

WATER MUSIC

7.30PM, Thursday 12 June
Holy Trinity Cathedral

Director Andrew Beer

Handel *Water Music*: mvts. I–IV

Tippett (arr. Manning) *Time Past*

Handel *Water Music*: mvts. 6–9

Tippett (arr. Manning) *Time Present*

Handel *Water Music*: mvts. 16, 17 & 22

Tippett (arr. Manning) *Time Future*

Handel *Water Music*: mvts. 11–12

Programme Notes

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

Water Music (selections)

In order of performance:

I. Overture

II. Adagio e staccato

III. Allegro

IV. Andante

VI. Air

VII. Minuet

VIII. Bourrée

IX. Hornpipe

XVI. Lentement

XVII. Bourrée

XXII. Menuet (Coro)

XI. Allegro

XII. Alla Hornpipe

Handel has come to be one of the most recognisable composers of the Baroque era. Having spent his early life in Germany and Italy, he arrived in England in 1710 where he would eventually settle and become a naturalised British subject. There he was principal court composer first for Queen Anne, then King George I upon her death.

Royal river excursions on the Thames were documented in the summers of 1715–17, and it's highly likely Handel wrote the music to entertain the gathered aristocratic guests, and indeed he is mentioned by name in a guest's written account from July 1717.

Despite their popularity the original manuscripts didn't survive, and the collection of suites we know today as *Water Music* wasn't published until many years later.

Michael Kemp Tippett (1905–1998)

arr. Peter Manning

Time Past, Time Present, Time Future

I. Lento cantabile — *Time Past*

(from *String Quartet No.1*)

II. Andante — *Time Present*

(from *String Quartet No.2*)

III. Andante — *Time Future*

(from *String Quartet No.3*)

Born in London in 1905, Sir Michael Tippett was a leading British composer of the 20th century. The world events of his early life, especially the Second World War, affected him deeply and led to his most widely performed work, the secular oratorio *A Child of Our Time*.

He had a great love of Baroque and Elizabethan music including composers such as Tallis, Byrd and Purcell, and drew on rhythm and chord structures from this period — marrying traditional techniques with a modernistic idiom.

Time Past, Time Present, Time Future is a reflective arrangement of the slow lyric movements from Tippett's string quartets 1, 2, and 3 (composed between 1934 and 1946), by British conductor Peter Manning.

Manning describes Tippett's quartets as having:

"very different textures, rhythms, pace, speed and emotional content ... I believe that Michael is truly one of the great composers in his ability to create a musical dialogue with living audiences of today and his translation of sound and epoch embraces everything from Elizabethan and Baroque to modern dances."