

Birmingham Bach Society/Birmingham Bach Choir.

Commissions and First Performances.

<https://birmingham.bachchoir.com/choir-repertoire.html>

Wofully Araide - *David Lord*. Commissioned by the Birmingham Bach Society, first performed 16th May 1970.

Passion Canticles - *Rory Boyle*. Commissioned by the Birmingham Bach Society with funds from West Midlands Arts, first performed 27th March 1982.

The Darling of the World - *Paul Spicer*. Commissioned by the Birmingham Bach Society with funds from West Midlands Arts, first performed 13th December 1986.

Blest Glorious Man - *John Joubert*. Commissioned by Nicholas Fisher, first performed 8th June 1991 in Birmingham Cathedral, (including works by Gibbons, Byrd, Bach and Britten.

The Rochester Triptych - *John Joubert*. Commissioned by Nicholas Fisher and first performed complete on 9th April 1994 in Prague.

How God Answers the Soul - *Aaron Jay Kernis*. Commissioned by Nicholas Fisher, first performed 20th July 1996.

Man, Wretched Man - *Paul Spicer*. Commissioned by Nicholas Fisher in celebration of the 350th anniversary of the birth of John Wilmot, 2nd Earl of Rochester (1647-1680), first performed on 22nd March 1997 in Adderbury Parish Church. The programme also included Joubert's Rochester Triptych.

Love and Life – *Adrian Partington*. Commissioned by Nigel Whitling, first performed 20th March 1999.

The Deciduous Cross – *Paul Spicer*. Commissioned by Nicholas Fisher to mark the tenth year of Paul Spicer's conductorship, first performed 21st June 2003.

Christmas – *Paul Spicer*. Commissioned by Pauline Round, first performed 6th December 2003.

Nativity – *Paul Spicer*. Commissioned by Mollie Martineau, Michael Palmer and Nigel Whitling in memory of Denis Martineau (Past President), first performed 27th November 2004.

Festival – *Paul Spicer*. Commissioned by the Birmingham Bach Choir, first performed 10th December 2005 at the Bournville "Christmas Cheer" and repeated on 18th December 2005 as part of the St, Paul's Carol Service.

[**Christmas, Nativity and Festival** form part of **How Love Bleeds** - Four Carols for Dark Times. The final one is called **Carol** which has yet to have its first performance.]

My Heart Danceth – *Eleanor Alberga*. Commissioned by the Birmingham Bach Choir with financial assistance from West Midlands Arts, first performed on 15th December 2007.

Unfinished Remembering – *Paul Spicer*. Commissioned by the Birmingham Bach Choir, with funds from the John Feeny Charitable Trust. first performed 13th September 2014.

A Shared Singing – *Paul Spicer*. Commissioned by Kate Crocker, first performed 13th September 2014,(with Unfinished Remembering).

Silent Night - arrangement with tenor solo – *Paul Spicer*. Commissioned by Merryn Lloyd, first performed on 21st December 2014.

Now is the time of Christmas – *Paul Spicer*. Commissioned by Michael Palmer, first performed 20th December 2015.

Steal Away – *Paul Spicer*. A re-imagining of the spiritual by Paul Spicer for the Birmingham Bach Choir in its Centenary Year, first performed 22nd June 2019.

The Dear Bargain (Charitas Nimia) – *David Bednall*. Commissioned by Birmingham Bach Choir with grateful thanks to The John Feeney Charitable Trust and Michael Palmer (Vice President, Birmingham Bach Choir), first performed 4th December 2021.

Sound the Invisible Trumps – *Paul Spicer*. Commissioned by the Birmingham Bach Choir with funds from a legacy from the late Pauline Round, long time friend of the choir and its President (from 2010 – 2015), first performed 2nd April 2022.

Descants to Hark the herald angels sing, Come thou Redeemer, Hark a thrilling voice is sounded, O come all ye faithful, While shepherds watched, Once in Royal David's city, It came upon a midnight clear and O little town of Bethlehem - *Paul Spicer*. Commissioned by Merryn Lloyd, first performed in December 2014, 2015,2016 and 2019.

Initially compiled by Michael Palmer (past Archivist of the choir)
Updated January 2023