ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

Fauré Requiem with Duruflé Requiem

Programme

Sunday 19th November 2023, 3:00pm The Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells The Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society is a vibrant community of people from all walks of life. It is an amateur, mixed voice choir spanning a wide age group, with members drawn from the Kent and East Sussex area in and around Tunbridge Wells. Professional director Robyn Sevastos, and expert accompanist Craig Hudson, teach, guide and inspire us in a wide range of choral music.

The Choral Society stages four concerts a year – at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells with professional soloists and orchestra, and other venues.

We are always happy to hear from anyone who is interested in joining the Choir. Come to a rehearsal, every Monday in term time, at St John's Church Hall, Amherst Road, Tunbridge Wells, from 7.30pm. For more details of events and how to join, visit our website: <u>www.rtwcs.org.uk</u>.

SUPPORTING ARTS IN THE COMMUITY

If you would like to support arts in the community, and RTWCS in particular, you can become a Patron to help the Choir maintain its high standard of performance with professional soloists and orchestra. For more information, contact Elena, patrons secretary@rtwcs.org.uk.

Many thanks to our current patrons and friends:

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FAURÉ REQUIEM WITH DURUFLÉ REQUIEM

Duruflé Requiem

Introit Kyrie Domine Jesu Christe Sanctus Pie Jesu Agnus Dei Lux Aeterna Libera me In Paradisum

INTERVAL

Fauré Requiem

Introit – Kyrie Offertorium Sanctus Pie Jesu Agnus Dei Libera me In Paradisum

Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society & Orchestra Conductor: Robyn Sevastos Orchestra leader: Andrew Laing Organist: Craig Hudson Soloists: Rebecca Mitchell & Robbie Haylett

ABOUT THE COMPOSERS



MAURICE DURUFLÉ (1902-1986)

Composer and virtuoso organist Maurice Duruflé is known for a select handful of exquisitely crafted works. Active in post-Impressionist Paris, Duruflé's music is steeped in lush Ravelian harmonies, but at the same time, rooted in the plainchant of his beloved Catholic church. It makes for a heady mix. In 1947 he composed the Requiem in memory of his father's death two years earlier. He later met organist

Marie-Madeleine Chevalier, whom he married in 1953, and they performed regularly at the organ together. Duruflé was truly a composer of the 20th century. He learned about the theory of chant rhythm as a succession of notes of mostly equal value set in groups of two and three, as developed in the previous century by the Benedictine monks working at the monastery of Solesmes, near Rennes.

His understanding of this particular system would be evident in his Requiem, written later in his life. In setting the Latin Requiem mass, Duruflé omitted certain parts and structured it in nine movements. He had been working on an organ suite using themes from Gregorian chants when he received the commission, and he used the sketches that he had made for that in his requiem. This setting includes numerous themes from the Gregorian 'Mass for the Dead', and the *Libera me* and *In Paradisum* from the burial service, but omits most of the *Dies Irae* and its apocalyptic message. The composer preferred to focus on the calm, meditative elements of the mass, and emphasized the aspect of forgiveness through the constant repetition of the phrase '*Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine'* (Grant them eternal rest, O Lord).

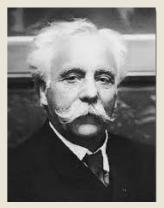
Duruflé wrote that *This requiem is not an ethereal work which sings of detachment from earthly worries. It reflects, in the immutable form of the Christian prayer, the agony of man faced with the mystery of his ultimate end. It is often dramatic, or filled with resignation, or hope or terror, just as the words of the*

Scripture themselves, which are used in the liturgy. In Paradisum marks the ultimate answer of Faith to all the questions by the flight of the soul to Paradise.

Duruflé leads the audience through the more formal elements of the Requiem Mass, the Introit, Kyrie and Offertory, into the reflective, peaceful acceptance of the end that faces us all and the anticipation of the Paradise to come.

GABRIEL FAURÉ (1845-1924)

Gabriel Fauré was a French composer, organist, pianist and teacher. He was one of the foremost French composers of his generation, and his musical style influenced many 20th-century composers. In his seven-section Requiem, the composer distilled some of the most beautiful melodies he ever composed. The creation was almost certainly a musical tribute to his father, who died in 1885, three years before work on the Requiem began. The work garnered the praise



of many other composers and it was performed at Fauré's own funeral in 1924.

This Requiem is a favourite with singers and audiences alike, beloved for its soaring melodies and gentle cadences. Possibly in response to his father's death, Fauré created a requiem unlike those of his contemporaries. Not for him the operatic sounds of Verdi, or the passionate settings of Berlioz and Dvořák.

Initially scored for choir and soprano soloist (sung by a boy treble as the church did not permit women to take part), and accompanied by a chamber orchestra without brass, woodwind or violins, the original version had only five movements.

From the outset the key characteristics of melodic beauty and emotional restraint are evident. The choir sing in rhythmic unison to open the *Introit*, a solemn introduction that leads to the *Kyrie* and then on into the *Offertorium*. Next, the baritone solo in the *Hostias*, in a chant-like and pensive plea for the faithful to be allowed to cross over to the life eternal promised to the Old Testament patriarch,

Abraham, and vouchsafed to his descendants in perpetuity. The dialogue between voices and violins in the *Sanctus* is a gentle and contemplative consideration of the power of God, reinforced by a fanfare-like Hosanna. The simplicity of the beautiful soprano solo *Pie Jesu* is followed by the *Agnus Dei*, with its brief reference back to the opening movement. *Libera me*, a baritone solo with dramatic outbursts from the choir, offers a single moment of disquiet, a glimpse of the terrors that await those not chosen for deliverance, but calm and reassurance are quickly restored with *In Paradisum*, in which the high voices, organ, and strings conjure up a serene vision of the heaven which awaits.

Sections of this work have been heard often on the radio, in many films including *Batman*, and on the television in *Morse* and *Endeavour* among others, and is meaningful and affecting. Such beautiful music will never fail to touch the hearts of its listeners.

THE PIANO SHOP

Nevill Estate Yard, Eridge, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 9JR 01892 543233

www.thepianoshopkent.co.uk

DURUFLÉ REQUIEM

I. Introit

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.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.

II. Kyrie

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

III. Domine Jesu Christe

Domine Jesu Christe, rex gloriae, libera animas omnium fidelium defunctorum de poenis inferni et de profundo lacu.

Libera eas de ore leonis, ne absorbeat eas Tartarus, ne cadant in obscurum.

Sed signifer sanctus Michael repraesentet eas in lucem sanctam, quam olim Abrahae promisisti et semini ejus. Hostias et preces tibi, Domine, laudis offerimus.

Tu suscipe pro animabus illis, quarum hodie memoriam facimus;

Fac eas, Domine, de morte transire ad vitam quam olim Abrahae promisisti et semini ejus.

I. Introit

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

A hymn of praise befits you, O God in Zion, and the vow will be performed in Jerusalem; hear my prayer, all flesh will come to you.

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

II. Kyrie

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

III. Domine Jesu Christe

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, deliver the souls of all the departed faithful from the punishments of hell and from the deep abyss.

Deliver them from the lion's mouth so that Tartarus does not swallow them, and that they do not fall into darkness.

But let the blessed Michael, your standard bearer bring them again into your holy light, as you promised to Abraham and his descendants long ago.

We offer to you, O Lord, these sacrifices of prayer and praise. Accept them for the sake of those souls whose memory we recall this day;

Grant, Lord, that they may pass from death to life, as you promised to Abraham and his descendants long ago.

IV. Sanctus

Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth, pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.

Hosanna in excelsis!

Benedictus, qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis!

IV. Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,

Hosanna in the highest!

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

V. Pie Jesu Gracious Lord Jesus, grant them eternal rest.

VI. Agnus Dei

VI. Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem sempiternam.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant them eternal rest.

VII. Lux aeterna

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine, cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.

VII. Lux aeterna

May eternal light shine on them, O Lord, with your saints forever, because you are gracious.

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and let the light perpetual shine upon them.

VIII. Libera me

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna, in die illa tremenda,

quando coeli movendi sunt et terra, dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.

Tremens factus sum ego et timeo dum discussio venerit atque ventura ira, quando coeli movendi sunt et terra.

Dies illa, dies irae, calamitatis et miseriae, dies magna et amara valde.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.

IX. In Paradisum

In Paradisum deducant te Angeli, in tuo adventu suscipiant te Martyres

et perducant te in civitatem sanctam Jerusalem.

Chorus Angelorum te suscipiat et cum Lazaro quondam paupere aeternam habeas requiem.

VIII. Libera me

Deliver me, O Lord, from eternal death on that awesome day

when the heavens and the earth shall be shaken, when you come to judge the world through fire.

I am seized with fear and trembling, awaiting that destruction and the impending wrath, when the heavens and the earth are disturbed.

That day, the day of wrath, of calamity, of misery, that catastrophic and most bitter day.

Eternal rest grant them, O Lord, and let the light perpetual shine upon them.

IX. In Paradisum

May the Angels lead you into Paradise, may the Martyrs welcome you at your approach and guide you into the holy city, Jerusalem.

May a chorus of Angels greet you, and with Lazarus, once a beggar, may you have eternal rest.

INTERVAL

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



Roderick Dunk ^{Conductor} Aaron Azunda Akugbo ^{Trumpet}

MOZART Symphony No. 29 in A major, K. 201 HAYDN

Trumpet Concerto in E flat major, HV. 1

MENDELSSOHN

Symphony No. 3 in A minor, Op. 56 'Scottish'

SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER, 3pm

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells Theatre Box Office 01892 530613



Tickets from £22, Students & Under 18s £5

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The RTWSO is a registered charity, no. 295781

FAURÉ REQUIEM

I. Introit – Kyrie

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.

II. Offertorium

O Domine, Jesu Christe, Rex gloriae, libera animas defunctorum de poenis inferni et de profundo lacu

O Domine, Jesu Christe, Rex Gloriae, libera animas defunctorum de ore leonis, ne absorbeat Tartarus, ne cadant in obscurum.

O Domine, Jesu Christe, Rex Gloriae ne cadant in obscurum.

Hostias et preces tibi Domine, laudis offerimus, tu suscipe pro animabus illis quarum hodie memoriam facimus.

Fac eas, Domine, de morte transire ad vitam quam olim Abrahae promisisti et semini ejus.

O Domine, Jesu Christe, Rex Gloriae, libera animas defunctorum de poenis inferni et de profundo lacu ne cadant in obscurum. Amen.

I. Introit – Kyrie

Grant them eternal rest, o Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them

Thou, O God, art praised in Sion, and unto Thee shall the vow be performed in Jerusalem.

Hear my prayer, all flesh will come to you.

Lord have mercy,

Christ have mercy.

II. Offertorium

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, deliver the souls of the faithful departed from the pains of hells and from the bottomless pit.

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, deliver them from the lion's mouth, nor let them fall into darkness, neither the black abyss swallow them up.

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, neither the black abyss swallow them up.

We offer unto Thee this sacrifice of prayer and praise. Receive it for those souls whom today we commemorate.

Allow them, O Lord, to cross from death into the life, as once Thou didst promise to Abraham and his seed.

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, deliver the souls of the faithful departed from the pains of hells and from the bottomless pit, nor let them fall into darkness. Amen

III. Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth, pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.

III. Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna in the highest.

IV. Pie Jesu

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

IV. Pie Jesu

Merciful Jesus, Lord, grant them rest, grant them rest, eternal rest.

V. Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi dona eis requiem

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem, sempiternam requiem.

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine, Cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es.

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis

V. Agnus Dei

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

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

May eternal light shine on them, O Lord, with Thy saints forever, because Thou art merciful.

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine on them.

VI. Libera me

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna in die illa tremenda, quando coeli movendi sunt et terra, dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.

Tremens factus sum ego et timeo dum discussio venerit atque ventura ira.

Dies illa, dies irae, calamitatis et miseriae, dies illa, dies magna et amara valde

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna in die illa tremenda, quando coeli movendi sunt et terra, dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.

VI. Libera me

Deliver me, O Lord, from everlasting death on that dreadful day when the heavens and the earth shall be moved, when thou shalt come to judge the world by fire.

I quake with fear and tremble awaiting the day of account and the wrath to come.

That day, the day of anger, of calamity, of misery, that day, the great and most bitter day.

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord,

and may perpetual light shine upon them.

Deliver me, O Lord, from everlasting death on that dreadful day when the heavens and the earth shall be moved, when thou shalt come to judge the world by fire.

VII. In Paradisum

In Paradisum deducant Angeli, in tuo adventu suscipiant te Martyres, et perducant te in civitatem sanctam, Jerusalem.

Chorus Angelorum te suscipiat, et cum Lazaro, quondam paupere, aeternam habeas requiem

VII. In Paradisum

May the angels receive you in Paradise;

at your coming may the martyrs receive thee and bring thee into the holy city, Jerusalem

May the chorus of angels receive thee, and with Lazarus, once a beggar, may thou have eternal rest.

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY SINGERS

Sopranos

Elaine Abbs Glynis Avis Sue Barker Debbie Benson Adrienne Bishop Gilly Bishop Diana Blower Fiona Booth Felicity Brown Heather Champion

Altos

Judith Aveson Margaret Butcher Amy Cook Joanna Finlay Celia Grew Judith Henderson Pat Jay Alison Jenks Sheila Jones

Tenors

David Cook Peter Elliott Richard Hardingham Peter Mace

Basses

Ian Aveson David Barker Jeremie Bodin Tarquin Crouch Steven Davis Mike Dowden Robert Fenn Nick Franck Sue Cordani Amy Cordani Val Crichton Alice Donaghy Elena Gente Helen Gotts Maggie Hall Tricia Hardingham Anthea Heyes Elena Lewis-Grey

Ailsa Kelleher Pauline Lloyd Laura Marshall Ailsa McMahon Lea Owen Catherine Rigby Ros Robertson Jane Selley Jenny Selway

Janet Noble Peter Rosling Olivia Seaman Alan Spencer

Glen Goodall Antony Gordon Chris Gutteridge Graham Hall David Ham William Healing Bob Jay Steve Margiotta Joanna Mace Sophia MacAskill Michele Palmer Barbara Ross-Jones Frances Rotunno Kate Sarkis Jane Sharpe Penny Stephens Joanne Wye

Maggie Slater Lucy Smalley Alison Stevenson Yvonne Spencer Anne Symons Katherine Tucker Alice Velge Jane Walters Pam White

Nick Vaisey Richard Walmsley

Stephen Parris Stephen Pollard Michael Selway Christopher Smart Clive Steward David Wright

THE ORCHESTRA

1st Violins	Andy Laing (Leader), Rachel Hess, Andrew Condon, Phil
	McKerracher, Monika Molnar
2nd Violins	Rosie Cousins, Mark Cousins, Susan Skone James, Robert Skone
	James
Viola	Jenny Carter, Liz Tarrant, Jane Tyler, Vanessa Townsend
Cello	Helen McDonald, Jan Penny, Crispin Warren
Double Bass	Rob Ferguson
Organ	Craig Hudson
(Viscount Regent 356 3 Manuel Organ, supplied by Classical Organ Hire)	

Musical Director, Robyn Sevastos



Robyn graduated from Melbourne University with a BMus, and First Class Honours in Performance. She subsequently moved to England to continue her studies, obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Piano Accompaniment at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and a Performance Diploma from the Royal College of Music. She performed extensively as a piano soloist, and accompanied and coached singers and instrumentalists in the UK and abroad. As a

conductor, she has directed many choral and operatic works, often working with internationally renowned artists. In addition to Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society, she is music director of London Opera Productions, Kentish Opera, the Llantilio Crossenny Festival, Sevenoaks Philharmonic Society and Bromley Philharmonic Choir. She has conducted many major choral works, including Verdi's *Requiem* at Croydon's Fairfield concert hall, and Bach's *St Matthew Passion* at St Clement Danes church in London. She has performed at the Royal Albert Hall, the Barbican and the O2 Arena, and at Kensington Palace and Sandringham for the then Prince Charles.

Orchestra Leader, Andrew Laing

Andrew (Andy) Laing was born in Aberdeen. He started learning the violin when he was five years old and at sixteen was appointed leader of the National String Orchestra of Scotland. He studied at Royal Academy of Music, winning several awards and scholarships. While still a student he was appointed leader of the Morley College Symphony Orchestra, also regularly led the Ealing



Symphony Orchestra, the Hatfield Philharmonic and the Forest Philharmonic. At the Royal Academy of Music Andy formed and led the Locrian String Quartet. The Quartet won many awards, was broadcast on BBC radio and TV and gave numerous first performances of works by contemporary composers. Subsequently he became sub-leader of the BBC Radio Orchestra, then Leader of the London City Ballet Orchestra. Andrew is currently leader of both the Bromley and Maidstone Symphony Orchestras.



Organist, Craig Hudson

Craig Hudson grew up in Poole, Dorset, learning piano and trumpet from the age of eight. He won scholarships to Clayesmore Preparatory and Senior Schools, where he learned to play the organ, and went on to read maths and music at St John's College, Cambridge. From 2005 to 2012, Craig worked at All Souls Church, Langham Place, combining

his Christian faith with his love for music and working with young people. Highlights included conducting the All Souls Orchestra and Choir, playing in Prom Praise concerts throughout the UK. Since 2012 Craig has been Music Director at St John's Church, Tunbridge Wells, which he combines with teaching and performing. He enjoys working in many different musical styles, from choral music to jazz. He has directed the nine-voice ladies choir 'Mums n'Roses' since 2013, and has accompanied RTWCS since January 2017.

Soloist, Robbie Haylett

Robbie Haylett is a musician based in Tottenham, London. He studied Music at the University of Cambridge, Performance Education at Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and now learns privately with Gary Coward. His operatic roles include Mars in the world premiere of @emele by Roger Simmons and David Willcock for Oxfordshire Contemporary opera, Dancaïro ('Carmen', Bizet) for Kentish Opera, Mathieu ('Andrea Chénier',



Giordano) for Midsummer Opera, The Traveller ('Curlew River', Britten) for CUOS, Doctor P ('The Man Who Mistook His Wife For A Hat', Nyman) with the Façade Ensemble, and, in concert/scenes performances, Orféo (Monteverdi), Don Giovanni and Count Almaviva. A devotee of new and contemporary music, he has given the World Premiere of Rhiannon Randle's 'Temptations' (playing Israelite Father) and her 'Kalthertzige' (cycle for baritone and strings), David Earl's 'Strange Ghost' (singing the roles of Dudley Ward and Frederick Kelly as well as substantial chorus work), and Louis D'Heudieres' 'various interpretations of utopian music'; UK premieres include Jeremy Thurlow's 'Over The Frost' (consort and solo performance with chamber ensemble) and Brahms' arrangement of JS Bach's Cantata BWV 21 for strings. On the concert stage, Robbie has made solo appearances in some staples of the repertory, including Fauré, Duruflé, and Brahms Requiems, Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs and Fantasia on Christmas Carols, Bach's St John Passion and Haydn's Creation. As a teacher, Robbie works on music of various styles with pianists and singers in private and state schools, as well as private pupils of various ages.



Soloist, Rebecca Mitchell

Rebecca settled in Tunbridge Wells after completing her Natural Sciences degree at Cambridge University and gaining a Distinction in her Postgraduate Performance Diploma at Trinity College of Music. She is currently studying with Yvonne Howard and performs as a soloist with various opera groups and choral societies in the South East. Whilst a student she won a number of awards and sang a variety of principal roles including Lucia in Britten's The Rape of Lucretia, Papagena in Mozart's The Magic Flute and

Cunegonde in Bernstein's Candide. Professionally, she has performed the roles of Mimi in Puccini's La Boheme and Pamina in Mozart's The Magic Flute for Matchbox Opera, and earlier this year was seen in the role of Frasquita in Bizet's Carmen with Opera South East. Future engagements include La Traviata with Singers Unite London.



OTHER CONCERTS

WINTER CONCERT

SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2023

7pm, St Peter's Church, Tunbridge Wells *RTW Orpheus Male Voice Choir with St Peter's C of E Primary School Choir*

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2023

6:30pm, St Mary's Church, Goudhurst *Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society, conducted by Robyn Sevastos*

BEETHOVEN MASS IN C AND HANDEL'S CORONATION ANTHEMS SUNDAY 14TH APRIL 2024

3pm, The Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society, conducted by Robyn Sevastos ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

night of wonder

ITH SPECIAL GUESTS

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER | 6:30PM ST MARY'S CHURCH, GOUDHURST

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