

The Royal Tunbridge Wells
Choral Society presents an



OPERA
GALA
CONCERT

SUNDAY 14th APRIL 2002
at 3 pm

Programme 50p

Derek Watmough - Conductor

Derek is a Yorkshireman who studied Classical Languages and, later, Music at the University of Durham. As a teenager he played the violin in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and a European tour with them in 1955 inspired him to travel as often as possible (a passion he still pursues) and to learn to speak a few European languages. He reads German, French, Spanish, some Dutch and Italian. His fluency in German has been invaluable since the Choral Society developed a close relationship with the Lutherkirche Bach Choir in Wiesbaden. Derek held teaching posts at the Royal Grammar School in High Wycombe, at the Skinners' School in Tunbridge Wells and finally at Beacon Community College in Crowborough, since when he has devoted his time to a large number of musical activities in the area and elsewhere. He enjoys playing the piano as much as conducting and has played with the Sussex Camerata and directed the Mid-Sussex Sinfonia and the Tunbridge Wells Sinfonietta from the keyboard. He will invariably be found singing in the Chorus at concerts by local groups where his tenor voice is much valued. He is also one of four regular conductors of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra. His first concert as Conductor of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society in 1973 included Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*, which is one of the works to be performed at the Centenary Concert of the Society in 2004. His series of lectures on music of all kinds are popular and he contributes concert reviews to the Kent & Sussex Courier. He was awarded the MBE in 1992 for his services to music.

Robert Hardcastle - Presenter

This is the second Opera Gala Concert which Robert has presented for us and we are delighted to have him here this afternoon. His association with the Choral Society goes back a long way and he was for some time its Chairman. In the early 1960s he founded Discourses Ltd, to publish educational and classical language recordings and an 'All about Music' series in which Julian Lloyd Webber made his debut. He also worked at that time with Jack Brymer, Peter Katin, James Blades and Denis Matthews and other leading musicians. His involvement in the musical life of Tunbridge Wells is extensive - he is

Chairman of the Friends of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra and edits its monthly newsletter as well as that of the Green Room Music Club with which he is also closely associated. Author of several articles and books about music he has, with the help of his grandson, Lawrence, recently established a website (www.twclassical.co.uk) to disseminate news and information about classical music in and around Tunbridge Wells. Earlier this year he appeared with the RTWSO as narrator in a performance of Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, and on Sunday, 7th July he will introduce, also in the Assembly Hall, the finals concert in this year's Tunbridge Wells International Young Concert Artists Competition.

Linda Gerrard - Soprano

A former prize-winning student of the Royal Northern College of Music, Linda Gerrard has built up a career that has spanned much of Europe and the USA. Performances have taken her to Belgium, Holland, France and Germany; and to New York, Boston and Washington in the USA. She made her international operatic début as Bellante (*Almira*) at the Bremen Opera House in a production which was repeated at the Handel Festival in Halle. Her recording of this performance with the Fiori Musicali of Bremen is now available on the CPO label. She has also sung the rôle of Konstanze (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*) with the Orchestre National d'Ile de France in Paris under the direction of Marc Minkowski. She has also sung with Marc Minkowski and Les Musiciens du Louvre during a European tour which took her to Paris, Antwerp, the Baroque Music Festival of Aix-les-Bains and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, which was broadcast on Radio France. Recent highlights of Linda Gerrard's concert diary have included her Canadian début singing *Messiah* (Handel) for the New Hamilton Orchestra, the *Nelson Mass* (Haydn) at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Lloyd Webber *Requiem* with the Scottish Opera Orchestra, *Elijah* (Mendelssohn) with Willard White in Southwell Minster and the *Stabat Mater* (Rossini) at Westminster Abbey. Future engagements include *Messiah* (Handel) for Magdeburg Cathedral Choir,

Germany and at the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea; *The Creation* (Haydn) at the Dorking Halls; *Mass in C Minor* (Mozart) in Ripon Cathedral and *Gloria* (Poulenc) for Barnet Choral Society.

Richard Coxon - Tenor

Born in Nottingham, Richard Coxon studied at the Royal Northern College of Music, where he won a number of prizes, including the Clonter Opera Prize, the Ricordi Opera Prize and the Webster Booth/Esso Award. He made his professional operatic debut as Flavio (*Norma*) for Scottish Opera, subsequently spending three years with the company as Principal Tenor, his roles including Jacquino (*Fidelio*), Nemorino (*L'Elisir d'Amore*), Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*), Alfredo (*La Traviata*) and Sailor (*Tristan und Isolde*). He has undertaken other operatic roles for Opera Northern Ireland, Opera Zuid, Maastricht, English National Opera and the Royal Opera. Recent engagements are Bill in Jonathan Dove's *Flight* at the Glyndebourne Festival, Vanya Kudrjáš (*Katya Kabanova*) and Narraboth (*Salome*) for Scottish Opera, Tom Rakewell (*The Rake's Progress*) for New Israeli Opera, Lieutenant Bonnet (*War and Peace*) and the Italian Tenor (*Der Rosenkavalier*) at the Spoleto Festival and the Steersman (*Der fliegende Holländer*) for Opera Ireland. He recently returned to the Royal Opera as Squeak (*Billy Budd*) and sang Vanya Kudrjáš (*Katya Kabanova*) for both Florida Grand Opera and the Opéra de Montréal. His future engagements include The Painter (*Lulu*) for English National Opera, Bill (*Flight*) for Nationale Reisopera, Edoardo (*Un giorno di regno*) at the Buxton Festival, *A Child of our Time* in Chester Cathedral, the Verdi *Requiem* at the Dorking Halls and his first appearance on 'Friday Night is Music Night'. Richard Coxon's recordings include Squeak (*Billy Budd*), Lieutenant Bonnet (*War and Peace*) and Mr By-Ends (*The Pilgrim's Progress*) for Chandos and Lucifer/Satan (*The Flood*) by Stravinsky for 20th Century Classics. He also took the role of Sam in Don Boyd's film *Lucia*.

Riccardo Simonetti - Baritone

Riccardo Simonetti was born in Lancashire and studied at the Royal Northern College of Music where he won the Anne Ziegler/Esso Award. His operatic roles include Albert (*Werther*) and Count

Almaviva (*The Marriage of Figaro*) for English Touring Opera, Don Giovanni for Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Ping (*Turandot*) in Nice, Rodimarte in Scarlatti's *Il Trionfo dell'onore* in Caen, Liege and Trento, Eddy in Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Greek* for the London Sinfonietta, Marullo (*Rigoletto*) in Amsterdam, Figaro (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*) for Welsh National Opera, and the Cavaliere di Belfiore in Verdi's *Un giorno di regno* for the Buxton Festival. For the English National Opera, Riccardo has sung Dancairo (*Carmen*), Ygene in the world première of Gavin Bryars *Doctor Ox's Experiment*, Dr Malatesta (*Don Pasquale*), Papageno (*The Magic Flute*), Schaunard (*La Bohème*), Figaro (*The Barber of Seville*), Pish-Tush (*The Mikado*), Patroclus (*King Priam*), Marullo (*Rigoletto*), Marquis d'Obigny (*La Traviata*) and Bill (*The Rise and Fall of the City Mahagonny*). His concert repertoire includes *Messiah* with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Huddersfield Choral Society and at the Royal Albert Hall, *Elijah* at the Manchester Free Trade Hall and a concert performance of *L'enfant et les Sortilèges* at the Royal Festival Hall under Sir Andrew Davis. His recordings include Périchaud (*La Rondine*) and Gypsy (*Il Trovatore*) for EMI, both with Antonio Pappano and his future engagements include Patroclus (*Iphigénie en Aulide*) for Glyndebourne Festival Opera, *The Dream of Gerontius* with the Sussex Symphony Orchestra, Mahler *Symphony No 8* at the Royal Concert Hall and *Carmina Burana* for Maidstone Choral Union.

About Singing Opera Choruses

John Rutter says in the Preface to his 'Opera Choruses' (OUP): "Opera has in recent years been winning new and wider audiences, whose appetite and interest is by no means confined to performances in the opera house". A hundred years ago the repertoire of choral societies would normally include opera. More recently famous extracts from operas have been used for events involving massed crowds of people, which has undoubtedly increased public interest in and enjoyment of operatic music. To help solve the problem of providing opera scores for the use of choirs, John Rutter has collected and edited a selection of opera choruses which will widen the scope of choral concerts for the greater enjoyment of singers and audience alike. We are singing items from John Rutter's collection again today.

PART 1

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Coronation Scene (<i>Boris Godonov</i>)
Tenor, Baritone and Choir | Mussorgsky |
| Voyagers' Chorus (<i>Idomeneo</i>)
Soprano and Choir | Mozart |
| Aria: La Donna e mobile (<i>Rigoletto</i>)
Tenor | Verdi |
| Aria: Czardas (<i>Die Fledermaus</i>)
Soprano | Johann Strauss |
| Spinning Chorus
(<i>The Flying Dutchman</i>)
Choir | Wagner |
| Duet: Au fond du temple saint
(<i>The Pearl Fishers</i>)
Tenor and Baritone | Bizet |
| Chorus of Enchanted Islanders
(<i>Alcina</i>)
Choir | Handel |
| Aria: Der Vogelfänger (<i>The Birdcatcher</i>)
(<i>The Magic Flute</i>)
Baritone | Mozart |
| Brindisi (<i>La Traviata</i>)
Soprano, Tenor and Choir | Verdi |

INTERVAL

PART 11

Easter Hymn

(Cavalleria Rusticana)

Soprano and Choir

Mascagni

Aria: Take a Pair of Sparkling Eyes

(The Gondoliers)

Tenor

Gilbert & Sullivan

Duet: La ci darem la mano

(Don Giovanni)

Soprano and Baritone

Mozart

Prayer (*Moïse*)

Soprano, Tenor, Baritone

and Choir

Rossini

Aria: Non più andrai (*Marriage*

***of Figaro*)**

Baritone

Mozart

Chorus of Wedding Guests

(Lucia di Lammermoor)

Tenor and Choir

Donizetti

Aria: E Strano

(La Traviata)

Soprano

Verdi

Polovtsian Dances (*Prince Igor*)

Baritone and Choir

Borodin

Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society

President

Roy Douglas

Vice President

Geoff Stredder

Musical Director and Conductor

Derek Watmough

Accompanist

Wilmarc Ellman

Honorary Life Members

Joyce Stredder and Len Lee

Patrons

Miss B Benson

Mr R R Douglas

Miss D Goodwin

Mrs H MacNab

Mr R Page

Mr I Short

Mr & Mrs G D Stredder

Mr T Walter

Mr M Webb

Mr W N Yates

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

Roy Dunstall - 01580 211814

*If you enjoy singing why not come and join us? Rehearsals are held on
Mondays at 7.30 pm in St John's Church Hall, Tunbridge Wells. Just
ring the Registrar CELIA SUMNER on 01892 534814*

MEMBERS OF THE CHOIR

Sopranos

Angela Bell	Marcia Foley	Elizabeth Orr
Diana Blower	Joan Hever	Miriam Penn
Deborah Bruce	Janet Higbee	Eileen Phillips
Emma Cale	Audrey Hodges	Winnie Roszak
Susan Chandler	Andrea Holt	Esme Sanger
Karen Cox	Jenny Jessup	Carol Smith
Aileen Cunningham	Sheila Jones	Margaret Smith
Patsy Dale	Helen MacNab	Lorna Stroud
Jill Dunstall	Mary Marshall	Muriel Thatcher
Joyce Eckett	Barbara Maw	Johanna Thorpe
Sue Ellman	Jenny Mitchley	Audrey Wallin
	Margaret Mortimore	Elizabeth Webb

Altos

Claire Bigwood	Barbara Diamond	Pat Maxwell
Franziska Brockl	Jean Finch	Shirley Nankivell
Margaret Butcher	Joanna Finlay	Mavis Oakely
Claire Cooper	Nicola Fletcher	Sylvia Parsons
Pauline Coxshall	Peggy Flood	Olivia Seaman
Anita Crofts	Hazel Fox	Yvonne Spencer
Elizabeth Crusoe	Eileen Gall	Audrey Stuart-Black
Nicola Cushing	Alice Gill	Celia Sumner
Diana Dale	Ruth Gray	June Talbot
Moira Davidson	Jean Heritage	Barbara Tattersall
Sheila Day	Caroline Lewis	June Wheeler

Tenors

Malcolm Beresford	John Harding	Frances Lee
Elizabeth Carr	John Holt	Len Lee
Derek Day	Guy Huntrods	Derek Oakely
Wilmarc Ellman	Aiden Lee	Alan Spencer

Basses

John Adkins	Gavin Grant	Cyril Rogers
Clive Brock	David Ham	Eric Scott
Roy Dunstall	Michael Holcroft	John Spary
Richard Gosling	Vernon Jolly	Clive Steward
		Michael Wheeler

MEMBERS OF THE ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN 1

Rita French (Leader)
Martin Cannings
Shereen Godber
Daniel Weatherly
Frances Clack
Sally Brooke-Pike
Julia Atkinson
Julia Dalby

VIOLIN 2

Anita Buser
Julia Barker
James Shenton
Anne McWatt
Muriel Parker
Amanda Rupp
Karen Hoy
Caroline Veall

VIOLA

Jenny Moore
Jane Taunton
Lynne Whitley
Philippa Kings
Margaret Wilson
Rosemary Cole

CELLO

Chloe Allman-Ward
Valerie Haynes
Rosemary Lee
Jan Potter
Ruth Boswell
William Bass

DOUBLE BASS

Colin Moore
Oliver Springett
Simon Taunton
Nicki Christianson

FLUTE

Michael Hirst
Alison Hoyland
Libby Summers

PICCOLO

Libby Summers

OBOE

Helen Pye
Isabel Pearce

COR ANGLAIS

Isabel Pearce

CLARINET

Jane Rhind
Stephen Rhind

BASSOON

Warwick Potter
Liz Trigg

HORN

David Clack
Martin Bayliss
Keith Franklin
Chris Gibbs

TRUMPET

Jeremy Clack
John Hutchins

TROMBONE

Alan Gout
Effie Sparkhall
Martin Nicholls

TUBA

Geoffrey Moore

TIMPS/PERCUSSION

Francis Beuttler
James Pickford

HARP

Anna Wynne

**FORTHCOMING CONCERTS BY THE SOCIETY
IN 2002**

Sunday, 10th November at 3 pm Vaughan Williams Concert
at the Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells

The Lark Ascending for solo violin and orchestra
In Windsor Forest from *Sir John in Love*
A Sea Symphony

Sunday, 15th December at 6.30pm Carol Concert
at St Mary's Church, Goudhurst

GREEN ROOM MUSIC CLUB
All concerts 3 pm at Trinity Theatre

Sunday, 15th September 2002

Sunday, 20th October 2002

Sunday, 24th November 2002

The Elmer Piano Trio

Qian Wu (Piano)

Andrew Manze (violin)

Rachel Podger (violin)

Alison McGillivray ('cello)

Gary Cooper (harpsichord)

Brochures containing full details of the 2002-3 Season of the Green Room Music Club can be obtained from: **Alma Burch 01892 664511**

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
All concerts at 3 pm at the Assembly Hall

Sunday, 6th October 2002

Walton, Crusell, Vaughan Williams

Emma Johnson (Clarinet)

Conductor: Roderick Dunk

Sunday, 3rd November 2002

Prokofiev, Shostakovitch, Rachmaninov

Freddy Kempf (Piano)

Conductor: Roderick Dunk

Sunday, 1st December 2002

Tchaikovsky, Haydn, Bellini

Nicholas Daniel (Oboe)

Conductor: Neil Thomson

To obtain tickets or a brochure telephone **Ray Orson on 01892 524027**

NOTICE

The RTWCS regret that arising from circumstances beyond our control it has been necessary to change the baritone soloist for this concert. We thank Riccardo Simonetti for accepting the position at short notice and welcome him to Tunbridge Wells. As a result of this, the pre-concert publicity was inaccurate and we regret any inconvenience that may have resulted.

We hope you have enjoyed this concert - if so, you may like to be kept informed about our future concerts. Please fill in your details below and we will send you advance information as it becomes available:

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

First name/initials & surname

Address

.....

Postcode

Please return to Muriel Thatcher (Publicity Secretary)
15A Broadwater Down
Tunbridge Wells
TN2 5NJ



The Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society is a member of the NFMS ("Making Music") and is a Registered Charity No. 273310.