

Vivace Chorus

the 2005-2006 First Season

Formerly Guildford Philharmonic Choir



“
The magnificent sounds that came down the cathedral will stay with me forever; the climax that made my spine tingle. It was both magical and earth-moving; an experience such as I've rarely had before - and certainly not since your performance of Mahler 2! The choir was superb.
”

Making Music Guildford Borough Council

22nd October 2005
7:30 Guildford Cathedral

Forest Philharmonic Orchestra
Soprano Patrizia Kwella
Soprano Helen Neeves
Tenor Eugene Ginty

Hymns and Psalms

Vivace Chorus

Formerly Guildford Philharmonic Choir www.VivaceChorus.co.uk

Edward Elgar: "Give unto the Lord" (Psalm 29)
Gustav Holst: "Lord, who hast made us for thine own" (Psalm 148)
Holst: The Hymn of Jesus
Mendelssohn: Lobgesang ("Hymn of Praise")

Forest Philharmonic Orchestra
Soprano: Patrizia Kwella
Soprano: Helen Neeves Tenor: Eugene Ginty

Four thrilling settings of Hymns and Psalms are drawn together for this concert from the Victorian and Edwardian era, some would say the finest hour of the British choral tradition. Elgar's 'Give unto the Lord' is a short but majestic setting of Psalm 29 that matches the glories of his larger-scale choral works and is written in his most grandiloquent yet approachable style. Holst's setting of Psalm 148 begins intimately but ends in a blaze of glory as Alleluias ring out. The 'Hymn of Jesus' ranks amongst the finest of Holst's works. Always one to experiment, he uses a distant semi-chorus of upper voice, spoken rhythms, but always within a context of strong traditional tonality. The result is a radiant and atmospheric work full of drama and beauty. For his wonderful Symphony No.2, Mendelssohn takes as his model the great Symphony No.9 by Beethoven, the final section being an uplifting choral Hymn of Praise to the glory of God. This 'Lobgesang' contains many glorious moments including the famous duet for two sopranos, "I waited for the Lord".

Making Music Guildford Borough Council

Sunday 11th December 2005
6:30 Guildford Cathedral

The Mayor of Guildford's

Christmas Family Concert

Vivace Chorus

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Join us to sing and listen to carols and Christmas music in the wonderful acoustic of Holy Trinity. Mulled wine and mince pies will complete the celebration! This concert is organised by the Rotary Club of Guildford in aid of the Mayor's charities.

“The unaccompanied singing was exquisite, especially in the Verdi; I thought I was in heaven. The a capella singing was absolutely superb. It's rare, especially with that number of singers, to hear a choir with such dynamic control from their pp's right through to their ff's.”

Making Music Guildford Borough Council

25th March 2006
7:30 Guildford Cathedral

Pillars of the Baroque

Vivace Chorus

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G.F. Handel: Zadok the Priest
G.F. Handel: Water Music (extracts)
G.F. Handel: Let God Arise (Chandos Anthem No. 11)
J.S. Bach: Cantata No. 50 "Nun ist das Heil und die Kraft"
J.S. Bach: Air on the G string from Suite No.3 in D, BWV 1068
J.S. Bach: Menuet and Badinerie from Suite No. 2
J.S. Bach: Magnificat in D

Brandenburg Sinfonia

J.S Bach and G.F. Handel bestride the Baroque period of music like two mighty pillars. Their colossus presence is here reflected in a programme of their finest choral and orchestral works. The first half is dedicated to Handel, the second to Bach. Each half opens with a short, fanfare-like choral work by each composer and closes with extended choral settings in the grandest, most impressive style. Between the choral masterpieces are the finest examples of each composer's orchestral writing: extracts from the Water Music and the evergreen 'Air on the G string'.

Making Music Guildford Borough Council

20th May 2006
7:30 Guildford Cathedral

Trials and Tribulation

Contemporary Choral Classics Cycle

Vivace Chorus

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Francis Pott:
A Song on the End of the World (1999)
Walton: Belshazzar's Feast (1931)
Orchestra to be announced - watch this space!

Vasari Singers
Soprano : Claire Seaton Alto : Teresa Shaw
Baritone : tba

As part of our ground-breaking Contemporary Choral Classics Cycle, we present a work of immense power and depth: 'A Song on the End of the World' by Francis Pott. This overwhelming work was premiered at the Three Choirs Festival in 1999 and described in The Times as: "thrilling music ... contemporary and original ... impressive and profoundly affecting". Pott is rapidly becoming one of the most respected and in-demand composers due to the strength and conviction of his writing: the writing is beautifully crafted and yet always remains instantly accessible to the audience. His insightful musical reaction to the tribulations of our troubled world is unparalleled. Alongside this great new work we set the masterpiece that took audiences by storm in the 1930s: Walton's 'Belshazzar's Feast' which remains as fresh today as it did then. The drama of the story is re-told in full glorious musical technicolour: the riotous living of the King and his court, the spell-binding moment when the King is "weighed in the balance and found wanting", and the ecstatic celebrations at the fall of Babylon.

Ticket prices

Date	Concert	Prices
Saturday 22 October 2005	Hymns and Psalms	£20, £15 £10*
Sunday 11 December 2005	Christmas Family Concert	£8 £3**
Saturday 25 March 2006	Pillars of the Baroque	£20, £15 £10*
Saturday 20 May 2006	Trials and Tribulation	£25, £17*

* Students £5
** Under 18's

Offers available from tickets@vivacechorus.org or 07958 519741

- Book a ticket for all three Saturday concerts before 22 October 2005 and obtain a 10% discount
- Book 10 tickets for any one concert and get the cheapest one free
- Teachers - we like to encourage young people to appreciate singing and listening to classical music. If you are considering bringing your students to a concert, please contact our Chairman on www.vivacechorus.org

Booking your tickets

Booking opens for Patrons on Monday 29th Aug, 2005 and for the general public on 12th Sept, 2005. Tickets may be obtained from Guildford Tourist Information 01483 444334, Michael Taylor 07958 519741 or members of the Choir

For members of the audience needing wheelchair access

There are ramps into the Cathedral. Please ask the Guides for the west door to be opened. Access for wheelchairs to the Refectory Restaurant and lavatory facilities is from the passage to the University beside the Cathedral Offices and is clearly marked. A few wheelchairs are available within the Cathedral. There is wheelchair access to Holy Trinity from the Bedford Road direction.

Sing with us!

The Vivace Chorus rehearses on Mondays at 7.30 p.m. in the Methodist Church, Woodbridge Road, Guildford. Rehearsals are taken by conductor Jeremy Backhouse. The choir is currently 140 strong but we plan to expand to 160. There are vacancies in all sections. Tenors are especially welcome.

We give about four concerts every year, usually in Guildford Cathedral, plus occasional concerts in London, the South East and in Freiburg. Our programmes are mainly major choral works, both secular and religious, and often include unusually interesting and rarely heard works.

The objective of the choir is to give enjoyment to its members. We get a lot of fun out of working with our two Jeremys, Backhouse (conductor - pictured right) and Filsell (accompanist - pictured left).

Visit www.vivacechorus.org or contact Noreen Ayton on 01932 221918 and come on a Monday to see what it is like. The 2005 season starts on 5th September.




Become a Patron

We put on high quality concerts and you can help us as a Patron. In return for donating £25 per annum or more, we will keep you informed of future concerts, give you priority booking ahead of the general public, reserve seats for you and acknowledge your generosity by listing your name in our programmes. You will also have the opportunity to attend social events.

Please contact patrons@vivacechorus.org or Bob Cowell on 01483 770896.

All information is correct on going to press but check our website www.vivacechorus.org in case of last minute changes.

 Financially assisted by
GUILDFORD BOROUGH


Making
Music
THE NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF MUSIC SOCIETIES