

**Thursday 3rd May 2018 at 7.30pm**

*The Old Rectory Hotel, Llangattock, NP8 1PH*

## FOLK NIGHT - MORFA

Our Festival starts with a spring in its step, courtesy of **Morfa**, three of Wales' most talented young musicians. With National Eisteddfod winners amongst their members, they offer us an inspiring mix of lively jigs and traditional songs from Wales and beyond, complete with demonstrations of Welsh clog dancing!

Clog dance workshop at 6.45pm for those wishing to try something new!

Drinks and bar food available from 6pm.

**Please contact the hotel on 01873 810373 to book meals**

**Sunday 6th May 2018 at 10am**

*St. Catwg's Church, Llangattock, NP8 1PH*

**Bach**

*Cantata BWV 16: Herr Gott, dich loben wir*

Originally intended to mark New Year celebrations, our Festival cantata, complete with its frequent references to that great song of thanksgiving, the Te Deum, presents one joyous song of praise. By connecting the worship of heaven with that on earth, the cantata's underlying theme becomes a desire that such musical praise will pour great blessings on all the community.

Featuring Festival instrumentalists, soloists and choral scholars

**Monday 7th May 2018 at 3pm**

*St Catwg's Church, Llangattock, NP8 1PH*

## SINGERS' RECITAL - THE DIVINE MONTEVERDI

In another Festival 'first', our Bank Holiday recital presents an exciting collaboration between our choral scholars and acclaimed soloists. Together they will reveal the marvels of Monteverdi's madrigals. Considered by many to contain some of music's finest moments, this sequence of contrasting close harmony and solo numbers will provide perfect illustrations of music's emotional powers.

**Crickhowell Choral Society, winners of the Welsh Amateur Music Federation's 2005 W.S. Gwynn Williams Award.**

Mae Gŵyl Gerddoriaeth Crughywel yn dathlu 24 mlwydd eleni. Rydym yn anelu at dorri tir newydd wrth berfformio repertoire cyffrous, anarferol ynghanol tirwedd brydferth Cwm Wysg.

This is the 24th Crickhowell Music Festival, which aims to promote refreshing performances of exciting repertoire amidst the beautiful scenery of the Usk Valley. The society is affiliated to the Welsh Amateur Music Federation and has its own patrons, friends and sponsorship scheme.

## TICKETS

**Saturday & Sunday Concerts** ..... £16.00

**Thursday Folk Night** ..... £10.00

**Monday Recital** ..... £10.00

*Students free at all events*

**Tickets can be purchased from:**

Webbs Crickhowell

[www.crickhowellchoralsociety.org](http://www.crickhowellchoralsociety.org),

Choir Members or telephone Genet Bevan (01873) 810935.

## ACCOMMODATION

For details of where to stay during the Festival please contact CRiC on **01873 811970** or visit **[www.crickhowellinfo.org.uk](http://www.crickhowellinfo.org.uk)**



CrickhowellChoralSociety



ChoralCrick

**[www.crickhowellchoralsociety.org](http://www.crickhowellchoralsociety.org)**

ALL DETAILS CORRECT AT TIME OF PUBLICATION.  
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1042098

# CRICKHOWELL MUSIC FESTIVAL 2018

## FEATURING

Jessica Cale

Mark Chambers

Nicholas Mulroy

Robert Davies

The Festival Baroque  
Players

## Music's Power Divine - A Harmony Beyond Words

Musical delights from royal palaces both here and in the realms above.



**Crickhowell Choral Society**

Singing in the Usk valley. Yn canu yng Nghwm Wysg

# MUSIC'S POWER DIVINE - A HARMONY BEYOND WORDS

*Musical delights from royal palaces both here and in the realms above*

Welcome to our 24th Music Festival that will take you straight to the heart of the matter: that is, why does music mean so much to us?

If indeed, music is, as Dryden claimed, "the greatest good that mortals know and all of heaven we have below", then it is little wonder that its power to transform and inspire us has become legendary. And it is two such legendary champions of music's power that form the focus of our Festival celebrations: Orpheus, with his songs to charm the gods, and Cecilia, always inspiring musicians to greater things!

To explore such noble claims, our concerts feature pieces composed by the leading lights of their day, including Vivaldi, Handel and Monteverdi, and neglected masterpieces by the overlooked Restoration composer John Blow and Florentine masters Caccini and Peri. Along the way we will also witness the birth of Italian opera!

Monday sees a Festival 'first' as the spotlight falls on the talents of our choral scholars. Working alongside the professional soloists, their recital pays homage to the "divine Monteverdi", a true Orpheus in human form. With such a star line up of singers and performers, including up and coming Welsh soprano Jessica Cale, we are in for many sessions of sensory overload, each offering intriguing insights into the ways music works its magic. May its force be with you!



Jessica Cale Soprano

"the highest standard of vocal ability"



Mark Chambers Countertenor

"one of the astonishing new breed of countertenor"  
BBC Music Magazine

**Saturday 5th May 2018 at 7.30pm**

St Edmund's Church, Crickhowell NP8 1BB

**Jessica Cale** (soprano), **Mark Chambers** (countertenor)  
**Nicholas Mulroy** (tenor) and **Robert Davies** (baritone)

**Orchestra**

*Festival Baroque Players*

**VIVALDI**

*Domine ad adjuvandum RV 593*

**Blow**

*Ode for St. Cecilia's Day*

**Peri/Caccini**

*Eurydice (the birth of opera) - Excerpts*

Make way, then, for those elite musical protagonists St Cecilia and Orpheus, who reveal the extraordinary power their art can exert on both us and the Gods themselves. Whilst the *Ode for St Cecilia's Day* by Blow evokes music's subtle emotional shades and revels in its sheer pleasure, the story of Orpheus takes everything to a different level, as Orpheus - Greek demi-god and lyre player extraordinaire - manages to thwart death itself. His journey to the underworld was to inspire some of the very first operatic writing at the turn of the 16th century and the rest, as they say, is history! Our excerpts from these dramas by Caccini and Peri are revelatory and offer a superb vehicle for our distinguished soloists to demonstrate the wonders of the human voice, but we kick start tonight's affairs with a must-hear piece by Vivaldi, another of his fabulous, yet little known, choral works. With its repeated pleas for divine assistance, it captures perfectly our festival theme, calling for the creative spark to inspire our singing!

## CRICKHOWELL MUSIC FESTIVAL

THURSDAY 3RD MAY - MONDAY 7TH MAY 2018

"Vocally thrilling... and extraordinarily moving" *The Guardian*



Robert Davies Baritone

"Supreme, effortless authority"  
*(The Scotsman)*

**Sunday 6th May 2018 at 7.30pm**

St Edmund's Church, Crickhowell NP8 1BB

**Jessica Cale** (soprano), **Mark Chambers** (countertenor)  
**Nicholas Mulroy** (tenor) and **Robert Davies** (baritone)

**Orchestra**

*Festival Baroque Players*

**HANDEL**

*Alexander's Feast - In honour of St Cecilia*

Subtitled "The Power of Musick", Handel's *Alexander's Feast* was in its day rated with *Messiah* as one of the composer's greatest creations. Written in honour of St Cecilia, Dryden's storyline takes us to demonstrations of musical prowess at the Greek hero's banquet. Expect high drama, battle cries, apparitions, and intoxication (probably amongst the tenors!). However, it is music's patron saint who eventually steals the show, with Handel creating an array of enchanting arias and rousing choruses at every turn. The stuff of legend!