This concert is dedicated to Sianed Jones (1959-2022)

Sianed in 'I Reach Right Up To The Sun', Houghton Hall, 2019. Photo: Phil Sayer.

Sianed was a dear friend, a close collaborator of ours for many years and a fantastic musician. She was central to many of our projects and performances. We miss her greatly.

You can hear her music and see her projects at:
https://www.voiceproject.co.uk/sianed-jones

The Voice Project Choir is open-access, with no requirement to read music. To find out more about us, how to join the choir or to sign up to our mailing list, visit our website.

www.voiceproject.co.uk

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Thanks to Jenny and all at Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh, Maya Lever, Brian Guthrie, Nicky Stainton, Waveney & Blyth Arts, Cindy Lee Wright

THE
VOICE
PROJECT

Arc Of The Sky

Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh, 2 July 2022

A new choral theatre piece performed by
The Voice Project Choir
Jeremy Avis tenor
Jonathan Baker bass
Lisa Cassidy soprano
Sian Croose alto
Sharon Durant soprano
Adrian Lever piano/hammered dulcimer
Rowland Sutherland flute & piccolo
Devised and directed by
Sian Croose and Jonathan Baker

In March 2020, the choirs fell silent, just as we had planned to start rehearsing a new show. Plans were adapted to take the rehearsal process online and working with filmmaker Nathan Clarke and art director Sal Pittman we created Arc of the Sky, a 30-minute film inspired by the idea of a birds-eye view of Holy Trinity Church at Blythburgh and the surrounding landscape. Over 2 years later, we are able to come together and present this music live, in the place that inspired it.

Heron

Words Jane Draycott
Music Jonathan Baker

We shall have no clouds today, only
the wasps' slow eclipse of the windfalls
and archangel heron fanning what fires?

Bone by bone I lay myself out
in the grass wonder what you will do
to put the heart across me now?

The Bluebird

Words Henry David Thoreau
Music Sian Croose

The bluebird carries the sky on its back

I Am Alone I Am Not Alone

Words and music Orlando Gough

I am alone
Alone on a moor
Above me a skylark sings, hovers and sings
A skylark sings and I am not alone

Who Crouches In the Aisles

Words George Szirtes
Music Jonathan Baker

Who crouches in the aisles
who moves owl wise, skywards
Who cruises through nave and air
Billowing between clerestory and triforium
Who hugs hard stone or follows
The spiral stair
by Caen stone
To a level hanging 'O'

The World On Either Side

Words Edna St Vincent Millay
Music Sian Croose

The world stands out on either side
No wider than the heart is wide;
Above the world is stretched the sky,
No higher than the soul is high.
The heart can push the sea and land
Farther away on either hand;
The soul can split the sky in two,
And let the face of love shine through.

Skylark Sings All Day

Words Basho
Music Orlando Gough

Skylark sings all day
All day not long enough

Higher Still And Higher

Words Percy Bysshe Shelley
Music Orlando Gough

Higher still and higher
From the earth thou springest
Like a cloud of fire;
The blue deep thou wingest,
And singing still dost soar, and soaring
ever singest.

There Is Another Sky

Words Emily Dickinson
Music Sian Croose

There is another sky,
Ever serene and fair,
And there is another sunshine,
Though it be darkness there;
Never mind faded forests,
Never mind faded fields
Here is a forest,
Whose leaf is ever green;
Here is a garden,
Where not a frost has been;
In its unfading flowers
I hear the bright bee hum:
And there is sunshine
Into my garden come!

All Day Not Long Enough

Words Basho
Music Orlando Gough

Skylark sings all day
All day not long enough

The Spacious Firmament

Words Joseph Addison
Music Jonathan Baker

The Spacious Firmament on high,
With all the blue Ethereal Sky,
And spangled Heav'ns, a Shining Frame,
Their great Original proclaim:
Th' unwearied Sun, from day to day

Soon as the Evening Shades prevail,
The Moon takes up the wondrous tale,
And nightly to the list'ning Earth
Repeats the Story of her Birth:
Whilst all the stars that round her burn,

What though, in solemn Silence, all
Move round the dark terrestrial Ball?
What tho' nor real Voice nor Sound
Amid their radiant Orbs be found?
And utter forth a glorious Voice

One Voice

Words George Meredith
Music Orlando Gough

One skylark sings
The voice of one for millions,
In whom the millions rejoice
For giving their one spirit voice

The Peace Of Wild Things

Words Wendell Berry
Music Jonathan Baker

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's
lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great
heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

In Beauty

Words traditional Navajo trans. Jerome Rothenburg
Music Orlando Gough

In beauty may I walk
All day long may I walk
Through the returning seasons may I walk
Beautifully will I possess again
Beautifully birds
Beautifully joyful birds
On the trail marked with pollen may I walk
With grasshoppers about my feet may I walk
With dew about my feet may I walk
With beauty may I walk
With beauty before me may I walk
With beauty behind me may I walk
With beauty above me may I walk
With beauty all around me may I walk
In old age, wandering on a trail of beauty, lively,
may I walk
In old age, wandering on a trail of beauty, living
again, may I walk
It is finished in beauty

Arc of the Sky choir Norwich, Brighton and online:

Carol Averill, Marilda Barton, Martha Bergin, Margaret Bird, Christine Burton, Gabriel Black, Vicky Boorman, Luke Broom-Lynne, Tracey Brown, David Buckton, Carole Bull, Martin Bull, Andrew Bulman, Bill Camplin, Michelle Clingan, Maureen Davis, Laura Davis, Anne Dinsdale, Dominic Edmonds, Rachel Everett, Lucy Farrant, Jacqueline Fear-Segal, Berenice Fenn, John Flack, Ann Follows, Heather Ford, Rachel Frain, Amanda Geitner, Rachael Graham, Rachel Graveling Richard Gray, Brian Guthrie, Bruni Hall, David Hall, Peter Handsley, Anne Harrison, Terry Harwood, Joey Herzfeld, Lindsay Heywood, Ruth Katra, John Knights, Jo Mack, Fran Mann-Andrews, Linda Martin, Beryl Matthews, Barbara McKeown, Jenni Medlock, Ann Nicholls, Trish Norman, Gillian Osborne, Simon Parker, Angela Petran, Dawn Reddish, Karen Reilly, Joanna Reynolds, Katherine Rice, Paul Rowland, Carolyn Rush, Ian Rycroft, Matthew Salmon, Kate Saltmarsh, Tara Sampy, Julie Sanderson, Stevie Savage, Joan Sayer, Rita Schuilling, Sally Shave, Louise Sheridan, Sheila Sherwood, Anna Sims, Harriet Smith, Paul Steward, Tess Tebboth, Susan Thomas, Claire Walding, Frances Wallis, Stan Ward, Alice Wheatley, Annie Wilson, Gillian Wood, Peter Woodyard, Fianna Dodwell, Jennifer Dutiro, Christopher Gooding, Sue Greenleaves, Roger Jackson, Marianne Johnson, Claire Kidman, Jenny Knight, Carolyn Pickering, Peter Watkins, Sue Wright, Jani Wymer, Frances Aldrich, Helen Beaumont, Catherine Bishop, Caroline Boles, Susan Booth, Lorna Casey, Jen Coles, Gill Cooper, Janet Eldridge, Tig Evans, Sarah Ford, Caroline Francis, Paula Gardner, Christina Goff, Nicky Goodland, Steve Gove, Alison Green, Michelle Hornsbury, Sarah Jackson, Angela Kallabis, Sue Kazemi, Tina Lehmbeck, Sabrina Lewis, Tony Lewis, Rosamond Lomax, Nick Lomax, Gillian Luckock, Karen Macmillan, Keith McCourt, Susan McNally, Hatty Morgan, Rowena Park, Anna Pedroza, Fran Perry, Carolyn Pickering, Charlotte Stevens, Marina Stubbs, Jan Thompson-Smith, Amanda Tombs, Pam Tyler, Amelia Wakeford, Liz Ward.