

Cast of 500 in Mahler epic

AROUND 500 choristers and musicians will descend on Guildford Cathedral for one of the largest and most ambitious musical events to be performed in the town in recent times.

On Saturday, May 17, Jeremy Backhouse and the Guildford Philharmonic Choir will present Mahler's *Eighth Symphony*, in Guildford Cathedral at 7.30pm.

The work, described as "magnificent, glamorous and exciting", is rarely performed because it requires such huge forces.

On this occasion three choirs will take part, Guildford Philharmonic Choir being joined by Lewisham Choral Society and the South West Essex Choir, with the Forest Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of Mr Backhouse.

The soloists will be sopranos Claire Seaton, Diane Atherton, Helen Neeves, altos Vanessa Williamson and Teresa Shaw, tenor Eugene Ginty, baritone Colin Campbell and bass Michael Bundy.

Stephen Farr will be at the Organ, Jeremy Filsell at the Piano, and Geoffrey Morgan on Harmonium.

Tickets are available priced £15 from the Guildford Tourist Information Office on 01483 444334 or on 01306 882456.

In brief

■ AROUND 500 choristers and musicians will descend on Guildford Cathedral next Saturday for one of the largest and most ambitious musical events to be performed in the town in recent times.

On Saturday, May 17, Jeremy Backhouse and the Guildford Philharmonic Choir will present Mahler's *Eighth Symphony*, regarded by many as his crowning achievement, in Guildford Cathedral at 7.30pm.

The work, described as "magnificent, glamorous and exciting", is rarely performed because it requires such huge forces.

On this occasion three choirs will take part, Guildford Philharmonic Choir being joined by Lewisham Choral Society and the South West Essex Choir, with the Forest Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of Mr Backhouse.

The knabenchor will be 30 girls from the Grey Coat Hospital Chamber Choir.

Tickets are available priced £15 from the Guildford Tourist Information Office on 01483 444334 or on 01306 882456.