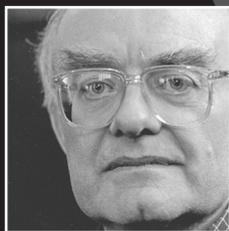
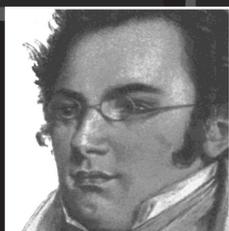


Tunbridge Wells
Summer Sing 2008



Rutter:
Feel the Spirit



Schubert:
Mass in G

Saturday 28th June 2008

7.00pm Vale Royal Methodist Church,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1BX

Conductor: Richard Jenkinson

Soloist: Kristin Finnigan (mezzo-soprano)

Orchestra: Sinfonia da Chiesa (leader: Brian Smith)

Chorus: RTWCS and children from

Herne County Junior School,
Crowborough

(Musical director: Gillian Piper)

Sponsor:



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Entrance ticket & programme
Adults £12, children £6)

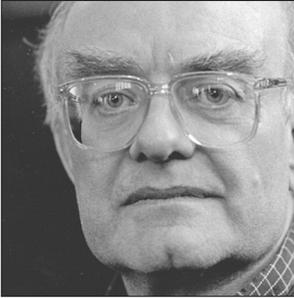
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www.rtwcs.org.uk

Biographies

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.

Feel the Spirit is a cycle of seven spirituals arranged for chorus, mezzo-soprano soloist and orchestra. Rutter came up with the idea after hearing Melanie Marshall's solo interpretations of spirituals in her recitals. Rutter thought that her artistry in this area of song would be just as effective in the fuller context of choir and orchestra. Together they chose seven of their favorite spirituals which he then crafted with some gorgeous, vibrant, unique and classy arrangements, topped off with a "makes-you-want-to-jump-up-and-shout-'Yeah!'" ending!

Franz Schubert (1797 – 1828)

Schubert wrote this simple but charming setting of the Mass in 1815 for his local church in Liechtenthal, a suburb of Vienna. He was just 18 years old. The original accompaniment was for strings and organ, but when it was published thirty years later, his brother Ferdinand added parts for wind and timpani.

This youthful work is a fine example of Schubert's lyrical skill, heard to particularly fine effect in the *Kyrie* and *Benedictus*. The setting owes its formal plan to Mozart's and Haydn's short Viennese Masses, especially in the *Sanctus* where a weighty opening section is followed by a lively, vigorous fugue. The *Gloria*, too, displays a contrast of mood but here a lyrical central section is framed by music of great fire. The *Credo* opens and closes quietly with the *Crucifixus* section providing a more forceful episode. The *Agnus Dei*, with its choral pleas interspersing the soloists' phrases, brings the work to a peaceful conclusion.



Richard Jenkinson



Richard founded the *Tunbridge Wells Summer Sing* during his first year as Musical Director and Conductor of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society, beginning with a highly successful performance of Rutter's *Requiem* and Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* in the Summer of 2005.

Using experience from working with many choirs, and particularly of leading choral workshops, Richard has established a fun, lively and more informal style for the short series of summer rehearsals. The *Summer Sing* meets the needs of those members of RTWCS who wish to extend their singing beyond the formal Spring concert which marks the official "end of season," and encourages singers from the area to come and "give it a try." Many of RTWCS's newer members have been drawn to the choir by joining the *Summer Sing*.

Another important element is the encouragement of younger singers, both through youth membership and through collaboration with school choirs. Adults enjoy the freshness and enthusiasm of the young voices (and so does Richard!) and the hope is that these children and young people will develop a love of singing plus enjoyment and appreciation of the music.

The *Tunbridge Wells Summer Sing* has also been a way of working with and encouraging young soloists, often from the Kent/East Sussex area. There has also been the opportunity to work with smaller ensembles of players, sometimes local and sometimes through Richard's wider contacts.

Richard continues to enjoy his regular work with many choirs and choral societies, and is looking forward to conducting performances of Bach's *St. Matthew* and *St. John Passions*, Verdi's *Requiem*, plus Handel's *Messiah* and various concert tours abroad.

Kristin Finnigan



Mezzo soprano Kristin graduated with honours from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in 2004, having studied with Margaret Izatt. During her time there she performed as a soloist with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra in Bartók's *Three Village Scenes* and sang Hippolyta in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

She has just completed the advanced postgraduate course at Trinity College of Music, supported by the Henry Rennoldson-Crawford Scholarship, where she studied with Hazel Wood. Operatic roles include Messaggiera in Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*, Symbolic Mother in the world premiere of Tunde Jegede's *A Cry of Innocence*, Mrs Peacham in Gaye's *The Beggar's Opera*, Cornelia in Handel's *Julius Caesar*, La Prieure in Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmelites* and Carmen in *Mean Time Opera* in Greenwich Theatre. She was also the alto soloist in Trinity's performance of Tippett's *Child of our Time*.

Kristin was chosen to take part in the first mentoring scheme between Trinity and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. In February 2006 she was one of only six singers in the country chosen by the Park Lane Group to sing in a master class with the legendary Teresa Berganza in the Purcell Room. Kristin was also a finalist of the Roy Pleasance Singing Competition 2006, the English Song Competition 2007 and she was the winner of the 2006 Elizabeth Schumann lieder prize with pianist Tarek-Al-Shubbak.

Her future engagements included taking part in the prestigious Aldeburgh Festival, the role of Carmen with Vox Lirika Opera Company and a UK and Israel Tour playing second Witch in *Dido and Aeneas* with Armonico Consort.

Sinfonia da Chiesa

Sinfonia da Chiesa was established in 2002 by Stephen Hope, their Artistic Director, and consists of professional musicians who have enjoyed success in a variety of ways during their careers. Some are highly respected music teachers, others are freelance players and several have retired from, or still work with, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the BBC Concert Orchestra.

The programme

Jesu, joy of man's desiring (from Cantata No 147)

J.S. Bach

A selection from Herne County Junior School

Kristin Finnigan (Mezzo-Soprano)

Mass In G

Franz Schubert

- I. Kyrie eleison
- II. Gloria in excelsis
- III. Credo
- IV. Sanctus
- V. Benedictus
- VI. Agnus Dei

Interval (15 minutes)

Feel the Spirit

John Rutter

- I. Joshua fit the battle of Jericho
- II. Steal away
- III. I got a robe
- IV. Sometimes I feel like a motherless child
- V. Ev'ry time I feel the spirit
- VI. Deep river
- VII. When the saints go marchin' in

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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