

Tunbridge Wells

Summer Sing 2010

**Petite
Messe
Solennelle**
Rossini

Saturday 3rd July 2010

7.00pm St John's Church,

Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9LG

with Richard Jenkinson, conductor
Anthony Zerpa-Falcon, piano
Christopher Harris, harmonium/organ

Programme: £2.00



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Petite Messe Solennelle **by Gioachino Rossini (1792 – 1868)**

Rossini was born at Pesaro and moved with his parents to Bologna at the time when Napoleon's troops entered Northern Italy. There Rossini had a musical upbringing and started composing at about the age of twelve. By his late teens he was writing seriously for the theatre. He studied at the University of Bologna, becoming an enthusiast for the music of Mozart, who had died little more than two months before Rossini was born. Rossini later referred to Mozart as 'the admiration of my youth, the desperation of my mature years and the consolation of my old age'.

Rossini achieved both fame and fortune early in his career, continuing opera-writing until he was 37 years old. In this period, he held positions as Musical Director of theatres in Naples and later in Paris. However, in 1829, his last opera *William Tell* was produced and he 'retired', having written nearly forty operas. For the next twenty five years, he wrote virtually nothing. Then, after settling in Paris in 1855, he started to compose again, mainly songs and piano pieces, and often parodying contemporary styles. A collection of about 150 pieces date from the last 13 years of his life, many of them humorous or quirky in nature – he called them the "sins of old age".

During this last period, he was in 1863 asked by a friend, Countess Louise Pillet-Will, to write a solemn mass for the consecration of a private chapel. He scored the work for intimate forces – two pianos, harmonium, four soloists and small chorus. The resulting work was first performed in Passy near Paris in March 1864. At the end of the score he rather touchingly wrote: 'Good Lord, there it is, finished, this poor little mass. I do not know if this music is sacred or sacrilegious ("musique sacrée" or "sacrée musique"). I was born for comic opera as You well know. Little skill, some feeling and that's all. Therefore let me sing Your praises and grant me your paradise. G. Rossini – Passy 1863.' His description 'little' has stuck to the work so that it is customarily referred to as the 'Petite' Messe Solennelle, in spite of taking over 80 minutes to perform! It contains the full text of the High Mass – hence 'solennelle' in the title – but in addition, Rossini has set *O Salutaris Hostia*, a text suitable for the feast of Corpus Christi. However, it is not really solemn in any emotional sense. For this was as quirky in its way as any of his other pieces written at this time. Indeed, among his annotations to the autograph, he self-deprecatingly described the work as 'the last mortal sin of my old age'.

This 'little solemn mass' was the last of Rossini's major compositions and was immediately received enthusiastically by Meyerbeer and other musical eminences in Paris at that time. Although it was commissioned for small forces, Rossini clearly envisaged performances on a larger scale and he orchestrated it a year or two later. The hand of the opera composer undoubtedly shows in the writing, but does not dominate. Indeed some sections could be taken as Rossini showing his mastery of form with affinities to older styles, for example the strict canon of the unaccompanied *Christe eleison*, early in the work. This is framed by two *Kyrie* sections, where the smooth vocal parts are underlain by rhythmic piano writing in quite different style. Occasionally, in such solos as *Domine Deus* and *Quoniam*, the theatre takes over, and there are times when the Rossini of 1863 comes stylistically close to Verdi. This perhaps is less to be wondered at than the contrapuntal skill and vitality of the fugal sections (*Cum Sancto Spiritu* and *In Vitam Venturi*). The instrumental *Preludio Religioso* certainly offers a rare glimpse of a more serious and academic Rossini than might be expected by listeners who know only the operas.

Programme Note by Edinburgh Royal Choral Union. This note was supplied through the Programme Note Bank of Making Music, the National Federation of Music Societies.

Note on applause:

We are more than happy to hear you applaud if you wish to show your appreciation of the performance! So as to cause as little disruption as possible to the flow of the piece we have indicated places where there is a suitable pause for applause by the symbol:



The conductor

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, he 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 newest members have been drawn to the choir by joining the Summer Sing. The Tunbridge Wells Summer Sing has also been a way of working with and encouraging young soloists and players, often from the Kent/East Sussex area.

Richard continues to enjoy his regular work with many choirs and choral societies. This year has seen the launch of his new chamber choir, Meridian Voices, and his exciting new appointment as Conductor of The London Orpheus Choir. He is looking forward to conducting performances of Britten's *St Nicolas*, Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*, Haydn's *Nelson Mass* and Duruflé's *Requiem*, and to various concert tours and "choral exchanges".



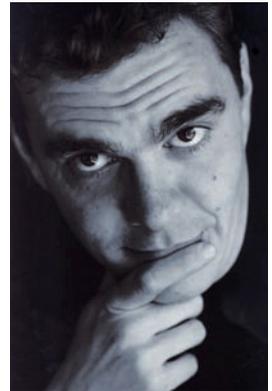
The performers

Anthony Zerpa-Falcon – piano

A prize-winner of both national and international competitions, Anthony Zerpa-Falcon has established a reputation for exciting and individual interpretations of a wide repertoire, ranging from Purcell to Ligeti. He has won prizes at top international piano competitions such as the 44th Maria Canals in Barcelona, the Guerrero Foundation in Madrid and the National Federation of Music Societies Britten/Pears Award.

Born in Kent, into an Anglo-Spanish family, Anthony gave his first recital at the age of twelve, and made his concerto debut three years later playing the Schumann Piano Concerto. He has performed at prestigious venues across the UK and abroad – in the South Bank Centre, St John's Smith Square, the Barbican Centre, the Wigmore Hall, the Accademia Giuseppe Verdi in Milan, the Palau de la Musica in Barcelona, the Auditorio Nacional in Madrid and the Concert Hall of the Forbidden City in Beijing.

After completing his post-graduate studies at the Guildhall School of Music in the class of Joan Havill, he was invited to study at the International Piano Academy in the town of Cadennabia on Lake Como. As one of only six students selected from around the world he received classes for two years from some of the world's leading concert artists and professors, including Dmitri Bashkirov, Murray Perahia, Alicia de Larrocha, Karl Schnabel, Charles Rosen, and Leon Fleisher. The Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society is privileged to have him as our accompanist.



The performers (continued)

Christopher Harris – harmonium



Christopher was born in Tunbridge Wells and now lives in Crowborough where he works as a freelance musician and répétiteur. He studied music at Jesus College, Oxford, as organ scholar specialising in the medieval music of Britain and Europe. Before going to university, he gained the FRCO diploma studying with Alan Wicks at Canterbury Cathedral. Christopher has given organ recitals in venues such as Westminster Abbey, Chichester Cathedral, St Martin-in-the-Fields and Queens College, Oxford and has accompanied services in many of the cathedrals of southern and eastern England. He is continuo player for Crowborough Baroque and the Corelli Ensemble, accompanist to The Sackville Singers and Tonbridge Philharmonic Society and conductor of the Chancel Singers, a group which sings at various cathedrals around the country and recently sang in Canterbury and St Paul's Cathedrals. He is also conductor of the Hartfield Singers.

Inês Simões – soprano



Inês studies with Susan McCulloch at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where she is currently undertaking the Extended Guildhall Artist Masters. She has won the Second Prize in the Vocal Competition Prémio José Alegria and the Prize of Excellency in the Opera Plus's Summer Course. Throughout Portugal, she has performed the operatic roles of Aminta, Bastienne (Mozart) and Susanna (Wolf-Ferrari); she has sung Schubert's *5th mass* and Rutter's *Requiem* and she has recorded song recitals for the National Radio. Since in London, she has performed at the British Museum with a Renaissance Consort and she was one of the soloists in Berg's *Suite Wozzeck* at Barbican Hall. Next engagements are a Schumann recital in the Oxford Lieder Festival and a concert for Portuguese Radio.

Martha Bredin – mezzo soprano



Dublin born Martha has just performed the role of Cherubino with Ireland's Opera Theatre Company's nationwide tour of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*. She completed two seasons from 2008-2009 with Glyndebourne Opera Company where she sang the title role Amarela in the World Premiere of *The Yellow Sofa*, written by Glyndebourne's composer in residence Julian Philips. Last year she understudied the role of Third Wood Sprite in Dvorák's *Rusalka* at Glyndebourne's Festival. In 2007 she performed the role of Nancy in Benjamin Britten's opera *Albert Herring* at the New National Theatre in Tokyo, Japan.

Oratorio work includes Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, *St John Passion*, *Christmas Oratorio* and *Magnificat*; Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Handel's *Messiah* and Haydn's *Nelson Mass*. In July she will perform at an Opera Gala evening at the Carrick-on-Shannon Summer Water Music Festival.

Albert Sousa – tenor



Alberto was born in Madeira, Portugal. He is currently in his first year of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama Opera Course, studying with Laura Sarti. He graduated in Music (Voice – Performance and Teaching) at Universidade de Aveiro with António Salgado as Principal Study tutor. He was the recipient of First Prize at the '3º Prémio José Augusto Alegria' for young singers in 2009. His main operatic roles include **Monostatos** *Die Zauberflöte* Mozart, **Orfée** *Orfée aux Enfers* Offenbach, **Macheath** *Die Dreigroschenoper* Kurt Weill, **Gherardo** *Gianni Schicchi* Puccini. His main oratorio roles have been first tenor *Te Deum* Charpentier, *Te Deum* Bruckner, *Messa Regina Caeli* Pietro Yon, *Messe in G* Schubert, *Missa in Angustiis* Nelson Mass Haydn, *Kronungsmesse* Mozart, *Oratorio de Noël* Saint Saëns.

Marcus Farnsworth – baritone



Marcus was awarded first prize in the 2009 Wigmore Hall International Song Competition. He is currently studying with Glenville Hargreaves and Audrey Hyland on the opera course at the Royal Academy of Music. Current and future plans include Guglielmo *Così fan Tutte* for RAO, and recitals at the Wigmore Hall, Kings Place, Holywell Music Room, Aldeburgh Festival, the National Portrait Gallery and at Temple Church. Concerts include Britten *Canticles* at the Wigmore Hall, Bach *St John Passion* with the Academy of Ancient Music and Bach *St Matthew Passion* with Ex Cathedra in Birmingham Symphony Hall. He has appeared in recital at St John's Smith Square, the Oxford Lieder Festival, the Wigmore Hall the Royal Albert Hall with Sir David Willcocks. On the opera stage Marcus has performed in Blow's *Venus and Adonis*, Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, Rossini's *La Cenerentola*, Britten's *Paul Bunyan*, Cavalli's *Giasone* and Britten's *Albert Herring*.

The choir

Sopranos

Glynis Avis	Liz Crothall	Elena Lewis-Grey	Hannah Rayner
Annalize Bagshaw	Niamh Dooley	Barbara Maw	Helena Read
Nathalie Beresford	Suzie Duke	Anne Metherell	Jane Reed
Sylvia Byers	Marie-Thérèse Feeley	Helen Phillips	Kate Rigby
Jane Clifford	Josefin Graef	Linda Pool	Sue Rogers
Amy Cordani	Lyn Groves	Freya Pottow	Ali Rycroft
Sue Cordani	Abigail King	Pat Prior	

Altos

Kate Brown	Eileen Gall	Victoria Joyce	Elizabeth Rathbone
Margaret Butcher	Johnna Giles	Anna-Maria Krarup	Catherine Rigby
Anne Carwardine	Sharon Harrison	Liz Lambert	Ros Robertson
Marion Chase	Heather Herrin	Moira McMillan	Olivia Seaman
Linda Edwards	Jennifer Heyes	Jessica Mookherjee	Yvonne Spencer
Jean Finch	Jane Jackson	Shirley Morgan	Audrey Stuart-Black
Joanna Finlay	Sheila Jones	Magali Nicole	Felicity Wilkin

Tenors

David Gook	John Simmons
Don Haley	Alan Spencer
Gareth Looker	Toby Thompson

Basses

Gerald Chew	David Lyall
Mike Dowden	Cyril Rogers
Gavin Grant	Eric Scott
David Firshman	Michael Selway
Trevor Hurrell	Clive Steward

Forthcoming RTWCS concerts

Autumn concert

13th November 2010, 7.00pm.
St John's Church,
Tunbridge Wells

Britten: *St Nicolas; Simple Symphony*

Handel: *Zadok The Priest*

With the choir of Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School

Christmas concert

12th December 2010, 6.30pm.
St Mary's Church,
Goudhurst

Includes carols and audience participation

Spring concert 2011

10th April 2011, 3.00pm.
Assembly Hall Theatre,
Tunbridge Wells

Dvorak: *Stabat Mater*

If you are interested in singing with Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society, please visit www.rtwcs.org.uk or contact Trevor Hurrell, telephone 01892 615685 or 07770 823104, email hurrellt@googlemail.com

Petite Messe Solennelle

I. Kyrie

*Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.*

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

II. Gloria

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Et in terra pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis.*

*Laudamus te. Benedicimus te. Adoramus te.
Glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam
tuam.*

*Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus Pater
omnipotens.*

*Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.*

Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

*Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe
deprecationem nostram.*

*Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.*

*Quoniam tu solus Sanctus.
Tu solus Dominus.
Tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto
Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.*

Glory to God in the highest.
And on earth peace to men of good will.

We praise Thee. We bless Thee. We adore Thee.
We glorify Thee.
We give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory.

Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father
almighty.

Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.

Thou who takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

Thou who takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.

Thou who sittest at the right hand of the
Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy.
Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art
most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



INTERVAL (20 minutes – refreshments available in the adjacent church hall)

III. Credo

*Credo in unum Deum. Patrem omnipotentem,
factorem coeli et terræ, visibillum omnium et
invisibillum.*

*Et in unum Dominum Jesum Christum, Filium
Dei unigenitum. Et ex Patre natum ante omnia
sæcula. Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine, Deum
verum de Deo vero. Genitum, non factum,
consubstantiali Patri: per quem omnia facta
sunt. Qui propter nos homines et propter
nostram salutem descendit de coelis.*

*Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria
virgine: Et homo factus est.*

*Crucifixus etiam pro nobis: sub Pontio Pilato
passus, et sepultus est. Et resurrexit tertia die,*

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, and of all things
visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten
Son of God, begotten of the Father before all
worlds; God of God, light of light, very God of
very God; begotten, not made; being of one
substance with the Father; by whom all things
were made. Who for us men, and for our
salvation, came down from heaven.

And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the
Virgin Mary; and was made man.

He was crucified also for us under Pontius
Pilate, He suffered and was buried. And the

*secundum Scripturas. Et ascendit in coelum:
sedet ad dexteram Patris.*

*Et iterum venturus est cum gloria iudicare vivos
et mortuos: cujus regni non erit finis.*

*Et in Spiritum. Qui ex Patre Filio que procedit.
Sanctum, Dominum et vivificantem. Qui cum
Patre et Filio simul adoratur et conglorificatur:
qui locutus est per Prophetas.*

*Et unam sanctam catholicam et apostolicam
Ecclesiam.*

*Confiteor unum baptisma in remissionem
peccatorum.*

*Et exspecto resurrectionem mortuorum.
Et vitam venturi sæculi. Amen.*

IV. Preludio religioso

V. Sanctus

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus, Deus
Sabaoth. Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.*

VI. Benedictus

*Benedictus, qui venit in nomine Domine.
Osanna in excelsis.*

VII. O salutaris hostia

*O salutaris Hostia, Quae caeli pandis ostium:
Bella premunt hostilia,
Da robur, fer auxilium.
Uni trinoque Domino sit sempiterna gloria,
Qui vitam sine termino nobis donet in patria.
Amen.*

VIII. Agnus Dei

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere
nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere
nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: dona nobis
pacem. Dona nobis pacem.*

third day He rose again according to the
Scriptures. And ascended into heaven and
sitteth at the right hand of the Father.

And He shall come again with glory to judge
both the quick and the dead; of whose
kingdom there shall be no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and
giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father
and the Son; who with the Father and the Son
together is worshipped and glorified; who
spoke by the Prophets.

And I believe in one catholic and apostolic
Church.

I acknowledge one baptism for the remission
of sins.

And I look for the resurrection of the dead and
the life of the world to come. Amen.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

O salutary Victim, Who opens the door of heaven:
Hostile wars press.
Give strength; bear aid.
To the Lord One in Three, May there be
sempiternal glory;
for life without end he gives to us in our
homeland. Amen

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the
world, have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the
world, have mercy on us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.



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