflictions and heard their groaning. But they refused him, and would not obey his word, but thrust him from them, and sacrificed to senseless idols.

"Solomon built him an house; albeit the Most High God dwelleth not in temples which are made with hands; for heaven is His throne, and earth is but His footstool. Hath not His hand made all these things?

"Ye hard of heart, ye always do resist the Holy Ghost. As did your fathers, even so do ye. Which of the Prophets have not your fathers persecuted? And they have slain them which showed before the coming of Him, the Just One, with whose murder ye have here been stained. Ye have received the Law by the dis-position of angels, and ye have not obeyed it."

#### Chorus of the Hebrews

"Take him away! For now the holy Name of God he hath blasphemed, and who blasphemes Him, he shall perish!"

#### Recitative Stephen (*Tenor*)

"Lo! I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

### 7 Air (*Soprano*)

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the Prophets, thou that stonest them which are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered unto Me thy children, and ye would not!"

### 8 Recitative (*Tenor*)

Then they ran upon him with one accord, and cast him out of the city, and stoned him, and cried aloud:

#### Chorus of the Hebrews

"Stone him to death. He blasphemes God: and who does so shall surely perish. Stone him to death."

### 9 Recitative (*Tenor*)

And they stoned him: and he kneeled down. and cried aloud: "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."  
And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

#### Chorale

To Thee, O Lord, I yield my spirit,  
Who break'st, in love, this mortal chain.  
My life I but from Thee inherit,  
And death becomes my chiefest gain.  
In Thee I live, in Thee I die,  
Content, for Thou art ever nigh.

**10 Recitative (Soprano)**

And the witnesses had laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man whose name was Saul, who was consenting unto his death. And devout men took Stephen and carried him to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

**11 Chorus**

Happy and blest are they who have endured, yea, blest and happy. For though the body dies, the soul shall live for ever.

**12 Recitative (Tenor)**

And Saul made havoc of the Church; and breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples, he spake of them much evil, and said:

**Aria Saul (Bass)**

"Consume them all, Lord Sabaoth, consume all these Thine enemies. Behold, they will not know Thee, that Thou, our great Jehovah, art the Lord alone, the Highest over all the world. Pour out Thine indignation, and let them feel thy power."

**13 Recitative (Contralto)**

And he journeyed with companions towards Damascus, and had authority and command from the High Priest that he should bring them bound, men and women, unto Jerusalem.

**Arioso**

But the Lord is mindful of His own, He remembers His children. Bow down before Him, ye mighty, for the Lord is near us.

**The Conversion****14 Recitative (Tenor and Bass) and Chorus**

And as he journeyed he came near unto Damascus; when suddenly there shone around him a light from heaven; and he fell to the earth; and he heard a voice saying unto him: "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" And he said, "Lord, who art Thou?" And the Lord said to him: "I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest." And he said, trembling and astonished, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me do?" The Lord said to him: "Arise, and go into the city; and there thou shalt be told what thou must do."

**15 Chorus**

Rise up! arise! rise, and shine! for thy light comes, and the glory of the Lord doth appear upon thee. Behold, now, total darkness covereth the kingdoms and gross darkness the people. But upon thee riseth the mighty Lord; and the glory of the Lord appeareth upon thee.

**16 Chorale**

Sleepers, wake, a voice is calling;  
It is the watchman on the walls,  
Thou city of Jerusalem.  
For lo, the Bridegroom comes!  
Arise, and take your lamps. Hallelujah!  
Awake! His kingdom is at hand.  
Go forth to meet your Lord.

**17 Recitative (Tenor)**

And his companions which journeyed with him stood, and they were afraid, hearing a voice but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth, and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus, and he was three days without sight, and did neither eat nor drink.

**18 Aria Paul (Bass)**

"O God, have mercy upon me, and blot out my transgressions according to Thy loving kindness, yea, even for Thy mercy's sake. Deny me not, O cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Spirit from me, O Lord. Lord, a broken heart and a contrite heart is offered before Thee. I will speak of Thy salvation, I will teach transgressors, and all the sinners shall be converted unto Thee. Then open Thou my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall show forth thy glorious praise."

**19 Recitative (Tenor and Soprano)**

And there was a disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; to him said the Lord, "Ananias, rise, and enquire thou for Saul of Tarsus; for behold, he prayeth. He is a chosen vessel unto Me, the Lord; and I will shew unto him how great things he must suffer for My Name's sake."

**20 Aria Paul (Bass)**

I praise Thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart, for evermore. For great is Thy mercy toward me, and Thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.

**Chorus**

The Lord, He is good: He will dry your tears, and heal all your sorrows. For His word shall not decay.

**21 Recitative (Soprano and Tenor)**

And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house, and laying his hands upon him, said: "Hear thou, brother Saul! The Lord hath sent me hither, even Jesus" that appeared unto thee as thou camest, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be likewise filled with the Holy Ghost." And there fell from his eyes like as though it were scales; and he received his sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptised. And straightway



he preached Jesus in the synagogues, and said: I thank God, who hath made me free through Christ."

## 22 Chorus

O great is the depth of the riches of wisdom and knowledge of the Father! How deep and unerring is He in His judgments! His ways are past our understanding. Sing His glory for evermore. Amen.

## Interval (20 minutes)

*(Refreshments on sale in the Bingham Suite)*

## Part Two

### 23 Chorus

The nations are now the Lord's, they are His Christ's. For all the Gentiles come before thee, and shall worship Thy Name. Now are made manifest Thy glorious law and judgments.

### 24 Recitative (Soprano)

And Paul came to the congregation, and preached freely the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Then spake the Holy Ghost: "Set ye apart Barnabas and Paul, for the work whereunto I have called them." And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

### 25 Duet Paul and Barnabas (Tenor and Bass)

Now we are ambassadors in the Name of Christ, and God beseecheth you by us.

### 26 Chorus

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace! To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words, throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

### 27 Recitative and Arioso (Soprano)

So they, being filled with the Holy Ghost, departing thence delayed not, and preached the word of God with joyfulness.

I will sing of Thy great mercies, O Lord, my Saviour, and of Thy faithfulness evermore.

### 28 Recitative (Tenor)

But when the Jews saw the multitudes, how they assembled to hear what Paul delivered unto them, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

### Chorus of the multitude

Thus saith the Lord: "I am the Lord, and beside Me is no Saviour."

### Recitative (Tenor)

And they laid wait for Paul, and consulted together that they might kill him, and spake one to another:

### 29 Chorus of the multitude

"Is this he, who in Jerusalem destroyed all calling on that Name which here he preacheth? May all deceivers ever be confounded! Force him away. Hence, away."

### Chorale (Quartet and Chorus)

O Thou, the true and only Light,  
Direct the souls that walk in night;  
And bring them 'neath Thy shelt'ring care,  
To find their blest redemption there.  
Illumine those who blindly roam;  
And call the wand'rer kindly home:  
The hearts astray that union crave,  
And those in doubt, confirm and save.

### 30 Recitative (Tenor)

But Paul and Barnabas spake freely and publicly unto the people:

### Recitative Paul (Bass)

"Ye were chosen first to have the word of the Lord set before you; but, seeing that ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of the life everlasting, behold ye, we turn, even now, unto the Gentiles;"

### 31 Duet Paul and Barnabas (Tenor and Bass)

"For so hath the Lord Himself commanded: 'Behold, I have made thee a light to the Gentiles, and for salvation unto all of the earth.' "For those who call on the Lord, He will hear them, and they shall be blessed."

### 32 Recitative (Soprano)

And there was a man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, and who had never walked: and the same heard Paul speak; who, stedfastly beholding him, said with a loud voice: "Stand upright upon thy feet." And he leaped up and walked, and praised God. But when the Gentiles saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying one to another:

### 33 Chorus of Gentiles

"The gods themselves as mortals have descended. Behold them here, and adore them! Behold, and worship! Let us all adore them!"

### 34 Recitative (Soprano)

And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius. Then the priest of Jupiter, which was

before the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and would have sacrificed with the people, and adored them.

### 35 Chorus of Gentiles

O be gracious, ye immortals! Heed our sacrifice with favour!

### 36 Recitative (Tenor)

Now when the Apostles heard the same, they rent their garments, and ran in among the people, crying out, and saying:

#### Recitative Paul (Bass)

"O wherefore do ye these things? We also are men, of like passions with yourselves; who preach unto you, in peace and earnestness, that ye should turn away from all these vanities unto the ever living God, who made the out-stretched heavens, the earth, and the sea.

"As saith the prophet; 'All your idols are but falsehood, and there is no breath in them: they are vanity, and the work of errors: in the time of their trouble they shall perish.

"God dwelleth not in temples made with hands.

#### Air Paul (Bass)

"For know ye not that ye are His temple, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth within you? And whoso'er God's temple defileth, God shall sure destroy him; For the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

#### Solo (Bass)

"But our God abideth high in heaven, His will directeth all the world."

### 37 Recitative (Soprano)

Then the multitude was stirred up against them, and there was an assault of the Jews and of the Gentiles; they were full of anger, and cried out against them:

### 38 Chorus of the Jews and Gentiles

"This is Jehovah's temple. Ye children of Israel, help us! For this is the man who teacheth all men, against the people, against this place, and also our holy law. We have heard him speak against the law. He blasphemeth God. Stone him to death."

### 39 Recitative (Soprano)

And they all persecuted Paul on his way: but the Lord stood with him, and strengthened him, that by him the word might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear.

### 40 Aria (Tenor)

"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give to thee a crown of life. Be not afraid. My help is nigh."

### 41 Recitative (Soprano)

And Paul sent and called the elders of the Church at Ephesus, and said to them:

#### Recitative Paul (Bass)

"Ye know how at all seasons I have been with you, serving the Lord with all humility, and with many tears; testifying the faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold ye, I, bound in spirit, go my way to Jerusalem. Bonds and affliction abide me there; and ye shall see my face no more."

#### Recitative (Soprano)

And they all wept sore and prayed:

### 42 Quartet and Chorus of the congregation

"Far be it from thy path: these things shall not be unto thee."

#### Recitative Paul (Bass)

"What mean ye thus to weep, and thus to break my heart? For I am prepared, not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem, for the Name of the Lord our Saviour Jesus Christ."

#### Recitative (Tenor)

And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all. And they accompanied him unto the ship, and saw his face no more.

### 43 Chorus

See what love hath the Father bestowed on us, in His goodness, that we should be called God's own children.

### 44 Recitative (Soprano)

And though he be offered upon the sacrifice of our faith, yet he hath fought a good fight: he hath finished his course; he hath kept well the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for him a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give him at the last great day.

### 45 Chorus

Not only unto him, but to all them that love truly His appearing. The Lord careth for us, and blesseth us. The Lord saveth us. Bless thou the Lord, O my soul, and all within me bless and praise His most holy Name for ever. All ye His angels, praise ye the Lord.



## About the Choral Society

Cirencester Choral Society, founded in 1863, currently has well over 100 members. We are a registered charity largely dependent on our members' subscriptions and fundraising initiatives. We value the help we receive from some of the local companies in the town but we are always keen to talk to anyone who would like to sponsor our concerts or help in other ways.

Our Conductor **Carleton Etherington** has been directing us since January 2005. He is Organist of Tewkesbury Abbey, directs the Abbey Choir and accompanies the Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum. Carleton features on many CD recordings and broadcasts regularly on the BBC. Our accompanist **Jenny Rees** also joined us in January 2005. She is a freelance professional musician and teacher, and has assembled (and is one of) the instrumentalists who perform with us tonight under the banner of *Corinium Camerata* – see back cover.

If you have experience in choral singing and an enthusiasm and a commitment to attend weekly rehearsals, we would be pleased to meet you. We practise on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30 pm at St Peter's Hall, St Peter's Rd, Cirencester. Our season runs from September to May. Rehearsals for our December 2009 concert (Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*) begin on Tuesday 8th September.

If you are interested in helping or joining us, please contact Phil Tubs, Chairman (01367 253762) or Anne Vickers, Membership Secretary (01285 659114), or visit our website at [www.cirencester-choral-soc.org.uk](http://www.cirencester-choral-soc.org.uk)

## Our members

### *Soprano*

Janet Bayley, Liz Beak, Sybil Bride, Sue Burton, Pamela Clayton, Janine Coleridge, Hannah Collis, Beverley Coxhead, Alison Crooks, Anne Davies, Sandra Dent, Irene Devitt, Marta Ferro, Alison Goodall, Jenny Hall, Julia Hasler, Diana Heywood, Judith Ivison, Patsy Jackson, Angela Jones, Valerie Joyce, Valerie Lambert, Beryl Le Bars, Mary Ludbrook, Diane Martin, Margaret McIvor, Julie Morris, Margaret Mullin, Jennette Murphy, Shirley Nicholas, Eunice Page, Penny Phillips, Susie Rigsby, Jacqueline Shepherd, Wiggly Talbot Rice, Ruth Terry, Anne Vickers, Amanda Wheatley, Jacqueline Wilson

### *Alto*

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### *Tenor*

Amiyo Banerjee, Derek Bristow, Andy Crane, Rob Crow, Mike Harvey, David Homer, Ros Ivison, John Liptrot, Alastair Macdonald, John Martin, Graham Shearn, Robin Thompson, Ann Williams, Michael Winter

### *Bass*

John Appleton, John Avery, Digby Bew, Bernard Crooks, Robert Crowther, Richard Davies, Garth De Courcy-Ireland, Anthony Eyre, Raymond Fenton, Keith Greenwood, John Hicks, Richard Kent, Nigel Kinson, Colin Levine, Richard Mullings, Tim Page, Philip Parkinson, Nick Pride, Nic Pulford, Geoff Richards, Bob Selby, Alan Huw Smith, Graeme Tonge, Phil Tubbs

# Corinium Camerata

*Flute:* Jane Groves, Lucy Rees; *Oboe:* Barbara McConochie, Charlotte Bird; *Clarinet:* Jenny Rees, Sam Rees;  
*Bassoon:* Diana Lee, Ellie Whitfield

*Horn:* Laura Morris, Laura Daykin, Alison Harris, Bernard Lovell; *Trumpet:* Paul Harris, Alan Andrews;  
*Trombone:* Phil Harris, Andy Derrick; *Bass trombone:* Iain Stanbridge; *Tuba:* Simon Derrick

*Timpani:* James Bower

*Violin 1:* Andrew Court, Anna Jenkins, Helen Goodman, Sonia Nash; *Violin 2:* Richard Thompson,  
Therese De Souza, Catherine Fowles, Anita Silverston; *Viola:* Rachel Wilks, Emily Docherty;  
*Cello:* Carole Fletcher, Diana Statham; *Double Bass:* Philippa Morgan

## *Forthcoming concerts*

*Saturday 5 December 2009*

### **Bach's CHRISTMAS ORATORIO** (Parts 1, 2, 3 and 6)

*Saturday 1 May 2010*

### **Haydn's 'NELSON' MASS** **Mozart's SOLEMN VESPERS**

**Tickets go on sale one month before the concert dates and are  
available from members, from the Cirencester Visitor Information  
Centre or via the Society's website**

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