20th May 2025

Salamanca Singers,

Just as we are about to begin a group of online rehearsals, I thought you might like to hear how the programme is developing. In fact, it has recently taken a different and exciting turn!

I am delighted that my colleagues in Lisbon, the Lopes-Graça String Quartet, have accepted our invitation to join us in Salamanca. This immediately means that our strings, organ and choir version of the Barber Adagio promises to be magical and holds its place as our closing piece. It also opened the door for me to think of including a wonderful new work, Panta rhei, by the American composer, Karen P Thomas. The composer has given me permission to adapt the work for string quartet and organ and Cathy has kindly agreed to undertake the solo soprano part, so we are on! Panta rhei, will give the programme its new name, "Everything Flows" and is inspired by the famous quote of Heraclitus,
 "no one steps in the same river twice, for it is not the same river and they are not the same person".

We will begin off stage with Other Worlds Revealed and O Radiant Dawn, then take the stage as Panta rhei begins, in line with the composer's wishes. Water, travel, exile, home, distance, connections will then be the watchwords for a set of solo and choral pieces including a setting of the Lake Isle of Innisfree, our Irish Folksongs and At That Hour. Many of you met my wife, Juliana, online during the covid years, but so far it has not been possible for us to work together with IDC "in the real world". Salamanca is pretty close to home for us and the programme presents the ideal opportunity. Instead of sitting in the audience she will join us with songs from around the world and also on the "Lake Isle". (When you see the score you will understand that one!) With all this, Gareth at the organ, a professional string quartet, a full-strength choir and an inspiring venue, it promises to be a very special night. Oh! And the Roisin Healy award is offered for the first to guess what might be the encore!

See you all soon
Brian