

WILLANWEST 2018 willanwest.org

Dr. Ruben Valenzuela, *Artistic Director*

Mr. Angel Mannion, *Co-Artistic Director*

A Southern California celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the death of English-Canadian composer, HEALEY WILLAN

PRESS RELEASE

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH (SAN DIEGO) has been announced as the home of Willan West 2018. Willan West will be a year-long Southern California celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the death of English-Canadian composer Healey Willan. Willan is one of the most prolific composers of liturgical music since J.S. Bach, and one of the most important organist-composers of the Anglican Church.

WILLAN WEST will be offering 14 events at All Saints' that includes Masses, Evensong & Benediction, and two concerts. These events will focus on Willan's lesser-known repertoire, with a particular emphasis on the choral music written for the parish of St. Mary Magdalene (Toronto) where Willan was Precentor and Organist from 1921-1968. Many of these events will be preceded by pre-event symposia on topics related to Willan's life and music.

Each of the 14 events will be sung by the WILLAN COLLECTIVE, a local professional chamber choir under the direction of Dr. Ruben Valenzuela. The Willan Collective will be divided into 2 choirs: Gallery Choir & Ritual Choir, in keeping with the choral tradition of St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto. The Gallery Choir of 12 singers will sing the polyphonic repertoire (Mass Ordinary & Motets) from the West end of the church, whereas the Ritual Choir of 4 singers will sing the Gregorian Propers from the chancel at the East end of the church. This will be an opportunity to hear this repertoire sung in its proper Anglo-Catholic context.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH:

All events begin at 7PM. A free-will offering will be received.

27 JANUARY: Votive Mass
24 FEBRUARY: Solemn High Mass
24 MARCH: Votive Mass
28 APRIL: Votive Mass
29 APRIL: Evensong & Benediction
26 MAY: Solemn High Mass
23 JUNE: Votive Mass
24 JUNE: CONCERT: Choral Works of Healey Willan
28 JULY: Votive Mass
22 SEPTEMBER: Votive Mass
12 OCTOBER: CONCERT: Marking Healey Willan's Birthday
14 OCTOBER: Evensong & Benediction
27 OCTOBER: Votive Mass
17 NOVEMBER: Solemn High Mass

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION:

Dr. Ruben Valenzuela
rv.hypodorian@gmail.com
(760) 715-7956
www.willanwest.org

N.B. In addition to the events listed above, additional events will be held at All Souls' Episcopal Church (1475 Catalina Blvd., San Diego 92107). Check the Willan West website schedule for a complete listing.



HONORARY ADVISORS

Mary Willan Mason
Albert Mahon

ADVISORY PANEL

Andrew Adair
Nathan Costa
Anne-Marie Dicce
The Reverend Joseph Dirbas
Fr. Scott A. Haynes, SJ
Stephanie Martin
Stephen Sturk
Holly Teetzel

ABOUT HEALEY WILLAN

DR. HEALEY WILLAN, C.C. (b. Balham, England, Oct. 12, 1880; d. Toronto, Feb. 16, 1968) composer, organist and teacher. Admitted as an Associate of the Royal College of Organists, 1897 and Fellow, 1899, from 1903-13 he was organist and choirmaster at St. John the Baptist Kensington. He moved to Toronto in 1913 as Head of the Theory Department of the Toronto Conservatory of Music (Vice-Principal 1920-36). From 1921 till his death he was Precentor of the church of St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto, which became a mecca for church musicians. He was appointed Lecturer and Examiner for the University of Toronto (U of T) in 1914. In 1934 he founded the Tudor Singers, which he conducted until 1939. In 1937 he was appointed Professor of Music at U of T, a position he held until his retirement in 1950. An influential teacher, Willan was also active as the University Organist. In 1953 he was the first ever non-Briton commissioned to write an anthem for the coronation of Elizabeth II in Westminster Abbey (*O Lord Our Governour*) and in 1956 he received the Lambeth Doctorate, Mus. D Cantuar from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

More than half of his output of over 850 compositions was sacred works for choir which include many anthems, hymn anthems and mass settings. His secular music includes over 50 choral works, over 100 songs and song arrangements for voice and piano, many works for piano, for voice and instrumental ensemble, for voice and orchestra, two symphonies, a piano concerto, chamber works, incidental music for stage works, ballad operas and the opera *Deirdre*.

Willan was a staunch conservative, grounded in counterpoint and fugue. Interested in new trends, he saw no reason to abandon his roots, and in *Deirdre*, which he regarded as one of his finest works, he centred on a post-Wagnerian idiom. His choral music composed for St. Mary Magdalene has had a significant influence on composers of all denominations. His major works signaled the acceptance in Canada of large scale composition. Frequently known as the Dean of Canadian Composers, he was made a Companion of the Order of Canada at its inception in 1967.

ABOUT ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH (SAN DIEGO)

625 Pennsylvania Avenue, San Diego 92103
(619) 298-7729 • www.allsaintschurch.org/

All Saints' Episcopal, one of the oldest churches in San Diego, was constructed in 1912 according to the designs of William Sterling Hebbard and Carleton Monroe Winslow, two of the most distinguished architects in San Diego's history. The church is a masterpiece of the Mission style and is known for its remarkable collection of stained glass, created in the 1950s and 1960s by the Judson Studios, one of America's foremost practitioners of the art. Public worship at All Saints' adheres to the Anglo-Catholic tradition and maintains the rich language and stirring concepts of the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer, accompanied by joyful ceremony and a magnificent choir. The church parking lot is located at the northwest corner of Seventh and Pennsylvania.

ABOUT RUBEN VALENZUELA (conductor, organist, musicologist)
www.rubenvalezuela.org • www.bachcollegiumsd.org

Ruben Valenzuela is the Artistic Director of Willan West 2018. He is also the Director of Music and Organist of All Souls' Episcopal Church (San Diego), as well as the Founder and Artistic Director of the Bach Collegium San Diego, one of this country's leading early music ensembles. Upcoming guest appearances in 2017-18 will include directing Bach Vespers at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, New York City and performances of Bach's *St. John Passion* at Boston University (Marsh Chapel). Valenzuela holds a BMus in Church Music and Organ from Loma Linda University, an MA from San Diego State University in Musicology, and a PhD in Musicology from Claremont Graduate University.