

“Shall we dance...

...or keep on moping?”, as Fred Astaire sang. Certainly there will be no moping allowed with today’s concert by **Serendipity: the choir**, devoted entirely to the theme of dance. Instead there will be plenty to tap your toes to, laugh about and enjoy, with 400 years of songs devoted to the terpsichorean art.

The oldest song in today’s concert is *A Round of Three Country Dances* by Thomas Ravenscroft, dating from the late Elizabethan period. Sung by the gentlemen of the choir, it is a most unusual song – set in four parts, with three dances, each dance with two parts which all combine to produce one fun (if slightly rude) song. Slightly more modern and much more refined is a delightful arrangement of J. S. Bach’s *Bourrée* by Ward Swingle, a reminder of the time of courtly dances. Much less courtly, but still in the classical music vein is Offenbach’s *Can-Can*, made famous by the Moulin Rouge. Regrettably, we are not up to the challenge of the splits, so you will just have to enjoy the music!

As part of our selection of dances, **Serendipity: the choir** presents two works devoted to German folk-dancing, *Der Tanz* (The Dance) by Franz Schubert and *Tanzen und Springen* (Dancing and Springing) by Hans Leo Hassler. Full of *galloppen* and *schöne Jungfrauen*, you will wish you’d brought your lederhosen so you can join the fun.

Folk music and dance have always had a strong connection and **Serendipity: the choir** would be remiss if we did not include other dance-related folksongs. Perhaps the most famous is *Dance to your daddy*, a folksong from deepest, darkest Geordieland (that’s Northumberland, pet!) made memorable by the television series of the same name. One folksong provoking thought is *My Dancing Day*, in which hope for tomorrow becomes the reason for a dance of joy. Moving to Ireland, yesterdays are remembered in *The Kerry Dance*, here set in a choral arrangement of the song made famous by Australia’s own Peter Dawson. Moving ever westward, *Ching-a-ring chaw* is a setting of a minstrel song by that quintessential American composer, Aaron Copland.

Having migrated to the Americas, **Serendipity: the choir** bring you some songs that are inspired by jazz and Latin-American rhythms. *Tequila Samba* considers the effects the samba can have when performed by one’s loved one. Also inspired by Latin rhythms is Cole Porter’s *Begin the Beguine*, presented in a sumptuous arrangement for six parts – just enjoy, with us, that tropical swaying. American cinema produced great dancers, and none was greater than Gene Kelly – today **Serendipity: the choir** present Gershwin’s *I got rhythm*, which was most memorably presented by Kelly in the movie classic *An American in Paris*. Also first heard in a movie was *Happy Feet*, from *The King of Jazz*, starring Paul Whiteman and his Orchestra. Then sung by a little known singer called Bing Crosby, it’s a song guaranteed to set those ten little toes tapping.

The ladies of **Serendipity: the choir** have not been forgotten, and in *A Caterpillar of Society*, they will tell us about a caterpillar with terpsichorean tendencies. In the curiously-titled *Dance on my heart*, the ladies will commence a dialogue with the gents of **Serendipity: the choir** in which we find out what women really want. Listen carefully, gents!

Serendipity: the choir have not neglected the modern day either. The ABBA phenomenon of the 1970s touched all but a few (our beloved Director admitting to being one of those few!) and *Dancing Queen* was one of ABBA’s greatest hits. We hope this arrangement will be a hit with you. And if *Oh, Happy Day* doesn’t leave you *Dancing in the Street* with an *Ode to Joy*, nothing will! Finally, in an astounding jump to the left, join **Serendipity: the choir** in *The Time Warp*. Nothing will ever be the same again....

Shall We Dance Repertoire

Copland arr. Fine
Gershwin arr. Clipsham
Turner
Koepke arr. Clipsham
ABBA arr. Funk
Porter arr. Carter
Ravenscroft
Schubert
Molloy arr. Rowley
Offenbach arr. Eschliman
Bach arr. Swingle
Ager arr. Shaw
English trad. arr. Chilcott
Hassler
Wesley-Smith
Trad. arr. Snowdon
arr. Schmutte
O'Brien arr. Clipsham

Ching-a-Ring-Chaw
I Got Rhythm
Tequila Samba
Dance on My Heart
Dancing Queen
Begin the Beguine
A Round of Three Country Dances
Der Tanz
The Kerry Dance
Can-Can
Bourrée
Happy Feet
My Dancing Day
Tanzen und Springen
A Caterpillar of Society
Dance to Your Daddy
Oh, Happy Day – a Medley
The Time Warp

