

**“Imagine that the Universe bursts into song. We hear no longer human voices, but those of planets and suns which revolve.”** These were Mahler’s own words to the revered Dutch conductor Willem Mengelberg on the subject of his Eighth Symphony. Widely regarded as the crowning achievement of his career, Mahler’s Symphony No.8 received overwhelming recognition at its first performance in 1910. It is scored for a huge orchestra (including quadruple woodwind with eight horns, as well as mandolin, piano and harmonium), off-stage brass of four trumpets and three trombones, eight soloists, a double symphonic chorus, a boys’ choir and organ. In fact, at its first performance, the impresario who mounted Mahler’s “Barnum and Bailey” work (Mahler’s epithet) advertised it as “The Symphony of A Thousand” owing to the fact that one thousand performers took part. The work is in two parts: Part I is a stunning setting of the Latin Hymn “Veni Creator Spiritus”; Part II is an intensely dramatic setting of the final part of Goethe’s “Faust” which ends with an hugely powerful, glorious and uplifting peroration.

Because of the sheer scale and size of the work it is seldom programmed, so the performance staged by the **Guildford Philharmonic Choir in Guildford Cathedral on 17 May 2003** will be a rare opportunity to hear the work performed in all its magnificence. You may have been thrilled by the performance given by Sir Simon Rattle at the Proms last year – if so, come and be thrilled again. And if you came to the GPC’s memorable and exhilarating performance of Mahler’s Symphony No.2 in 1999, you cannot fail but be elated by this work.

This will be a day to remember in the musical life of Guildford.

Don’t miss it!



**Guildford Philharmonic Choir**

## MAHLER 8 COMES TO GUILDFORD

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Because of the sheer scale and size of the work it is seldom programmed, so the performance staged by the Guildford Philharmonic Choir in Guildford Cathedral on 17 May next year will be a rare opportunity to hear the work performed in all its magnificence. You may have been thrilled by the performance given by Sir Simon Rattle at the Proms this year – if so, come and be thrilled again. And if you came to the GPC’s memorable and exhilarating performance of Mahler’s Symphony No.2 in 1999, you cannot fail but be elated by this work.

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