

On April 2nd, at 7.30 pm in Tavistock Parish Church, the South West Chamber Choir will be presenting a concert of choral music covering six centuries. The programme will include a variety of sacred pieces ranging from Thomas Tallis's I call and cry to Thee, O Lord through to the well-known Cantique de Jean Racine by Gabriel Faure, and a setting of The Beatitudes by the modern Estonian composer Arvo Pärt. However, this year the South West Chamber Choir is particularly proud to be giving the first performances of new pieces by two local composers. The first is the anthem There is but one God by Andrew Wilson, the second a set of Three Motets by Jason Smart; both composers have written these pieces especially for the Choir.

The Choir will be accompanied by Dr Sean Sweeney, Organist and Musical Director at Tavistock Parish Church. The violinist Don King and the recorder player Chrissie Russell will provide continuo support in some of the items.

Jason Smart studied at the Royal College of Music under Sidney Campbell (organ), Thornton Lofthouse (harpsichord) and Herbert Howells (composition), gaining a first prize for music theory and several diplomas including the ARCO with the Sawyer Prize. He subsequently became a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. For three years he was the organ scholar at St George's Chapel, Windsor and for part of that time acted as the assistant organist. He has played in a number of cathedrals at home and abroad as an accompanist or recitalist and for many years was a regular guest organist to the adult voluntary choir of Rochester Cathedral.



Jason also specialises in pre-Reformation Tudor Church Music. He was one of the editors for Oxford University Press's Tudor Church Music series and is a recipient of a Don Malin Award for Excellence of Research and Editing granted by the Music Publishers' Association of the US.



Andrew M Wilson was born in 1960 in Bedfordshire. He started composing at the age of seven and was a junior Exhibitioner at Trinity College of Music, London before proceeding to study Music at the Royal Holloway College at London University where his teachers included Brian Dennis for composition and Martin Neary for organ. He is well-known locally as Head of Music at Kelly College and Musical Director of the Kelly Choral Society. However, Andrew also has an international reputation as a composer, working across a wide range of musical genres and instrumental and choral combinations. His works are widely performed by some of the UK's most respected professional performers and his published works are easily available and enjoyed worldwide.

Dr Sean Sweeney held his first organist's post at the age of eleven in Swansea. He graduated from the University of Wales with an honours degree in Music and has an MA from Reading and a Doctorate from Bath University. He studied organ with Dr Michael Smith at Llandaff Cathedral and Colin Walsh at Salisbury. He has performed at many different concert venues both in the UK and abroad. He has been Assistant Music Director of the Morrision Orpheus Male Voice Choir, Conductor of the Southsea Symphony Orchestra and Music

Director of the South West Chamber Choir. In 2005 he was appointed Director of Music at Tavistock Parish Church, and recorded his first CD of organ music in 2006.

Tickets for the concert will be on sale in March from Book Stop, 3 Market St., Tavistock PL19 0DA (Tel: 01822 617244), price £7 (students £4), or on the door.

The concert is presented in support of The Plymouth and West Devon Cassette Talking Newspaper for the Blind, a Tavistock-based Charity producing weekly CDs of local news and features for Visually Impaired People. The CDs are distributed free to individuals and are also broadcast on Derriford Hospital Radio. Readings for the CDs are given by a dedicated team of volunteers who work hard to keep the charity's clients in touch with events in the area. If you would like to know more about The Plymouth and West Devon Cassette Talking Newspaper for the Blind the charity and its work, the contact telephone number is 01822 613611.

For further information about the Concert, please contact Phillida Jermain, tel 01752 847546, or email phillidajermain@hotmail.com.

For further information on the South West Chamber Choir, e-mail information.swcc@yahoo.co.uk or visit their web-site www.swcchoir.org.uk.