

*Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society*

**SPRING CONCERT**

**PUCCINI**

**Messa di Gloria**

**JOHN RUTTER**

**Requiem**

**Sunday 8th April 2001  
at 3pm**

Sponsored by



*Specialists in Retirement Housing*

**Programme 50p**

**Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society**  
**Musical Director and Conductor: DEREK WATMOUGH**  
**Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society Orchestra**  
**Leader: MARTIN PALMER**

## **Alison Smart - Soprano**

Alison Smart was a choral scholar at Clare College, Cambridge, furthering her studies at the Royal Northern College of Music and Trinity College of Music, London. A finalist in the Brigitte Fassbender Competition, she subsequently took first prize in the Elisabeth Schumann Lieder Competition. An experienced and accomplished musician, she is adept in the Contemporary and the Baroque or Classical repertoire, appearing at such prestigious venues as the Royal Albert Hall, Durham, Ely, Exeter, Leicester and Sheffield Cathedrals; King's College, Cambridge, St John's Smith Square, Hexham Abbey and the Brighton, Gregynog, King's Lynn, Presteigne and Spitalfields Festivals.

She has sung with the BBC Concert Orchestra, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra, the Hanover Band and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment under conductors such as Stephen Cleobury, Andrew Davis, Jane Glover, and Sir Roger Norrington. Her recordings include **The Beggar's Opera** on Argo, Spohr **Songs** on Naxos, R Strauss **Deutsche Motette** on Collins and her debut solo recital **Peripheral Visions** (British music for voice and piano since 1970) on Metier, which was selected by the Sunday Times **On Record** as a CD release of the week. She has also been featured as Guest Soloist on **BBC Songs of Praise** and sang Celia in *Iolanthe* at this year's BBC Proms.

Her future engagements include **Messiah** for Great Missenden Choral Society, Mozart **Solemn Vespers** for Highgate Choral Society and Poulenc **Gloria** at the Caird Hall, Dundee.

## **Huw Rhys-Evans - Tenor**

Born in Tregaron, Huw Rhys-Evans won the Blue Riband Prize for the Singer of the Year at the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales and, on three occasions, the tenor Solo Award. Following studies with Kenneth Bowen at the Royal Academy of Music, he was awarded the Tenor Prize at the 1990 Great Grimsby International Competition for Singers and completed his studies at the National Opera Studio.

Singing with companies such as the Bastille Opera, Mid-Wales Opera, Opera d'Automne, Perth Festival Opera and Welsh National Opera, his roles have included Ernesto **Don Pasquale**, Vivaldi **Die Hochzeit des Camacho**, Ferrando **Così fan tutte**, Don Ottavio **Don Giovanni**, Belmonte **Die Entführung aus dem Serail**, Nadir **The Philosopher's Stone**, Tamino **Die Zauberflöte**, Pang **Turandot** and First Jew **Salome** at the Bastille Opera. He is particularly renowned as a singer of Rossini taking roles such as Carlo/Goffredo **Armida**, Almaviva **Il barbiere di Siviglia**, Idreno **Semiramide** and Belfiore **Il viaggio a Reims** at the Rossini in Wildbad Festival and Spier Arts, South Africa, as well as for the Fondation Royaumont, Chelsea Opera Group and Opera North.

His many and varied oratorio engagements have included the Bach **Passions** at the Netherlands, the **B Minor Mass** in Besancon, the **St Matthew Passion** with the Northern Chamber Orchestra, **Joshua** at St John's Smith Square, **Messiah** at the Royal Albert Hall, **Saul** with the Darmstadt Konzertchor, **The Creation** with the English Chamber Orchestra, the **Nelson Mass** at the Fenice Theatre, Venice, **Elijah** with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and appearances with many of the major UK choral societies.

For Opera Vox Cartoon, he recorded Tamino and Almaviva and his CD credits include **All Through the Night** (Welsh Songs with Harp), **Le Calife de Bagdad**, Gouvy **Stabat Mater**, **Die Hochzeit des Camacho**, **Così fan tutte**, **Die Entführung aus dem Serail** and **Carmina Burana**.

Future engagements include **Messiah** in Amsterdam and Besancon, **St Matthew Passion** at the Leith Hill Musical Festival and **Carmina Burana** at the Royal Festival Hall as well as performances with choral societies throughout the UK.

## **John Fletcher - Baritone**

Born in South Africa, John Fletcher studied at the University of the Witwatersrand and at the Royal College of Music, London. He also read Law in South Africa, took his PhD in Administrative law at Trinity Hall, Cambridge and practised as a barrister for five years. He was the first singer to be awarded the Nelson Mandela Nedbank Arts and Culture Trust Award for Overseas Study which he used to fund intensive coaching in vocal technique and Italian style under Maestra Raimondo Mettre of Milan.

His operatic engagements have included Dr Malatesta **Don Pasquale**, Danilo **The Merry Widow** and Figaro **The Barber of Seville** for the State Theatre, Pretoria, Silvio **I Pagliacci** for the Spear Arts Trust, Alfio **Cavalleria Rusticana** for Lyric Opera, Belfast, **Don Giovanni** and Ford **Falstaff** for Palace Opera, Sharpless for Opera Zuid, Maastricht, Dr Pinch **Gli equivoci nel sembiante** (Storace) at the Batignano Festival, Amonasro **Aida** at the National Concert Hall, Dublin, and **Macbeth** for English Touring Opera.

He also sings regularly in concert and oratorio, his engagements having included the **St John Passion** with the Transvaal Philharmonic Orchestra, the **St Matthew Passion** with the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra, **Messiah** at the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea, and **Elijah** with the South African National Symphony Orchestra. He has given Lieder and Art Song recitals in Britain, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland and South Africa and his concert repertoire further included the **B Minor Mass**, **Beethoven Choral Symphony**, the Dvorak **Stabat Mater**, the Faure, Brahms, Mozart and Verdi **Requiems**, **Carmina Burana** and Vaughan Williams **A Sea Symphony**.

A particular recent highlight for John Fletcher was his performance in Weill's **Der Duhhandel** for the BBC Concert Orchestra under Robert Ziegler and his future engagements include Mozart **Solemn Vespers** for Highgate Choral Society, Rossini **Petite Messe Solennelle** for Tonbridge Philharmonic Society and an **Opera Gala** for the North Herts Guild of Singers.

## MESSA DI GLORIA - PUCCINI (1858-1924)

Giacomo Puccini was born at Lucca, Italy, in 1858, into a family of musicians. He intended to follow the family tradition as an organist, but a turning point in his life came when he saw a performance of Verdi's Aida. He knew then that he should write music for the theatre. He studied at the Milan Conservatory under Ponchielli and others and from the age of 26 he was recognised as an important operatic composer, his most famous operas including La Boheme, Tosca and Madam Butterfly.

The *Messa di Gloria* was composed when Puccini was only 22 years old. The score was created to serve as his graduation thesis and was first performed in 1878. It was a resounding success, but this first performance was very nearly the last, for in his eagerness to master other forms of music Puccini laid aside his ecclesiastical compositions and began to conceive his major operatic works. The work might well have remained buried and forgotten but for Dante del Fiorentino, an American priest who rediscovered the manuscript in 1951 on a visit to Lucca to gather material for a book about Puccini's life. In 1952 it was performed first in Chicago and then in Naples, and was received with great enthusiasm. An eminent Italian music critic wrote, "the role of the parts, always well-balanced in the chorus as well as in the orchestra, comes forth in absolute clarity and the distribution of the vocal range obtains beauty of colour, clarity and blending. Every part shows a well-ordered and compact architecture, which is the proof of the perfect master of the whole". Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* is now written in musical history as a lasting monument to the glory of God.

The text is that of the five congregational passages of the Roman Catholic Mass.

1. **KYRIE** - Lord have mercy

2. **GLORIA** - Glory be to God on High

3. **CREDO** - I believe in one God, the Father Almighty.

4. **SANCTUS** - Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts

5. **AGNUS DEI** - Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us

## INTERVAL

# REQUIEM - JOHN RUTTER

This Requiem was written in 1985 and first performed in October of that year. Following the precedent established by Brahms and Fauré, amongst others, it is not strictly a setting of The Requiem Mass as laid down in Catholic liturgy, but instead is made up of a personal selection of texts, some taken from The Requiem Mass and some from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. The seven sections of the work form an arch-like meditation on the themes of life and death: the first and last movements are prayers on behalf of all humanity, movements 2 and 6 are psalms, 3 and 5 are personal prayers to Christ and the central Sanctus is an affirmation of divine glory.

## 1. REQUIEM AETERNAM

Requiem aeternam dona eis, domine:  
et lux perpetua luceat eis.  
Te decet hymnus, Deus in Sion:  
et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem.  
Exaudi orationem meam,  
ad te omnis caro veniet.  
Kyrie eleison.  
Christe eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord:  
And may light perpetual shine upon them.  
Thou, O God, art praised in Sion:  
And unto thee shall the vow be performed  
in Jerusalem.  
Thou that hearest the prayer,  
unto thee shall all flesh come.  
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy,  
Lord have mercy

## 2. OUT OF THE DEEP

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord: Lord, hear my voice. O let thine ears consider well: the voice of my complaint. If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss: O Lord, who may abide it? For there is mercy with thee: therefore shalt thou be feared. I look for the Lord: my soul doth wait for him: and in his word is my trust. My soul fleeth unto the Lord: before the morning watch, I say before the morning watch. O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy: and with him is plenteous redemption. And he shall redeem Israel: from all his sins.

## 3. PIE JESU

Pie Jesu Domine,  
dona eis requiem.  
Pie Jesu Domine,  
dona eis sempiternam requiem.

Blessed Lord Jesus,  
Grant them rest.  
Blessed Lord Jesus,  
Grant them eternal rest.

#### 4. SANCTUS

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt caeli gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.  
Benedictus qui venit  
in nomine Domini.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, Holy, Holy,  
Lord God of hosts.  
The heavens are full of thy glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he that cometh  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

#### 5. AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi,  
Dona eis requiem.

O Lamb of God, that takest away  
the sins of the world, grant them rest.

#### 6. THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.  
He shall feed me in a green pasture;  
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.  
He shall convert my soul:  
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.  
Yea, thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff comfort me.  
Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me:  
Thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.  
But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

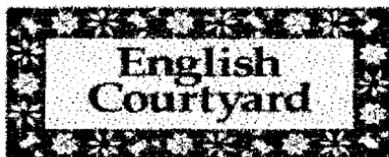
#### 7. LUX AETERNA

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me,  
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, for they rest from their labours;  
even so, saith the Spirit.

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine:  
cum sanctis tuis in aeternum,  
quia pius es.  
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine:  
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Light eternal shine upon them,  
O Lord: with all thy saints for ever more,  
for thy mercy's sake.  
Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord:  
And may light perpetual shine upon them.

## ENGLISH COURTYARD



Specialists in Retirement Housing

English Courtyard, the country's leading developer of luxury retirement housing, is building its latest courtyard, Muskerry Court in Rusthall, near Royal Tunbridge Wells.

Set in mature grounds and with landscaped gardens, the development will be approached by an avenue of lime trees and is within easy walking distance of shops, public transport and other facilities. The historic Pantiles are a leisurely stroll across the common.

The development will comprise six 'Wing Houses', three traditional English Courtyard cottages, and 14 spacious apartments, together with a guest suite, resident manager's accommodation and laundry.

Designed by leading architects Sidell Gibson Partnership - who worked on the restoration of Windsor Castle after the fire - the development cleverly reflects the important Decimus Burton architecture of the town. It is called Muskerry Court, after Lord Muskerry - the first person to refurbish the Chalybeate spring on the Pantiles - who has hitherto never been commemorated in the town. Lord Muskerry met an untimely death in 1665 fighting the Dutch at the Battle of Southwold.

Further information is available by calling Freephone 0800 454 626 or from the website [www.englishcourtyard.co.uk](http://www.englishcourtyard.co.uk).

**The Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society wish to express their thanks to English Courtyard for their sponsorship of today's concert.**

# ***Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society***

## ***President***

Roy Douglas

## ***Vice President***

Geoff Stredder

## ***Musical Director and Conductor***

Derek Watmough

## ***Accompanist***

Wilmarc Ellman

## ***Honorary Life Members***

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If you would like to become a Patron  
and support the Society

please contact the Treasurer

**Roy Dunstall - 01580 211814**

or the General Secretary

**Olivia Seaman - 01892 863760**

# ***MEMBERS OF THE CHOIR***

## ***Sopranos***

Margaret Audsley  
Jane Bishop  
Susan Chandler  
Catherine Crockford  
Christina Dereymaeker  
Sue Ellman  
Joan Hever  
Andrea Holt  
Helen MacNab  
Jenny Mitchley  
Eileen Phillips  
Carol Smith  
Muriel Thatcher  
Elizabeth Webb

Betty Batchelor  
Diane Blower  
Emma Cale  
Aileen Cunningham  
Jill Dunstall  
Marcia Foley  
Janet Higbee  
Jenny Jessup  
Mary Marshall  
Margaret Mortimore  
Winnie Roszak  
Margaret Smith  
Johanna Thorpe  
Janita Wigan

Angela Bell  
Deborah Bruce  
Karen Cox  
Patsy Dale  
Joyce Eckett  
Cecilia Hare  
Audrey Hodges  
Sheila Jones  
Barbara Maw  
Elizabeth Orr  
Miriam Penn  
Esme Sanger  
Lorna Stroud  
Audrey Wallin

## ***Altos***

Vivian Albany Ward  
Ruth Clark  
Elizabeth Crusoe  
Patricia Felix  
Nicola Fletcher  
Eileen Gall  
Annette Grey  
Jane Lewis  
Shirley Nankivell  
Sylvia Parsons  
Jane Scholes  
Yvonne Spencer  
June Talbot  
Sarah Weller

Claire Bigwood  
Claire Cooper  
Moira Davidson  
Jean Finch  
Peggy Flood  
Alice Gill  
Mary Guy  
Pat Maxwell  
Mary Norton  
Gillian Penny  
Olivia Seaman  
Audrey Stuart Black  
Barbara Tattersall  
June Wheeler

Margaret Butcher  
Anita Crofts  
Sheila Day  
Joanna Finlay  
Hazel Fox  
Ruth Gray  
Jean Heritage  
Caroline McCann  
Janette Olley  
Larissa Robson  
Mandy Smallwood  
Celia Sumner  
Sue Taylor

## ***Tenors***

Rupert Agutter  
Elisabeth Carr  
David Ham  
Arthur Hull  
Alan Spencer

Joseph Bednall  
Derek Day  
John Harding  
Guy Huntrods  
Michael Spencer

Malcolm Beresford  
Wilmarc Ellman  
John Holt  
Aidan Lee  
Tom Walter

## ***Basses***

Michael Barker  
Richard Gosling  
Michael Holcroft  
David Penn  
Eric Scott  
Frank Woolley

Adrian Berendt  
David Ham  
Mark Hudson  
Paul Plumley  
John Spary

Roy Dunstall  
Niel Hare  
Vernon Jolly  
Cyril Rogers  
Clive Steward

# ***MEMBERS OF THE ORCHESTRA***

## **VIOLIN 1**

Martin Palmer (Leader)  
Shereen Godber  
Daniel Weatherly  
Frances Clack  
Sally Brooke-Pike  
Naomi Garrick  
Vreni Gould  
Karin Brown

## **VIOLIN 2**

Caroline Bishop  
Anita Buser  
Mary Findlay  
Muriel Parker  
Felicity Smith  
Karen Hoy  
James Shenton  
Julia Barker

## **VIOLA**

Jenny Moore  
Jane Taunton  
Lynne Whitley  
Philippa Kings  
Margaret Wilson  
Bill Ball

## **CELLO**

Chloe Allman-Ward  
Valerie Haynes  
Rosemary Lee  
Jan Potter  
Sarah Stuart-Pennick  
William Bass

## **DOUBLE BASS**

Nicky Adamson  
Oliver Springett  
Simon Taunton

## **FLUTES**

Patrick Taggart  
Ian Audsley

## **PICCOLO**

Libby Summers

## **OBOE**

Helen Pye  
Christine Geer

## **CLARINET**

Jane Rhind  
Stephen Rhind

## **BASSOON**

Warwick Potter  
Huw Jones

## **HORN**

Dagmar Harrison  
Allan Jones

## **TRUMPET**

Jeremy Clack  
John Hutchings

## **TROMBONE**

Alan Gout  
Effie Sparkhall  
Martin Nicholls

## **TUBA**

Stephen Wassall

## **TIMPS/PERCUSSION**

Francis Beuttler

## **HARP**

Jane Lister

**FORTHCOMING CONCERTS BY THE SOCIETY IN  
2001**

**Sunday 11th November at 3 pm at the Assembly Hall**

**Mozart Concert**

**Symphony No 40 in GMinor K550**

**Requiem**

**Sunday 16th December at 7pm at St Mary's Church Goudhurst**

**Carol Concert**

**OTHER CONCERTS**

**ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

**All concerts 3 pm at the Assembly Hall**

**Soloists**

Sunday, 7th October	Merryn Gamba (mezzo-soprano)
Sunday, 4th November	Jean-Phillipe Collard (Piano)
Sunday, 2nd December	Catherine Rattray (horn) and Jane Rhind (clarinet)

**GREEN ROOM MUSIC CLUB**

**All concerts 3 pm at Trinity Theatre**

Sunday, 16th September	Wihan Quartet
Sunday, 21st October	Ashildur Haraldsdottir (Flute) Nigel Clayton (Piano)
Sunday, 25th November	Roderick Williams (Baritone) Suzie Allen (Piano)

***If you enjoy singing - why not come and join us? Rehearsals are held on  
Mondays at 7.30pm in St John's Church Hall, Tunbridge Wells. Contact:  
CELIA SUMNER 01892 534814 or OLIVIA SEAMAN 01892 863760***

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("Making Music") and is a Registered Charity No. 273310