

Newsletter
March 2022

La Folia



Salisbury Cathedral

We are delighted to announce that Howard Moody's new work **STONE SONGS** will open the Salisbury International Arts Festival with two performances on **27th May 2022 at 7pm and 9pm** in Salisbury Cathedral.

Stone Songs

Composed by Howard Moody
Commissioned by La Folia

'We, like living stones, will make it sound again'

Written 800 years after the laying of the Cathedral's foundation stone, *Stone Songs* is a work for soloists, chorus and orchestra, reflecting on the skill, vision

and dedication that it took to build such a magnificent building, and inspired by the ancient chants that have resonated from the stones since the 13th century.

The piece was due to be premiered at Salisbury Cathedral in May 2020, produced in partnership with Wiltshire Creative, underpinned by the power of the newly-refurbished Cathedral organ and featuring the 120 voices of Salisbury Festival Chorus. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the concert was postponed.

We are pleased to announce that STONE SONGS will now open the Salisbury International Arts Festival 2022 with two performances on Friday 27th May at 7pm and 9pm.

Conductor Howard Moody
with La Folia Players and Salisbury Festival Chorus

Soprano Nazan Fikret
Mezzo Soprano Helen Charlston
Tenor Nick Pritchard
Baritone Sam Poppleton
Bass Jamie Woollard

Priority Ticket Sales open **NOW**
General Ticket Sales open **15th March 2022**
[**CLICK HERE**](#) for more details and tickets

La Folia's commissioning of Stone Songs was supported by Fawcetts Chartered Accountants, an anonymous trust, Mr and Mrs J Carvell, Lady Newbigging, Veronica Stewart Arts Trust and two La Folia Friends.

The performances are supported by Dick Clements, Penny Marland, Chris and Clem Martin, Veronica Stewart Arts Trust, Michael Wade, and three La Folia Trustees.

Programme note by composer Howard Moody

Seven sections for large chorus and soloists are punctuated by six variations on original Gregorian chants from the ancient ritualistic manuscripts known as The Sarum Rite, stored in the Cathedral library since the 13th Century.

Stone Songs reflects on how the stones evolved over millions of years of geological time. Individual stones were quarried and then selected by tapping them with a brass rod in order to discover any fractures or fossilised air pockets that would weaken their strength.

References from the Bible express the human capacity for vision including references to the ancient archetypal stories of Jacob's Ladder, Solomon's Temple and Peter 'The Rock'. The Latin texts include *Nisi Dominus* ('The Builders' Psalm'), encouraging quality and commitment in a craftsman's pursuit of divine proportion. Their work ethic is articulated in *The Regis Manuscript* from the late 14th Century, demanding that workers trust and support each other.

A workers' chorus and a *Lacrimosa* reflect on all those who sacrificed their lives during this treacherous pursuit of architectural perfection.

The 2018 fire at Notre Dame in Paris inspired a community responsibility to protect and preserve great architecture. As the Gregorian chant expresses – *Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est* – where there is charity and love, there God is. Visionary buildings of beautiful proportion are more than the sum of their parts, drawing us together as one.

We very much look forward to seeing you at one of the performances!
In the meantime, do watch Howard's introduction below.



Artistic Director and composer Howard Moody introduces his new work Stone Songs

SUPPORT US

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