

The Cantilena Singers

Daniel Spreadbury – Director

From madrigal to musical



Saturday 19 July 2025

St John's Church, Little Wilbraham

Fair Phyllis I saw	John Farmer (c. 1570–c.1601)
Weep, o mine eyes	John Bennet (c. 1575–after 1614)
Now is the month of Maying	Thomas Morley (1557–1602)
The silver swan	Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625)

Weep you no more, sad fountains	
What if I never speed?	John Dowland (c. 1563–1626)
<i>Caille Sugarman-Banaszak (soprano)</i>	

Dim-lit woods (<i>Waldesnacht</i> , Op. 62 No. 3)	
O lovely May (<i>O süßer Mai</i> , Op. 93a No. 3)	
In autumn (<i>Im herbst</i> , Op. 104 No. 5)	Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

Selection from <i>Songs of Farewell</i>	
My soul, there is a country	
I know my soul hath power to know all things	
Never, weather-beaten sail	
There is an old belief	C. Hubert H. Parry (1848–1918)

Selection from <i>Five Partsongs</i>	
Dream tryst	
Ye little birds	Gustav Holst (1874–1934)

Selection from <i>Till Earth Outwears</i> , Op. 15a	Gerald Finzi (1901–1956)
<i>Daniel Spreadbury (tenor)</i>	

Three Hungarian Folksongs	Matyas Seiber (1905–1960)
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When I Fall In Love	Heyman & Young (arr. Phil Azelton)
The Way You Look Tonight	Fields & Kern (arr. DS)
What I Did For Love	Kleban & Hamlisch (arr. Nicholas Hare)
A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square	
	Maschwitz & Sherwin (arr. Michael Kibblewhite)
My Favourite Things	Rodgers & Hammerstein (arr. DS)

About this afternoon's programme

Our programme today takes you on a journey through over four centuries of choral and vocal music, exploring how composers across eras have expressed love, longing, joy, and reflection.

We open with lively English madrigals of the late Renaissance, including Farmer's playful *Fair Phyllis I saw*, Bennet's poignant *Weep, O mine eyes*, and Morley's evergreen celebration of spring, *Now is the month of Maying*. These works, with their intricate word-painting and buoyant rhythms, contrast with the contemplative beauty of Orlando Gibbons' *The Silver Swan* – a miniature masterpiece of melancholy.

Two songs by John Dowland, renowned for his bittersweet lute songs, continue the theme of love's joys and sorrows.

From here, we move into the Romantic era with Johannes Brahms' richly harmonised partsongs, which combine folk-inspired lyricism with warm, expressive textures. These are followed by a selection from Sir Hubert Parry's *Songs of Farewell*, where the English choral tradition meets profound spiritual introspection, and two of Gustav Holst's delicate *Five Partsongs*, which paint dreamlike and pastoral scenes.

Finzi's *Till Earth Outwears*, with its sensitivity to poetry, bridges Romanticism and 20th-century modernism, while Matyas Seiber's *Three Hungarian Folk-songs* bring vibrant folk rhythms and harmonies to life.

The final section celebrates the golden age of 20th-century song and musical theatre. From the tender lyricism of *When I Fall in Love* to the timeless charm of *The Way You Look Tonight*, the heartfelt *What I Did for Love*, and Rodgers' exuberant *My Favourite Things*, this closing set shows how the spirit of song continues to evolve while remaining rooted in melody, story, and emotion.

Daniel Spreadbury, Director

The Cantilena Singers

Soprano

Hilary Burton
Elizabeth Longford
Alison McRobb
Cath Stubbs
Ana Sugarman-Banaszak
Caille Sugarman-Banaszak

Tenor

Steven Aronson
Tony Jolley
Sam Spreadbury
Robert Stevens

Alto

Jane Bower
Caroline Courtney
Evelyn Payne
Judy Rowland

Bass

Chris Fell
Mike Gait
Nick Longford
Tim Rowland

The Cantilena Singers is a well-established chamber choir that performs regularly in Cambridge and the surrounding villages. The choir was founded in 1983 and has been performing locally and promoting the joy of choral singing for more than 40 years.

We are always looking for new members. If you would like to join us, please get in touch.



Daniel Spreadbury read for a degree in music at University College, Oxford, where he studied singing with Alastair Thompson, founder member of the King's Singers, and sang with and directed a variety of college and chapel choirs around the city. After graduating, Daniel took up a position as tenor lay clerk in the choir of Ely Cathedral, before leaving to pursue his career in music notation software. Daniel has been the director of Cantilena since 2001.



Next performance

Sunday 14 December, 4pm, Trinity College Chapel

We are delighted to be performing once again in aid of Maggie's, the cancer charity, for its annual Christmas carol concert. More details to follow!