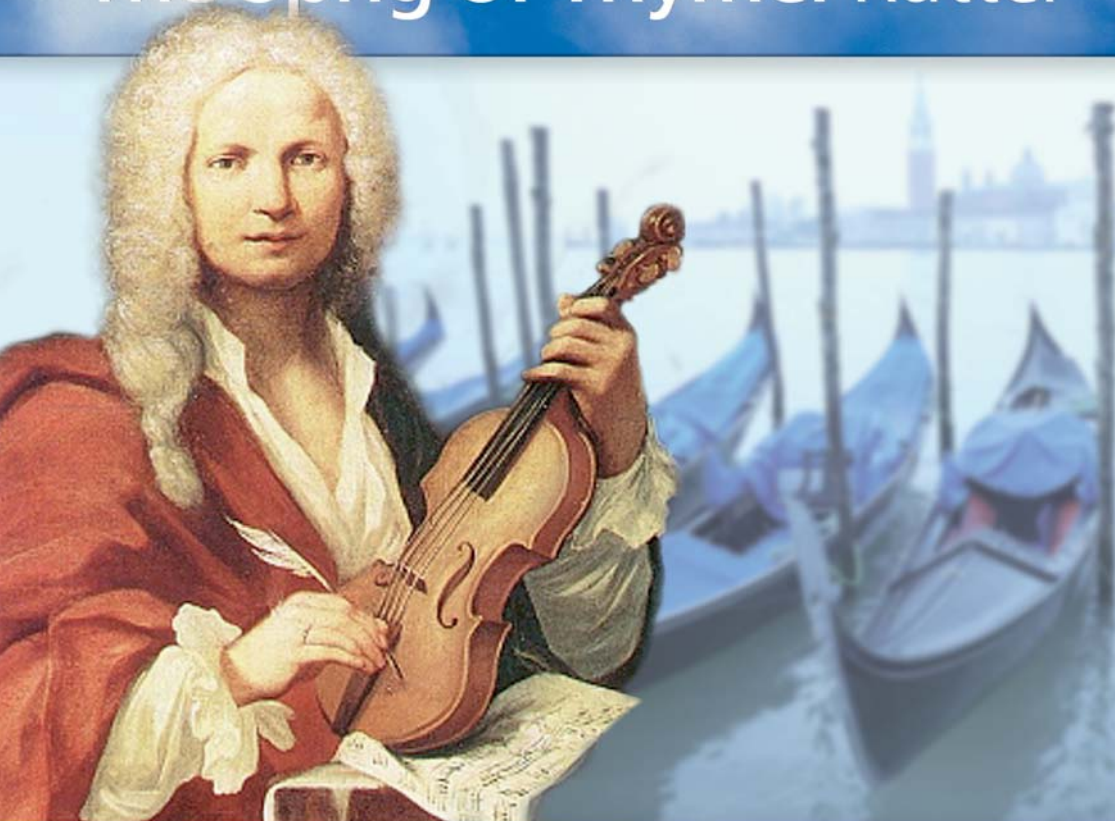


ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY

Gloria: Vivaldi

The Sprig of Thyme: Rutter



Saturday 24th June 2006

Conductor: Richard Jenkinson
Soloists: Sarah Lingard (soprano)
Harriet Webb (mezzo-soprano)
Orchestra: The Sussex Camerata & Friends



& Members of The Somerhill School Choir

**7.30pm Vale Royal Methodist Church,
Tunbridge Wells**



**Entrance ticket
& programme £10**

The composers & the conductor

Antonio Vivaldi (1678 – 1741)



Nowadays Vivaldi is amongst the most popular of all composers but this has not always been the case. During his lifetime he did indeed enjoy considerable success, though his reputation was much greater in France, Holland and England than it was in his native Italy. He died in Vienna and was buried in a pauper's grave, and his music became neglected for a great many years. It wasn't until the emergence of the 'early music' groups in the nineteen-sixties that his music once again enjoyed widespread popularity.

The *Gloria*, together with the *Four Seasons*, is undoubtedly Vivaldi's best-known work. He wrote it for the Ospedale della Pietà, the Venetian girls' orphanage where he taught music from 1703. The girls were given a thorough training in choral singing, the more gifted ones also being given instrumental tuition and extra voice coaching. According to contemporary reports, the concerts that they gave were of a very high standard, and the entrance fees contributed significantly to the maintenance of the orphanage.

The wonderfully sunny nature of the *Gloria*, with its distinctive melodies and rhythms, is characteristic of all of Vivaldi's music, giving it an immediate and universal appeal.

John Bawden, Musical Director, Fareham Philharmonic Choir.

John Rutter (1945 –)

John Rutter was born in London in 1945, and was educated at Highgate School and Clare College, Cambridge. He began writing music seriously at the age of twenty-four, and, whilst his compositions are mainly choral, they also include two children's operas, orchestral works, music for TV and innumerable hymns and carols. From 1975 to 1979 he was Director of Music at Clare College. Two years later, he formed the Cambridge Singers and now divides his time between composing and conducting orchestras in venues all over the world. In 1996 the Archbishop of Canterbury conferred a Lambeth Doctorate of Music upon him in recognition of his contribution to church music.



"For children growing up in postwar England as I did, traditional songs still form a common musical currency. These songs brought me delight and pleasure then, and they still do now, though pleasure has become tinged with nostalgia because, for the most part, they are forgotten and gone from our lives, perhaps forever. *A Sprig of Thyme* is an affectionate tribute to their composers and poets; a few were renowned, most were obscure or unknown, but the songs they created were famous, and I remember them fondly." – John Rutter.

Richard Jenkinson



Richard grew up in Sussex, and received his early musical training through the County Music Service. He won a scholarship to continue his studies at the Royal College of Music in London, where – among many others – Sir David Willcocks was a great influence and source of inspiration.

Richard now has a busy and vibrant career as a freelance musician, specialising in choral music of all kinds, as conductor, accompanist and composer, working regularly with many of the major choirs and choral societies in and around London and South East England.

Following the success and critical acclaim of concerts with his choirs last year, this season promises to be busier than ever for Richard: Brahms and Mozart programmes with Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society, Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* and Karl Jenkins' ubiquitous *Armed Man* with East Grinstead Choral Society, plus works by Vivaldi, Pergolesi, Handel and Mozart in his exciting new appointment as Musical Director to Bookham Choral Society in Surrey.

After music (a long way after music!) Richard's other great love is sport – but usually just from the touch-line... or, better still, from the sofa, with a large beer for sustenance!

The programme

The Sprig of Thyme

John Rutter

The bold grenadier
The keel row
The willow tree
The sprig of thyme
Down by the sally gardens
The cuckoo
I know where I'm going
Willow song
O can ye sew cushions?
The miller of Dee
Afton Water

Summer Music

Sussex Camerata & Friends

Sortie in Eb

Louis James Alfred Léfébure-Wély

Richard Jenkinson, Organ

Interval

Gloria

Antonio Vivaldi

- I. Gloria in excelsis Deo
- II. Et in terra pax hominibus
- III. Laudamus te
- IV. Gratias agimus tibi
- V. Propter magnam gloriam
- VI. Domine Deus
- VII. Domine Fili Unigenite
- VIII. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei
- IX. Qui tollis peccata mundi
- X. Qui sedes ad dexteram
- XI. Quoniam tu solus Sanctus
- XII. Cum Sancto Spiritu

The choir

Sopranos

Iris Boening
Debbie Bruce
Heather Champion
Jill Dunstall
Clare Easterling
Ann Huggett
Sheila Jones
Alison Kain
Diana MacFarlane
Helen MacNab
Mary Marshall
Barbara Maw
Moira McMillan
Janine Nicol
Pat Prior
Jill Rogers
Debbie Slade
Heather Styles
Ann Tutt
Audrey Wallin
Joanne Wye

Tenors

Alan Clarkson
Stephen Davis
James Day
Donald Haley
Gareth Looker
Alan Spencer
Michael Spencer

Plus members of

The Somerhill School Choir

The orchestra

Violin 1	Rita James
Violin 2	Martin Cannings
Viola	Jane Taunton
Cello	Chloë Allman-Ward
Double Bass	Evert Martin
Oboe	Helen Pye
Trumpet	Jeremy Clack
Keyboard/Piano	Anthony Zerpa-Falcon

Support

President

Roy Douglas

Vice President

Derek Watmough MBE

Honorary Life Members

Len Lee
Joyce Stredder

Patrons

Mrs A Bell	Mr B A & Mrs E Phillips
Miss B Benson	Mrs W Roszak
Mrs E Carr	Mr I Short
Mr R R Douglas	Mrs J Stredder
Miss D Goodwin	Miss L Stroud
Mrs A Hodges	Mr R F Thatcher
Mr G Huntrods CBE	Mr D Watmough
Mrs H MacNab	Mr & Mrs G T Weller
Mr R Page	Mr W N Yates

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

For further information about the Society visit our website www.rtwcs.org.uk