

## **Jubilate**

**Bob Chilcott** (b.1955)

Bob Chilcott is one of the busiest and most popular choral composers and conductors in Britain today. He has been involved in choral music for most of his life. He was a boy chorister and then a tenor choral scholar in the choir of King's College, Cambridge. For twelve years he sang with, composed and arranged for the celebrated King's Singers. Since 1997 he has worked as a full-time composer. Today, Bob is in great demand internationally as composer, conductor and choral consultant. He has been invited to appear at many important international festivals, and has worked with some of the world's leading choral ensembles. At home, he is currently Principal Guest Conductor of the BBC Singers.

Bob Chilcott's singing experience has given him an inside knowledge of an exceptionally wide range of music, and this is reflected in the eclectic nature of his own compositions which, whilst remaining within the mainstream English choral tradition, are variously inspired by folksongs, Gregorian chant, Anglican hymns, spirituals, jazz, close-harmony, gospel and African music.

*Jubilate* was written for the University of Kansas Chamber Choir, who gave its premier in 1998. Chilcott uses not only the traditional *Jubilate* text, Psalm 100, but also the moving poem 'Song' by the 19<sup>th</sup> century priest-poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins. In the opening section broad, lyrical choral writing is set against a busy semiquaver accompaniment. The reflective, very personal Hopkins poem that follows is sung first by a solo soprano and then repeated by the full choir. After this comes the lively 'Be ye sure', full of energetic rhythms which eventually give way to the peaceful 'We are his people'. A fanfare-like flourish provides the musical framework for the next section, 'O go your way', after which the broad melody heard at the beginning returns for 'Be thankful'. The serene final section, 'For the Lord is gracious', brings the *Jubilate* to a close in an atmosphere of quiet stillness.

*programme notes by John Bawden*

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