

**SEA MUSIC ships and the sea, sailors and fishermen**  
**OPUS ANGLICANUM: 5 men a cappella and a narrator**

**Sunday 31st January 7.45 pm, The Theatre, Chipping Norton**

£13/ £11

Box Office:01608 642350 [www.chippingnortontheatre.com](http://www.chippingnortontheatre.com)

**Saturday 6th February 7.30 pm, Chichester Cathedral**

£15.00, £5 under-18

Box Office online at [www.opus-a.co.uk](http://www.opus-a.co.uk)  
in person at Cathedral Cloisters Shop tel: 01243 813599

The central work of the evening tells the dramatic and tragic story of an accident at sea in the early days of World War 2, when the battleship Barham ran down one of her escorting destroyers, sending most of the 160 crew down with the ship. Composer Sally Beamish's 20-minute 'Sea Psalm: the sinking of HMS Duchess 12th Dec 1939', incorporates a spoken eyewitness account from the only surviving officer, describing the moment of the impact, the sinking of the ship, the explosion as its depth charges went off, the rescue of the few survivors, and their subsequent rail journey to Chatham. The psalm 'They that go down to the sea in ships' forms a refrain to the account, which is delivered over a wash of wordless vocalise and whispers, ending with the hymn 'Eternal Father strong to save' in which the audience joins.

Other pieces include: Judith Bingham's 'Tu es Petrus', David Bednall's 'Put out into the Deep', and Sasha Johnson Manning's 'Sea Woman' which tells the Gaelic folk story of the seal forced to live as a human, before she rediscovers her seal skin and returns to the sea and her seal husband.

The distinctive feature of our concerts is the prominence of the narrator, and George Quinn's private and unpublished seagoing diary, kept when a deck hand on the Newlyn trawler Crimond in the 1990s, has compellingly direct observations of companions, trawlers, the loss of men and boats from Newlyn and Padstow, acrimonious confrontations with the French and Spanish, and some hilarious off duty antics. 'Sea Music' was first performed by Opus A in 2008 at Glasgow's prestigious 'New Harmonies Festival'.

**John Rowlands-Pritchard**  
**Opus Anglicanum**