

**“SPANNING 500 YEARS: MUSIC FROM 1510 TO 2010”
THE HEPTON SINGERS**

Saturday 3 July 2010, 8.00 pm, Heptonstall Parish Church

The starting point for the Hepton Singers' summer concert is the enticing fact that 2010 marks the 500th anniversary of the old packhorse bridge in Hebden Bridge. The 2010 Hebden Bridge Arts Festival will include several events to celebrate this landmark.

With bridges and 1510 in mind, we decided to juxtapose music from 1510 and 2010 in our programme. As one of the Choir's two co-directors, I have chosen a variety of sacred and secular music, both by composers born in 1510 and by earlier composers whose music would have been contemporary in that year. Interestingly from an early music point of view, this cuts out old favorites such as Tallis, Byrd, Morley, Palestrina et al, but has meant that we could explore slightly earlier and less well-known repertoire.

The programme includes music by Josquin des Pres, William Cornysh, and Clemens non Papa. All three composers wrote music to be sung both inside and outside the church; the music we shall be performing includes love songs, drinking songs, a pater noster, and some sublime sacred music, including Clemens' heart-rendingly beautiful setting of "O Maria, vernans rosa". We shall also be performing pieces by Francisco de Penalosa, Dominique Phinot, Louis Bourgeois, and not forgetting Henry VIII, who was the reigning monarch in 1510 and something of a musician himself!

Roger Scaife will conduct the Choir in Delius' enigmatic composition "To be sung of a summer night on the water"; and in the premiere of my own work, "Afresh, seven times," which sets a sequence of haiku-like poems by local poet Donald Atkinson in a musical composition of shifting moods - reflective, witty and watery.

Tickets may be booked online from the Hebden Bridge Arts Festival website <http://www.hbaf.co.uk> from 8th May onwards, when the festival programme is launched. Alternatively you can book tickets by post from the Hebden Bridge Arts Festival office, Albert Street, Hebden Bridge (tel: 01422-842684). The festival shop opens on 12th June.

Alison West