

MUSIC AT MILTON KEYNES CITY CHURCH

300 Saxon Gate West, Milton Keynes, MK9 2ES. 01908: 246486

www.cornerstonemusicmk.co.uk

August 2008 - July 2009

Welcome to our most ambitious programme to date, eleven months of glorious music-making in the lovely setting of Milton Keynes City Church. Our midweek evening and Saturday lunchtime recitals feature artists of truly international stature as well as exceptionally talented young performers. We celebrate the anniversaries of Haydn and Mendelssohn both in concert and in 'Musical Milestones', our Monday series of illustrated talks. 'Exploring Music' on Thursdays continues to illuminate the outstanding British composers of the early Twentieth century. Rachmaninov 3rd Piano Concerto and Mozart Clarinet Concerto form orchestral highlights in September and January. Fine choral singing can be heard both in worship and concert throughout the season. Major works on offer this year include Handel: Messiah and Brahms: Requiem, while the exhilarating African Sanctus of David Fanshawe brings our season to a resounding climax. We hope you can join us regularly and look forward to your company.

Adrian Boynton
(Director of Music)

BOOKING

Pre-booking is available (and advised) for concerts on

SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER (Rachmaninov/Tchaikovsky) - SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER (High Society)

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER (Handel: Messiah) - SUNDAY 18 JANUARY (Haydn/Mozart)

SUNDAY 29 MARCH (Brahms: Requiem) - SUNDAY 12 JULY (African Sanctus)

BOOK BY TELEPHONE: 01908 246486 07961 348697

BOOK BY EMAIL: Cornerstone.music@tesco.net

BOOK BY POST: Mrs J Boynton: The Music Office, MK City Church
300 Saxon Gate West, Milton Keynes, MK9 2ES
Cheque payable to 'Cornerstone Music'

For all other events pre-booking is not required and admission is by programme at the door

Monday 18th August 7.45pm

MUSICAL MILESTONES: 150th Anniversary Tribute

DAME ETHEL SMYTH (1858-1944) AND HER CONTEMPORARIES

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

Born 150 years ago into an upper middle-class military London family, Ethel Smyth rebelled against her background to become not only one of the most successful British women composers but also an important figure in the suffragette movement. She conducted her 'March of the Women' in Holloway Jail with a toothbrush! Significant works from her pen include a Mass in D, Concerto for Violin and Horn (aired at this year's BBC Proms), String Quartet in E minor, String Quintet in E, Sonata for Violin and Cello, beautiful songs and two operas of exceptional musical calibre, 'The Boatswain's Mate' and 'The Wreckers'. Tonight we take opportunity to explore the work of other women composers of the early Twentieth century, including Liza Lehman, Amy Beach, Lili Boulanger and Rebecca Clarke (Stanford's first woman composition student at the RCM).

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

Thursday 28th August 7.45pm
EXPLORING MUSIC: The English Revival
JOHN IRELAND & CYRIL SCOTT

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton
Ireland established his reputation with a fine body of chamber music demonstrating an exceptionally refined understanding of the instruments involved. His orchestral tone poems and overtures are colourfully scored and his Piano Concerto, with its racy jazz interludes, is among the finest of the Twentieth Century. The great choral work 'These Things shall be' is an inspirational work expressing the composer's deepest hopes for mankind. Born just one month after Ireland, Cyril Scott became known as the 'English Debussy' on account of the Impressionist style of his piano and chamber works. He also produced a fine Piano Concerto, along with other symphonic and choral works.
Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

Saturday 30th August 12 noon
LOUISE MALTBY (flute) JAMES MALTBY (clarinet)
CRAIG GREEN (piano)

LANE: Flute Sonata BRAHMS: Clarinet Sonata in E flat, Op 120
SHOSTAKOVICH: Waltz SCHUBERT: Variations on Trockne Blumen
POULENC: Clarinet Sonata GROVLEZ: Romance and Scherzo

We open our lunchtime season with a celebration of the talents of three fine local young musicians. Twins Louise and James Maltby, from Giffard Park, have distinguished themselves as orchestral principals and chamber musicians with Milton Keynes Music Service over several years. Both have won numerous awards, and first places in local festivals, and both hold the Diploma of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music with distinction. Next month Louise goes to Oxford to read music at St Catherine's College while James takes up a scholarship at the Royal College of Music in London. Louise and James are accompanied by the remarkable Craig Green, who has just completed his first year of study at Christ Church, Oxford. Craig gave an outstanding recital here at the City Church earlier this year and makes his solo debut with Milton Keynes Orchestra in a few days' time.

Admission £4.50 (conc £4, child £1) at the door

Thursday 4th September 7.45pm
JOHN CLEGG (piano) 80th Birthday Celebration Concert

MOZART: Sonata in A, K331
BRAHMS: Intermezzi and Ballades, Op 116-119
CHOPIN: Barcarolle, op 60
FAURE: Nocturne Op 74, Impromptu Op 34
DEBUSSY: Trios Etudes
RACHMANINOV: Four Preludes Op23, Op 32

"It would be hard to find a better judged performance, the tapestry of pure sound having a lightness and delicacy that few achieve" [Daily Telegraph]

We are proud to present the 80th Birthday celebration recital of one of Britain's most distinguished pianists. Well-known for his regular Radio 3 broadcasts, John Clegg has performed with many of the leading UK orchestras and conductors and has given solo recitals throughout the world. In 1999 he was honored with the Harriet Cohen International Award in recognition of his services to music. He is renowned for his interpretation of the French repertoire, particularly Faure, Debussy and Ravel, which he has recorded. With characteristically skilful programming, John's birthday recital draws together the threads of all the major Romantic piano schools.

Admission £8 (conc £7.50, child £2) at the door

Monday 8th September 7.45pm

MUSICAL MILESTONES: 80th Birthday Tribute

EINOJUHANI RAUTAVAARA (b1928) & THEA MUSGRAVE (b1928)

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

Finland's greatest composer celebrates his 80th birthday on 9th October. His early works were influenced by the neo-classicism of Hindemith and Stravinsky. Russian influences (especially Mussorgsky and Borodin) pervade the works of the 50s, especially 'A Requiem in our Time' and the piano suite 'The Icons'. In the late 50s the composer experimented with serialism in works such as the String Quartet No 2 and Wind Octet. An almost Romantic warmth of sound characterises works like the song cycle 'Die Liebenden', the television opera 'Klaivos', the 3rd Symphony and the Cello Concerto. We compare and contrast Rautavaara's music with the work of distinguished Scottish composer Thea Musgrave, also in her 80th Birthday year. Musgrave's early diatonicism and the chromatic experiments of her middle years have fused more recently into a mature style capable of rich expressiveness in works like 'The Seasons', 'Aurora', Viola Concerto and the opera 'Mary Queen of Scots'.

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

Saturday 13 September 12 noon

MEDIEVAL MINSTRELS & VERSATILES BAROQUES

Elspeth Robertson (recorder/bassoon)

Grace Scott-Deuchar (recorder/oboe)

Eleanor Baldwin (recorder/viola)

Emma Fowler (harpsichord)

Directed by Marian Robertson

DUNSTABLE: O Rosa Belle GEMINIANI: Sonata in E minor

PURCELL: Chaconne LOEILLET: Trio Sonata in C minor

HANDEL: Trio Sonata in F TELEMANN: Trio Sonata in F

VIVALDI: Mandolin Concerto ANON Summer is a comin' in

Formed by Marian Robertson in 2007, Versatile Baroques entered the Music for Youth Regional Festival in Kent that year and won through to the National Festival in Birmingham, where they were awarded a Highly Commended certificate and invited to appear at the Schools Prom at the Royal Albert Hall in November. Mediaeval Minstrels enjoyed similar success in the Music for Youth Festival 2008. For this special lunchtime concert we bring the two groups together in a glorious celebration of Mediaeval and Baroque music. The performers, aged 14-17, are all accomplished soloists, currently studying in the Junior Departments of the London Conservatoires.

Admission £4.50 (conc £4, child £1) at the door

Sunday 14th September 6pm

CHORAL EVENSONG FOR HOLY CROSS DAY

THE CHOIR OF THE CITY CHURCH, directed by Adrian Boynton.

Freewill offering

Saturday 20th September 7.45pm Pre-concert talk 7pm

GLINKA: RUSLAN AND LUDMILLA

RACHMANINOV: PIANO CONCERTO No 3

TCHAIKOVSKY: SYMPHONY No 2

THE CORNERSTONE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Benjamin Andrew (piano) Adrian Boynton (conductor)

"An extremely gifted pianist.... effortless pianistic command..... wide range of colour..... sensitive handling of textures..... beautifully shaped phrasing" [Yonty Solomon]

Our orchestral season opens with this irresistible all-Russian programme, featuring as its centrepiece Rachmaninov's monumental Piano Concerto No 3, a work revered by all pianists for its technical and emotional demands. We welcome back as soloist the remarkable Benjamin Andrew who delighted our audience with his performance of 'Rhapsody in Blue' in July 2006. Ben won numerous awards and prizes as a student of John Bingham and Yonty Solomon at Trinity College, London, and was chosen to study at the Liszt Academy in Budapest with Jenő Jando and Kornel Zempleni. Our concert

opens with a brilliant overture by Glinka, 'father' of the Russian Nationalists, and concludes with Tchaikovsky's 'Little Russian', one of the most colourful and exciting of all Russian Symphonies. To enhance your enjoyment of the evening join Adrian Boynton for a pre-concert talk at 7pm.

Tickets £12.50 (conc £12), £10.50 (conc £10), child £5 through the booking line 01908 246486, email cornerstone.music@tesco.net or at the door

Thursday 25th September 7.45pm

EXPLORING MUSIC: The English Revival

ARNOLD BAX & GEORGE BUTTERWORTH

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

Arnold Bax is one of Britains neglected treasures. His orchestral tone poems – 'Tintagel', 'In the Faery Hills', 'The Garden of Fand', and others – are among the finest of any of the English late romantics. His seven symphonies, luxuriantly scored and full of romantic melody, contain, to quote Michael Kennedy, "far too much good music to deserve their current total neglect." His chamber works are beautifully crafted for the instruments, and there are some exquisite short choral pieces. George Butterworth demonstrated exceptional promise as a composer before his untimely death in the trenches at Pozieres in 1916. Tonight we hear his 'The Banks of Green Willow' and 'A Shropshire Lad'.

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

Saturday 27th September 7pm for 7.30

HIGH SOCIETY

AN EVENING OF MUSICAL MAGIC AND MERRIMENT featuring

GUYATHRIE PEIRIS (soprano) NICHOLAS GEE (baritone)

ADRIAN BOYNTON (piano) and guest instrumentalists

SCARLATTI - HANDEL - HAYDN - SCHUBERT - ROSSINI - VERDI - STRAUSS -
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS - GERSHWIN - BERNSTEIN - PORTER - KERN

7pm	Sparkling Wine Reception	7.30	Gala Concert
8.45pm	Buffet Supper	9.30	Cabaret

*An Evening of Musical Magic and Merriment remains an essential feature of our Autumn Schedule, and with this year's top line-up of performers a truly memorable occasion is assured. Soprano Guyathrie Peiris will bring poise, elegance and a wonderful sense of involvement to her singing in the gala classical concert at 7.30; by 9.30 she will be ready to let her hair down in upbeat cabaret numbers and romantic ballads. Baritone Nicholas Gee will thrill in Rossini and Verdi arias and bring warm lyricism to Schubert leieder and English song before evoking the easy relaxed style of Frank Sinatra as our evening draws to a close. Meanwhile our guest instrumentalists add colour and contrast to the vocal delights. To make your evening complete, we greet you with a glass of sparkling wine and serve a tasty two-course supper (prepared by 'Food for Thought') between concert and cabaret (around 8.45). Join us for this evening of 'High Society' and **book early to avoid disappointment**. Parties of 6 or more are invited to reserve a table.*

Full tickets £16.50 (conc £16) including sparkling wine reception, gala concert, supper and cabaret in advance by telephone 01908 246486 or email cornerstone.music@tesco.net

Reception and Concert only tickets £8.50 (£8 conc) available at the door

Saturday 4th October 12 noon

TRIO PRETI

Lindsey Iles (clarinet) **Michael Wigram** (cello) **Robert Hodge** (piano)

GLINKA: Trio Pathetique

LANGFORD: Elegy

BEETHOVEN: Trio, Op 20

Lindsey Iles was an instrumental scholar at Royal Holloway, London University before undertaking postgraduate studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where she won several awards. She has given acclaimed performances of the Finzi and Copland Clarinet Concertos and Weber's Concertino. Michael Wigram graduated from Royal Holloway with First Class Honours gaining a postgraduate scholarship to the Royal College of Music. In 2006 he performed Shostakovich's Concerto No 1 with the Amadeus Chamber Orchestra, and in 2007 the Elgar Concerto with Nottingham Symphony Orchestra. Lindsey and Michael are joined in this attractive lunchtime programme by outstanding pianist Robert Hodge, also ex Royal Holloway, who is currently on the staff at Pangbourne College.

[Please note that this programme replaces the previously advertised cello/piano duo recital which will be rescheduled for a later date]

Admission £4.50 (conc £4, child £1) at the door

Monday 6th October 7.45pm

MUSICAL MILESTONES:

80th Anniversary Tribute

STOCKHAUSEN (1928-2007)

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

"It's hard to think of any other composer who has influenced so much the entirety of musical experience in the 20th and 21st centuries." [Tom Service, Guardian Music Critic]

Tonight we celebrate the life and work of Karlheinz Stockhausen, who died last year, just a few months short of his 80th birthday. From his pioneering visionary work in the studios of North-West German Radio in Cologne (one of whose greatest products, 'Kontakta' was featured at this year's BBC Proms) to the extraordinary trance-like brilliance of 'Stimmung' for 6 voices (also heard at this year's Proms), not to mention the sheer scale and ambition of the 'Licht' ('Light') cycle of seven operas, Stockhausen's music is the most ambitious and forward-looking of any post-war composer. Realising how much further he could take Webern's techniques he developed new theories of sound, pitch, intensity, duration, timbre and spacial position – ideas which he constantly re-examined and refined to the end of his life. Stockhausen saw his musical development as a spiritual journey. Don't miss the opportunity to share that journey as we celebrate tonight.

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

Thursday 9th October 7.45pm

YEVGENIY KOSTRYTSKY (violin)

SASHA GRINYUK (piano)

LECLAIR: Sonata No 3 in D

VITALI:

Ciaconna

BRAHMS: Scherzo

MOZART:

Adagio in E minor

KREISLER: Rondo in G

SCHUBERT:

Sonata No 2 in A minor

SKORYK: Melody

SAINT-SAENS:

Introduction & Rondo

Ukrainian born Yevgeniy Kostrytsky won a scholarship to the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where he has just completed his studies with Professor David Takeno, gaining highest honours, and the award of a Guildhall Fellowship. He was a

prizewinner in the Pierre Lantierre International Violin Competition, the Petar Conjovich International Chamber Music Competition and the Jascha Heifetz International Competition. He has made numerous solo recital and concerto appearances across Europe and the USA and has been actively engaged in helping Ukraine's integration into European cultural and political life. Sasha Grynyuk received the 'Future of Ukraine' Presidential Award before gaining a full scholarship to the Guildhall in 2002. He won the Jacques Samuel Piano Competition in 2004 leading to performances at major venues throughout the UK, Japan and USA (including Carnegie Hall).

This is a charity concert in aid of Chernobyl Relief

Tickets £8.50 (conc £8), child £2 at the door

Sunday 12th October 6pm

CHORAL EVENSONG

THE CHOIR OF THE CITY CHURCH, directed by Adrian Boynton.

Freewill offering

Wednesday 22nd October 7.45pm

JANE NG (violin)

CAMERON ROBERTS (piano)

CHAUSSON: Poeme, Op 23/5

RAVEL: Violin Sonata

BLOCH: Baal Shem - Nigun

KREISLER: Tambourin Chinois

BRAHMS: Violin Sonata in D minor

SCHUBERT: Duo Violin Sonata in A,

SZYMANOWSKI: Mythes - The Fountain of Arethusa

"High calibre playing, with a controlled vehemence that you might have encountered in musicians twice their age.... A significant talent" [The Age]

Associated Board International Scholar Jane Ng graduated with first class honours, and went on to pursue a Master of Music degree, graduating in 2007 with the prestigious RCM Artist Diploma. She has performed - as both violin and piano soloist - throughout the UK and at top international festivals in Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, Czechoslovakia, Spain and Hungary. Pianist Cameron Roberts won numerous awards and prizes in his native Australia before completing his studies at the RAM in London, Moscow Conservatoire and Tanglewood USA. He has performed as soloist and chamber musician throughout the world. His recent CD of Bach's Goldberg Variations and original transcriptions has been described as 'thought-provoking.... a disc of rare and valuable discretion'.

Admission £8 (conc £7.50, child £2) at the door

Saturday 25th October 7.45

GIRTON COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE CHAPEL CHOIR

Director: Martin Ennis

Senior Organ Scholar: Richard Sands

Programme to feature

RENAISSANCE POLYPHONY - Dering, Parsons, Weelkes

GERMAN/ENGLISH BAROQUE - Schutz, Purcell

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY - Brahms, Bruckner

TWENTIETH CENTURY ENGLISH - Howells, Vaughan Williams

Prize-winning Girton College Chapel Choir has been growing in prominence in recent years, both at home and abroad. In 1996 the choir performed to an audience of 10,000, including Pope John Paul, at the Vatican. In 1999 the choir took three prizes, including the Gold Medal, at the Takarazuka International Chamber Choir Contest. More recently the choir was invited to perform at the closing ceremony of the National University of Singapore's centenary celebrations. Last year the choir won a prize at the International Choral Competition in Schloss Porcia, Austria. The choir has recorded five CDs, including one of Italian Baroque music on period instruments, and another featuring music from the 'two' Elizabethan eras, in the 16th and 20th (21st) centuries. The choir is directed by Martin Ennis, Fellow of Girton College, recent Chairman of Cambridge University Music Faculty and principal keyboard player with London Mozart Players. Senior Organ Scholar Richard Sands is a former chorister at the Savoy Chapel. Tonight's special concert features outstanding choral and organ repertoire from five

centuries.

Admission £9 (conc £8.50, child £2) at the door

Thursday 30th October 7.45pm

EXPLORING MUSIC: The English Revival

SIR ARTHUR BLISS & E J MOERAN

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

For 22 years Sir Arthur Bliss filled the role of Master of the Queen's Music with flair and energy. His early Stravinskian phrase gave way to works in a bold, post-Elgarian style, vigorous and rich in texture. Some of his best music is to be found in his chamber works, notably the Clarinet Quintet, written for Frederick Thurston, and Oboe Quintet for Leon Goossens. His sense of drama and vivid musical imagery find their truest outlet in the ballets 'Checkmate' and 'Miracle in the Gorbals', and the excellent film score 'Things to Come'. Outstanding later works include 'Meditations on a Theme of John Blow' and the Cello Concerto. In contrast to the Bliss brilliance, we experience the warmhearted lyricism of E J Moeran in his Rhapsody for Piano and Orchestra, Symphony in G minor and Violin Concerto.

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

Sunday 2nd November 7.45pm

HANDEL: MESSIAH

THE CORNERSTONE CHAMBER CHOIR & ORCHESTRA

Leader: Philippa Barton Conductor: Adrian Boynton

*The Church's story of Redemption is embedded in Western culture, the subject of so much art and music. Handel took that familiar theme and transformed it into one of the greatest musical expressions of all time. Join us to share anew the glories of this magnificent work as we prepare again to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. With a superb cast of soloists and orchestra and choir renowned for their precision and blend, this is a performance not to be missed. **Early booking is advised.***

Tickets £12.50 (conc £12), £10.50 (conc £10), child £5 through the booking line 01908 246486, email cornerstone.music@tesco.net or at the door

Wednesday 5th November 7.45pm

THE BRODOWSKI QUARTET

David Brodowski (violin) Catrin Win Morgan (violin)

Felix Tanner (viola) Vanessa Lucas-Smith (cello)

HAYDN: Quartet in C, op 33 No 3 (The Bird)

SCHULHOFF: Quartet No 1 (1929)

MENDELSSOHN: Quartet in F minor, op80

"The new kids on the London scene" [The Times]

Since their formation in 2004, the Brodowski Quartet have performed in leading UK venues such as Queen Elizabeth Hall, Barbican Hall and Purcell Room and at several major European festivals. They make their Wigmore Hall debut later this month. The Quartet won the 2007 Val Tidone International Chamber Music Competition in Italy and Charles Hennen International Chamber Music Competition in the Netherlands (broadcast on Netherlands Radio). Earlier this year they were selected as Park Lane Group Young Artists and were first prize winners in the prestigious Royal Overseas League Competition. Tonight's programme features Haydn at his most characterful and entertaining, the colourful, folk-influenced First Quartet of Czech composer Erwin Schulhoff (who died in Wulzbouurg concentration camp in 1942), and Mendelssohn's last and greatest Quartet, written in response to the death of his sister, just weeks before his own death in 1847.

Admission £8.50 (conc £8, child £2) at the door

Sunday 9th November 6pm

CHORAL MEDITATION FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

THE CHOIR OF THE CITY CHURCH, directed by Adrian Boynton

Beautiful music and readings for the season of Remembrance

Freewill offering

Monday 10th November **7.45pm**
MUSICAL MILESTONES: **100th Birthday Celebration**
ELLIOTT CARTER (b1908)

“Modernism with soul” [Arnold Whittall]

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

Elliott Carter was born in December 1908, just at the time when composers were beginning to explore those entirely new perspectives on tradition that marked music's advance into the bracing world of Modernism. In his early works he was open-minded to a fault, but it took many years for him to find a personal voice. Within the welter of competing musical accents and dialects his music may sometimes be uncompromising and technically elaborate, but it is always humane and deeply felt. Tonight we review significant works from each phase of his creative development – ‘To Music’ (1937), Piano Sonata (1945), ‘Elegy’ (1952), Double Concerto (1961), Concerto for Orchestra (1968), ‘A mirror on which to dwell’ (1975), Oboe Concerto (1987), Clarinet Concerto (1996) ‘Soundings’ (2005). Amazingly in his late 90s, this most prolific and enduring master is actively creating new works and laying the ground for distinctive musical developments in the Twenty-first Century.

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

Saturday 15th November **11.30am** *(please note early start)*
MICHAEL KEEP & ADRIAN BOYNTON (Piano Duet)

MOZART:	Sonata in D	SCHUBERT:	Fantasia in F minor
FAURE:	Dolly Suite	DVORAK:	Slavonic Dances
WARLOCK:	Capriol Suite		

This most attractive programme features as its centrepiece the Fantasia in F minor of Schubert, one of the great works of the duet repertoire. Adrian Boynton joins forces with Michael Keep, who recently graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and has returned to his native Bletchley, where he is much in demand as a soloist, accompanist and teacher. Michael gave an unforgettable performance of Rachmaninov's Paganini Variations here at the City Church in 2006, and will play Grieg's Piano Concerto with the Cornerstone Chamber Orchestra during next year.

Admission £4.50 (conc £4, child £1.50) at the door

Thursday 20th November **7.45pm**
YUKI NEGISHI (piano)

SHCHEDRIN:	Basso Ostinato	CHOPIN:	Three Mazurkas, Op 50
CHOPIN:	Waltz in A flat, Op 42	CHOPIN:	Ballade No 2
LISZT:	Mephisto Waltz No 1	GRIEG:	Lyric Pieces
SCHUBERT:	Sonata in C minor, D958		

“Her presence leaves a deep impression in the memories of those who listen to her” [Dominique Merlet]
Yuki Negishi was a multiple prizewinner at the renowned Toho Gakuen School in Tokyo and Royal College of Music, London. She has toured extensively both as a soloist and chamber musician throughout Europe and the USA, and has broadcast for Dutch, Polish, Romanian and French radio and television. She was chosen to play the complete Chopin Preludes for the inauguration of the publication of the critical Peters Edition. Recent engagements include recitals in Tokyo, Hanover, the Festival di Londua in Italy and the International Concert Series in Leeds. Yuki describes music as “an eternal searching of the soul, which must be communicated to the listener from the heart.” Don't miss the opportunity to hear this exceptionally talented young artist.

Admission £8 (conc £7.50, child £2) at the door

Thursday 27th November **7.45pm**
EXPLORING MUSIC: **The English Revival**
HERBERT HOWELLS (1892-1983)

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

Howells' mature style is a fusion of many things English, from Parry to Walton. His early chamber works reveal both a natural poet in sound and a musician keenly alive to structure. His songs are among the finest by English composers in the Twentieth

century. Outstanding church music demonstrates his love of choral texture in a resonant acoustic, with many works written for particular buildings. The crowning glory of his output are the great works for choir and orchestra, 'Stabat Mater', 'Missa Sabrinensis', and his masterpiece, 'Hymnus Paradisi', a visionary and inspired work written in response to the death of his 9 year old son from spinal meningitis.

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

Sunday 30th November 6pm

THE ADVENT CAROL SERVICE: *Light in the World*

THE CHOIR OF THE CITY CHURCH Directed by Adrian Boynton

The Advent Carol Service is one of the musical highlights of the year at MK City Church. Beginning in candlelight it generates its own unique atmosphere. A meditative sequence of scripture, poetry, prose and beautiful musical settings from five centuries helps us to prepare once again for the coming of the Christ-child at Christmas. The service will conclude by 7.20.

Freewill offering

Thursday 4th December 7.45pm

JUN ISHIMURA (piano)

SCARLATTI: Sonata in D minor

CHOPIN: Fantasia in F minor, Op 49

CHOPIN: Nocturne in B, Op 62 No 1

LISZT: Mephisto Waltz No 1

DEBUSSY: Pour le piano

SCHUMANN: Carnival

Jun Ishimura made her debut at the age of 8 in a Mozart Concerto, and played on Japanese national television two years later. In 2003, aged 15, she played Chopin's Concerto No 2 with Krakow State Philharmonic Orchestra and was a prizewinner at the Moscow Neuhaus Festival of Young Pianists. She won 2nd prize in the 5th International Chopin Competition in 2004 and 1st prize in the Tokyo International Piano Competition 2007 before taking up an Associated Board International Scholarship at the Royal College of Music in London. Jun's irresistible City Church programme includes the very fine (yet rarely played) F minor Fantasia of Chopin along with great works by Schumann and Liszt.

Admission £8 (conc £7.50, child £2) at the door

Thursday 11th December 7.45pm

EXPLORING MUSIC: *The English Revival*

GERALD FINZI

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

Finzi's refined English pastoral idiom has its roots in Elgar and Vaughan Williams but also owes much to his respect for Bach and 18th century English composers. His instrumental works - including Eclogue for Piano and Strings, Cello Concerto and the delightful Clarinet Concerto - are marked by fertile thematic inversion, tender passion and superb string textures. His spacious 'Intimations of Immortality' and 'In terra pax' make an outstanding contribution to the English choral tradition. Above all, his solo vocal works - settings of Hardy and Traherne, including the great orchestral song cycle 'Dies Natalis' - reveal his exceptional sensitivity to English verse, and mark him as a composer of true genius.

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

Saturday 13th December 12 noon

A CHRISTMAS CRACKER with THE NEW ENGLISH SINGERS

and SPECIAL GUESTS Directed by Adrian Boynton

Join us for a rich musical feast as we celebrate with a wonderful selection of carols and arrangements from six centuries, with inspiring instrumental offerings from our special guests, designed to lift the spirits and stir the soul. Our 90 minute programme will certainly entertain, but will also seek to capture the true spirit and meaning of Christmas. Following the music, do linger if you can to talk, relax and enjoy seasonal refreshments.

Admission (to include refreshments) £5.50 (conc £5, child £1.50) at the door

Wednesday 17th December 7.45pm

ALTHEA IFEKA (oboe/oboe d'amore/cor anglais)

DOMINIC SAUNDERS (piano)

TELEMANN: Fantasia No 9 for solo oboe d'amore

SCHUBERT: Impromptu in Gb, D899

HINDEMITH: Sonata for Cor Anglais and Piano

BRAHMS: Intermezzi, Op 118

SCHUMANN: Three Romances Op.94

GOOSSENS: Oboe Concerto, Op 45

BRITTEN: Temporal Variations

REICHA: Scene for Cor Anglais and Piano

Althea Ifeka studied at Cambridge and the Royal Academy of Music where she was recipient of numerous awards, including a US Government Fulbright Scholarship. She was a finalist in the 1992 Tunbridge Wells International Young Concerto Artist Competition. She has appeared as soloist with leading UK orchestras, and as Guest Principal Cor-Anglais with both the BBC SO and Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Dominic Saunders graduated from York University with first class honours before attending the Royal Academy of Music in London where he won numerous prizes. He has gained increasing recognition for his work as a soloist and accompanist, performing at the Proms, all the main London venues and throughout the UK. His Carnegie Hall debut in 2002 was highly acclaimed. Tonight's attractive programme celebrates the oboe family in all its aspects.

Admission £8 (conc £7.50, child £2) at the door

Sunday 21st December 6pm

THE CORNERSTONE CAROL SERVICE: *Light in the World*

THE CITY CHURCH CHOIR AND CORNERSTONE BRASS Directed by Adrian Boynton

Our traditional service of lessons and carols offers a fine blend of new and exciting musical arrangements (including a new carol by Adrian Boynton) alongside the familiar and well-loved. All are invited to share with us the great message of Christmas hope.

Freewill offering.

Monday 22nd December 7.45pm

MUSICAL MILESTONES Special

CHRISTMAS MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

In this seasonal special we trace the development of the carol from its origins as a medieval round dance through the homophonic and polyphonic carols of the Reformation to the 'art' and 'folk' carols of the 18th and 19th centuries and the extraordinary profusion of fine modern settings and arrangements from the pens of Vaughan Williams, Britten, Sargent, Willocks, Rutter and others.

(Seasonal refreshments will be served)

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

Monday 5th January 7.45pm

MUSICAL MILESTONES

PENDERECKI AND GORECKI: *75th Birthday Double Celebration*

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

Poland's two greatest living composers recently celebrated their 75th birthdays (23 November and 6 December). Gorecki's highly individual style is enriched by influences as diverse as Fourteenth century Polish chant, Palestrina's polyphony and Wagnerian orchestration. He achieved worldwide fame with his 3rd Symphony in 1977, a work of rare atmosphere and beauty. Penderecki's output includes symphonies, concertos and a host of fine chamber pieces. It is however chiefly as a vocal composer that he has achieved international recognition. His inspirational St Luke Passion (influenced by

Bach) and Polish Requiem are among the finest and most important works of the Twentieth Century.

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door.

Sunday 11th January 6pm

EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE:

Light in the World

THE CHOIR OF THE CITY CHURCH Directed by Adrian Boynton

The City Church Choir returns, fresh from singing in Ely Cathedral (4 Jan), to offer a beautiful sequence of words and music for Epiphany, bringing to a climax our seasonal theme 'Light in the World'.

Freewill offering

Wednesday 14th January

7.45pm

JAMES BARRALET (cello)

HIROAKI TAKENOUCHI (piano)

KODALY: Sonata for Solo Cello

LIGETI: Sonata for Solo Cello

BACH/BUSONI: Nun komm der Heiden Heiland

STANCHINSKY: Piano Sonata in G (1912)

BEETHOVEN: Piano Sonata in C minor, Op 111

"A truly great cellist... moreover a truly great musician" [Benjamin Zander]

"An outstanding young pianist" [Musical Opinion]

In a highly original musical event to open our 2009 season we offer, in effect, two separate 45 minute recitals in one evening, one for solo cello, one for solo piano. James Barralet plays Kodaly's monumental masterwork for solo cello and the mesmerizing and evocative solo sonata of Ligeti. Hiroaki Takenouchi contrasts the colourful Third Sonata of Russian prodigy Alexey Stanchinsky (who met a tragic death in 1914 at the age of 26) with the incredible final sonata of Beethoven. James graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music in 2006 with first class honours and went on to give acclaimed performances across Europe, India, Korea and the USA. In 2007 he won the Abstract Securities London Records competition, leading to the launch of his first solo CD. Hiroaki received the HRH The Queen Mother Rosebowl on completion of his studies at the Royal College of Music and was made a Junior Fellow of the College. Recent performances include the Festivals of Bath, Cheltenham and Salzburg, recitals throughout the UK, Japan, Austria, Canada, Germany and Italy, and several world premiere recordings.

Admission £8 (conc £7.50, child £2) at the door

Sunday 18th January

7.45pm

Pre-concert talk 7pm

HAYDN BICENTENARY CELEBRATION

HAYDN: Symphony No 6 (Le Matin)

MOZART: Flute Concerto No 1 in G

HAYDN: Symphony No 85 (La Reine)

MOZART: Clarinet Concerto in A

THE CORNERSTONE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Adrian Boynton (conductor)

Abigail Burrows (flute)

Benjamin Westlake (clarinet)

The Bicentenary of the death of Haydn is a great opportunity to celebrate, and tonight we do so in style with the extraordinary early symphony 'Le Matin' which gives solo opportunities to several instruments, even the double bass(!), and one of the most exciting of the composer's mature symphonies, 'La Reine'. We also feature two brilliant young soloists in great Mozart Concertos. Abigail Burrows studied at the Purcell School and Royal College of Music, during which time she won several prizes and represented the UK at an international festival in Moscow. Ben Westlake, aged 16, studies locally with Paul Harris and in Berlin with Karl Leister. He has performed at major venues such as Cadogan Hall and Wigmore Hall and was recently the soloist in Weber's Concertino with South Bank Sinfonia. In 2007 he was a finalist on BBC2's Classical Star. This is an evening not to be missed.

Tickets £12.50 (conc £12), £10.50 (conc £10), child £5 available in advance through the Booking Line 01908 246486, email cornerstone.music@tesco.net or at the door.

Saturday 24th January

12 noon

IAN PRIESTLEY (tenor)

ADRIAN BOYNTON (piano)

MICHAEL KEEP (piano)

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS/SCHUMANN/MENDELSSOHN CELEBRATION RECITAL

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS Songs of Travel

MENDELSSOHN: Songs without Words

SCHUMANN: Dichterliebe

Composers with anniversaries in 2008, 2009 and 2010 take centre stage in this celebration recital. Vaughan Williams (d.1958) is represented by his magnificent cycle 'Songs of Travel', nine superb settings of Robert Louis Stevenson, including classics such as 'The Vagabond' and 'Roadside Fire'. A selection of 'Songs without Words' neatly characterised, beautifully shaped and richly coloured, celebrates this year's Mendelssohn (b.1809) anniversary. To conclude we anticipate the Schumann (b.1810) bicentenary with the sublime 'Dichterliebe', one of the great cycles of all time. We are delighted to welcome back Ian Priestley (currently appearing with Scottish Opera) who gave us such a powerful and moving 'Winterreise' cycle last year, and superb local pianist Michael Keep.

Admission £4.50 (conc £4, child £1.50) at the door

Thursday 29th January

7.45pm

EXPLORING MUSIC: The English Revival

RUTLAND BOUGHTON AND EDMUND RUBBRA

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

Tonight we consider the remarkable contribution to English music of two 'local boys'. Aylesbury-born Rutland Broughton effectively founded Glastonbury Festival - as a vehicle for Wagnerian-style choral dramas based on Arthurian legend! Alongside major choral and theatre works, he wrote fine symphonies, concertos and chamber music. Northampton-born Edmund Rubbra's prolific output covers all musical forms except opera. His superb handling of modal harmony in a distinctively English tradition makes him a more than worthy successor to his teacher, Holst. His output includes beautiful religious choral works, outstanding chamber works and songs, and no less than eleven symphonies, whose musical substance and spiritual grandeur have still to be fully appreciated.

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

Sunday 1st February 6pm

CHORAL EVENSONG FOR THE FEAST OF CANDLEMAS

THE CHOIR OF THE CITY CHURCH, directed by Adrian Boynton

Freewill offering

Wednesday 4th February

7.45

LIBOR NOVACEK (piano)

HAYDN: Sonata in F

DEBUSSY: Preludes (Book II)

JANACEK: On an Overgrown Path

MARTINU: Three Czech Dances

'Beautifully phrased, subtly coloured and acutely characterized... His command of the keyboard is very impressive, and he aspires to the highest interpretive ideals.' [Gramophone 2007]

Prague-born Libor Novacek graduated from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 2004 with highest honours and was immediately selected by the Young Concert Artists Trust. He went on to take top prizes in international competitions leading to solo recitals and concerto performances in prestigious venues throughout the world. In February 2007 his third CD (of Liszt) was Editor's Choice in Gramophone Magazine and in June he was awarded a Diploma d'Honneur at the 33rd Liszt International Record Grand Prix in Hungary. Tonight's recital includes a rare opportunity to hear a complete performance of Janacek's 'On an Overgrown Path', one of the most extensive and richly expressive of all Romantic piano cycles, reflecting memories of the composer's youthful years, the beautiful countryside around his home, and the pain of the loss of his beloved daughter, Olga.

Admission £8 (conc £7.50, child £2) at the door

Monday 9th February 7.45pm

MUSICAL MILESTONES: Haydn Bicentenary Celebration

HAYDN (1732-1809) (i) Keyboard and Chamber Music

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

Towards the end of his 30 years in the relative seclusion of the Esterhazy household, Haydn is said to have remarked: "There was no one near to confuse me, so I was forced to become original." His vast output of music is notable for the number of delights and surprises contained in almost every work. He exploited the capabilities of instruments and voices to the full, and every genre in which he worked he enlarged, extended and re-shaped. In the first of three Haydn evenings, we focus on the magnificent legacy of 83 string quartets, covering a period of more than 40 years. These contain some of his most striking and original ideas. We also extract the pearls from 32 piano trios, 126 baryton trios, 52 piano sonatas and 32 pieces for mechanical clock!

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

Saturday 14th February 12 noon

PHILIPPA MURRAY (soprano)

PETER DI-TORO (tenor)

ADRIAN BOYNTON (piano)

VALENTINE'S DAY RECITAL

PURCELL: If Music be the Food of Love

HAYDN: Cantata Arianna a Naxos

CROFT: A Hymn on Divine Music

BELLINI: Three Songs

POULENC: Airs Chantes

FAURE: Three Songs

HANDEL: Duets from L'Allegro, il Pensieroso

A frequent prizewinner at Milton Keynes and other local festivals, Philippa Murray became a choral scholar and regular soloist at King's College, London and the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Last year she won a scholarship to study with Emma Kirkby at Dartington International Summer School. She has sung recently with the distinguished Armonico Consort and earlier this year made her operatic debut in Magic Flute at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall. Peter Di-Toro was a choral scholar at the London Oratory School and at Norwich Cathedral, where he appeared frequently as a soloist. He has sung with the Cambridge-based early-music group, Corde, and recorded solo songs by Pelham Humfrey with Liverpool Scholar Cantorum. Join us for what promises to be a delightful Valentine's Day programme.

Admission £4.50 (conc £4, child £1.50) at the door

Thursday 19th February 7.45pm

MARY MEI-LOC WU (piano)

BACH/BUSONI: Nun komm', der heiden Heiland

SCHUMANN/LISZT: Widmung

MOZART: Sonata in A minor, K310

RAVEL: Miroirs

ALBENIZ: Iberia

CHOPIN: Sonata in B minor

"one of the most gifted pianists of her generation" [Vlado Perlemuter]

"her playing has a captivating poetic quality" [Lord Menuhin]

Mary Mei-Loc Wu graduated from the Royal College of Music with the Chappell Gold Medal, the highest award for pianists, and went on to obtain her doctoral degree in the USA. She was first prize winner in the Royal Overseas League and International Mozart Bicentenary Competitions. Mary is a faculty member at Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts and regularly sits on the juries of national and international competitions. She was voted one of Hong Kong's 'Outstanding Young Persons' in 2003. Mary has recorded nine CDs, most recently a complete Ravel cycle on the Universe label, to critical acclaim. We are delighted to welcome Mary back to the City Church after an absence of nearly 10 years.

Admission £8 (conc £7.50, child £2) at the door

Thursday 26th February

7.45pm

EXPLORING MUSIC

The English Revival

WILLIAM WALTON:

(i) Early Achievements

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

Walton is one of the most fascinating of Twentieth Century British composers. Fundamentally lyrical and romantic, two basic ingredients characterise all his works: a sparkling rhythmic impetus, with wide intervals and tangy harmonies, and an expressive melancholy. It is as if two influences were perpetually at war in his nature – the 20th century Stravinsky-Prokofiev strain and the 19th century Elgar. In his finest works these opposing forces are successfully reconciled. Tonight we assess Walton's early achievements: 'Portsmouth Point' Overture, Symphony No 1, Viola Concerto, Violin Concerto, 'Belshazzar's Feast' and the ever popular 'Façade'.

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

Sunday 1st March 6pm

CHORAL EVENSONG FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

THE CHOIR OF THE CITY CHURCH, directed by Adrian Boynton

Freewill offering

Wednesday 4th March

7.45pm

ARADA GUITAR DUO

Simon Davies & Nicholas Lee (guitar)

Programme to include

COSTE: Grand Duo

GUILIANI:

Rondo No 3

PETIT: Tarantella

SOR:

Andantino Cantabile

MERZ: Mazurka Tarantelle

RODRIGO:

Tonadilla

GIORGINAKIS:

Songs without words

CASTELNUOVO-TEDESCO:

Sonatina Canonica

"A lovely disc" [Rob Cowan, BBC Radio 3] "They had such instinct for this magic and so impressed with the exhilaration of their performances..." [Guy Hawey]

Simon David and Nicholas Lee began playing together in 1992 whilst studying with Gordon Crosskey and John Williams at the Royal Northern College of Music. They have performed - both as soloists and as a duo - at leading venues across the UK, and have broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM. Nicholas plays regularly for the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-Upon-Avon and London; Simon recently represented the UK in a European Musicians concert in Brussels. The duo have recorded several CDs for Telstar and London Records; their latest disc, 'Mediterranean' released in June this year, has received glowing reviews.

Admission £8 (conc £7.50, child £2) at the door

Monday 9th March

7.45pm

MUSICAL MILESTONES:

Haydn Bicentenary Celebration

HAYDN (ii) *The Symphonies and Concertos*

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

Haydn's 104 symphonies display a remarkable variety of moods, ranging from the tragic tone of the 'Lamentation' No 26 to the extreme playfulness and rollicking finale of No 60. Some have a quasi-religious cast, such as No 30, based on a Gregorian Easter chant. Others, like 'La Reine', contain exuberant folk-like moments. Noteworthy are Haydn's wit, elegance, imaginative use of instruments, innovative structures, artful contrapuntal textures, and the intensity of emotional expression. The last 12 symphonies, written for London audiences, are hallmarked by a perfection of all these qualities combined. Haydn also wrote fine concertos for horn, trumpet, cello and keyboard.

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

Saturday 14th March 12 noon

MICHAEL GRANT (clarinet)

FRANCESCA HUNT (viola)

YUKI NEGISHI (piano)

MOZART: 'Kegelstatt' Trio K498

JACOB: Trio for Clarinet, Viola and Piano

BRUCH: Acht Stucke, Op 83

Michael Grant was a Royal College of Music scholar before accepting a scholarship at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where he currently studies with Julian Farrell. Winner of numerous prizes and a BBC Young Musician semi-finalist, he is already forging an international career, with recent performances in Italy, Vienna, Singapore and Australia. Francesca Hunt graduated from Victoria University, New Zealand in 2008 with first class honours. She played regularly with the Royal New Zealand Ballet and Opera companies before undertaking postgraduate studies at the Guildhall School in London, where she won the Max and Peggy Morgan Viola Concerto competition. Multiple prize-winner Yuki Negishi is in increasing demand globally, with recent performances in London, Hanover, Ripatransone, Tokyo and New York. Come and enjoy the particularly fine repertoire written for this unusual combination.

Admission £4.50 (conc £4, child £1.50) at the door

Thursday 19th March 7.45pm

EXPLORING MUSIC: *The English Revival*

WILLIAM WALTON: (ii) *The Later years*

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

In contrast to the emphatic brass-oriented 1st Symphony, Walton's Symphony No 2 has a more mellow brilliance, tinged with vibraphone, piano and celesta. The outstanding film scores of his mature years - 'First of the Few' and 'Henry V' - demonstrate a successful fusion of neoclassical techniques, English pastoral Romanticism and the Elgar 'Pomp and Circumstance' idiom. Tonight we also explore the sparkling Hindemith Variations, the shimmering colours of the Cello Concerto and some fine chamber music.

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door.

Sunday 29th March 7.30pm

BRAHMS: **GERMAN REQUIEM**

BRAHMS: **ACADEMIC OVERTURE**

BRAHMS: **VARIATIONS ON A THEME OF HAYDN**

THE CORNERSTONE CHAMBER CHOIR & ORCHESTRA

Leader: Philippa Barton Conductor: Adrian Boynton

The German Requiem is the central work of Brahms' career. It is unique in that it does not use the words of the traditional Requiem Mass but a Biblical text chosen by Brahms himself, centring round faith in the Resurrection rather than fear of the Day of Judgement. It inspired Brahms to produce some of his greatest music. Each section has its own character, emphasized by Brahms' subtle instrumentation. There are warm glowing colours of great beauty, majestic 'Handelian' fugues and powerful climaxes. Tonight's programme also includes the Academic Festival Overture which Brahms wrote to acknowledge conferment of an honorary PhD on him by the University of Breslau, and the popular Variations on a theme of Haydn, arguably one of the finest sets of variations by any Romantic composer.

Tickets £12.50 (conc £12), £10.50 (conc £10), child £5 available in advance through the Booking Line 01908 246486, email cornerstone.music@tesco.net or at the door.

Sunday 5th April 6pm

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD: *A Choral Meditation for Palm Sunday*

THE CHOIR OF THE CITY CHURCH directed by Adrian Boynton

A meditation for Passiontide featuring music by Vittoria, Lassus, Purcell, Bruckner, Rutter and Boynton. Freewill offering

Good Friday, 10th April 7.30pm

MUSIC FOR GOOD FRIDAY

THE CHOIR AND INSTRUMENTALISTS OF THE CITY CHURCH

Directed by Adrian Boynton

An opportunity to reflect on the significance of Good Friday as the Choir and Instrumentalists offer a powerful and moving sequence of words and music, including some of the finest extended settings of Holy Week texts (Full details of the music programme will appear on our website, www.cornerstonemusicmk.co.uk around 20th March.) The reflection will conclude about 9pm.

Retiring collection

Sunday 19th April 6pm

EASTER FESTIVAL OF PRAISE

THE CHOIR AND INSTRUMENTALISTS OF THE CITY CHURCH Directed by Adrian Boynton

Join us for this joyful celebration of the Easter Season featuring the music of Byrd, Handel, Wesley, Stanford and Vaughan Williams.

Freewill offering

Monday 20th April

7.45pm

MUSICAL MILESTONES: *Haydn Bicentenary Celebration*

HAYDN (iii) *Oratorios, Masses, Operas*

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

Haydn said "At the thought of God, my heart leaps for joy and I cannot help my music doing the same." Following completion of his huge symphonic legacy, and now well into his 60s, he embarked on a series of large-scale vocal works: six great Masses, (including the 'Nelson', 'Maria Theresa' and 'Harmony' Masses), 'The Creation', still second only to 'Messiah' in its popularity with choirs and audiences, and 'The Seasons', his last major work, celebrating the bounties of nature. As well as savouring this wonderful late flowering, we explore moments from Haydn's operas and vocal chamber music, including some fine arrangements of British folksong.

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

Wednesday 22nd April

7.45pm

ALEXEI GRYNYUK (piano)

LISZT: Three Petrarc Sonnets

SCHUBERT: Sonata in A, D959

SAINT SAENS-HOROWITZ: Dance Macabre

LISZT-HOROWITZ: Hungarian Rhapsody No 2

"Sublime playing.... it seemed a young Horowitz was reborn" [Pianoworld Magazine Amsterdam]

"captivating.... a dignified, beautifully structured performance" [Chopin Magazine, Tokyo]

"breathtaking technical accomplishment and musicianship of the highest order" [Musical Opinion]

Ukranian pianist Alexei Grynyuk studied at Kiev Conservatoire before winning a scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music in London. He gained first prize in the Dyagilev Competition in Moscow, the Horowitz Competition in Kiev and the International Piano Competition in China. Alexei has performed at prestigious venues such as Wigmore Hall, Salle Cortot, Paris, Great Hall, Moscow and Metropolitan Museum, New York. He has broadcast on national radio stations in several countries, and appeared in major festivals such as Dushniki, Montpellier, Newport Rhode Island and the International Keyboard Festival in New York. Alexei stunned our audience with his breathtaking musicianship last season when he stepped in at very short notice to cover for an artist indisposed. We are delighted that he is able to return to Milton Keynes so soon.

Admission £8 (conc £7.50, child £2) at the door

Thursday 30th April

7.45pm

EXPLORING MUSIC:

The English Revival

CONSTANT LAMBERT - ALAN RAWSTHORNE - HOWARD FERGUSON

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

Tonight we explore the work of three of Walton's most important contemporaries. Jazz-influenced Constant Lambert enjoyed early success with his setting of Sacherell Sitwell's 'Rio Grande' before going on to write colourful ballet and theatre scores. Alan Rawsthorne abandoned dentistry for music and produced a fine body of orchestral and chamber works, distinctive in style, strong in structure and impeccable in craftsmanship. Belfast-born Howard Ferguson (the centenary of whose birth we have recently celebrated) combined great lyrical warmth and romantic feeling with a firmness and clarity of construction based on traditional forms, in a small but distinguished output of instrumental and vocal works. Some of tonight's repertoire may be unfamiliar, but there are some real gems to savour.

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

Saturday 9th May

12 noon

JOHN MACDOMNIC (trumpet)

MARK TOWNEND (trombone)

ADRIAN BOYNTON (piano/organ)

HANDEL: The Trumpet Shall Sound HAYDN: Trumpet Concerto

ROSSINI: Duetto SAINT-SAENS: Cavatine

LLOYD WEBBER: Music for the Night CASTEREDE: Concertino

BERNSTEIN: Elegy for Mippy/Rondo for Lifey

Top London trumpeter John MacDomnic makes a welcome return to the City Church. He has just completed a season with English Touring Opera and has recorded a new work by John Rutter with the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral. Prizewinning trombonist Mark Townend won a scholarship to Tanglewood Summer School. Since then he has played regularly with major orchestras such as BBC Symphony, London Philharmonic, Philharmonia and Royal Opera House, and in leading West End shows. The dynamic duo are joined by Adrian Boynton in an attractive and entertaining programme of original works and splendid arrangements. Not to be missed!

Admission £4.50 (concession £4 child £1) at the door.

Wednesday 13th May

7.45pm

CHRISTOPHER WHITE

(piano)

CHOPIN: Bacarolle, Op 60 CHOPIN: Preludes, Op 28

MESSIAEN: Canteyodjaya SCHUBERT: Sonata in A major

Christopher White graduated from the Royal Academy of Music in 2007 with first class honours. He has studied Chopin with the late Professor Alexander Salz and Messiaen with Pierre-Laurent Armand and has given acclaimed recitals featuring these composers in Austria, New Zealand and in leading UK venues. Also a distinguished accompanist and chamber musician, Christopher has just completed a successful spell as Piano Fellow at Tanglewood Summer School. Earlier this year he completed a transcription and recording of Mahler's Tenth Symphony. Tonight's attractive programme features the complete (24) Preludes of Chopin, and the monumental A major Sonata, one of Schubert's late great works.

Admission £8 (conc £7.50, child £2) at the door

Sunday 17th May 6pm

CHORAL EVENSONG

THE CHOIR OF THE CITY CHURCH Directed by Adrian Boynton

Freewill offering

Monday 18th May **7.45pm**

MUSICAL MILESTONES: ***Mendelssohn Bicentenary Celebration***

MENDELSSOHN ***(i) The Early Years to 1833***

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

Mendelssohn's gifts were phenomenal. He was a good painter, had wide literary knowledge and wrote brilliantly. He was a superb pianist, a good violinist, an exceptional organist, and an inspiring conductor, with an amazing musical memory. His genius as a composer led Bulow to describe him as the most complete master of form after Mozart. Tonight we survey the works of his teens and early twenties, including the Piano Quartets in C minor and F minor (the first of these written at the age of 13), the exhilarating Octet (his first 'mature' work, written at the age of 16), String Quartets in E flat and A minor, beautiful songs and solo piano pieces, the overtures 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'The Hebrides' (Fingal's Cave), Piano Concerto in G minor and 'Reformation' Symphony.

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

Thursday 28th May **7.45pm**

EXPLORING MUSIC: ***The English Revival***

TIPPETT: ***(i) The Early Years***

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

Tippett's life was his music. A late developer, he did not achieve any kind of recognition until 1935 with his first String Quartet. The two major works which made his name were the Concerto for Double String Orchestra and the oratorio 'A Child of Our Time' a work of extraordinary emotional power, and the first of several compositions to reconcile personal vision with 'collective' feeling. The opera 'Midsummer Marriage' (1952) marks the culmination of his early lyrical style. Other important works of these years are Symphony No 1, 'Fantasie on a Theme of Corelli' and the moving song-cycle 'Heart's Assurance'.

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door.

Saturday 6th June **12 noon**

SUMMER SERENADE **with The NEW ENGLISH SINGERS**

and SPECIAL GUESTS **Directed by Adrian Boynton**

Adrian Boynton directs the New English Singers in a glorious summer programme which includes English and Italian madrigals, Victorian part songs, Brazilian and American folk songs, beautiful settings of Stanford, Finzi and Vaughan Williams and a touch of Gershwin and Porter. Special guest soloists add richness and colour to the wonderful tapestry of sounds. Do join us to savour the aural delights and bring your friends. Then afterwards, linger for awhile to enjoy Summer Cup, light refreshments and convivial company.

Admission £5.50 (concession £5 child £1.50) (including refreshments) at the door.

Monday 8th June **7.45pm**

MUSICAL MILESTONES: ***Mendelssohn Bicentenary Celebration***

MENDELSSOHN ***(ii) The Mature Years (1833-1847)***

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

The 1830s and early 40s saw the completion of some of the great works for which Mendelssohn is chiefly remembered - the Italian and Scotch Symphonies, the Violin Concerto in E minor, the incidental music 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', the Piano Trios in D and C minor, the beautiful 'Songs without Words' for piano solo and the oratorios 'St Paul' and 'Elijah'. Some of Mendelssohn's later works may lack the youthful spontaneity of his earlier compositions, but they demonstrate superb craftsmanship, melodic elegance, inventive orchestration and a fine blend of classical structure and romantic colour.

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

Wednesday 10th June 7.45pm
IVO STANKOV (violin) IVO VARBANOV (piano)

BEETHOVEN: Sonata in G for Violin & Piano
DE FALLA: Spanish Dance (La Vida Breve)
KHACHATURIAN: Violin Sonata in D
NENOV: Violin Sonata
JANACEK: Sonata for Violin & Piano
BRITTEN: Suite for Violin & Piano, Op 6
RAVEL: Tzigane, Concert Rhapsody

Ivo Stankov is one of Bulgaria's leading artists. He made his solo debut at the Royal Albert Hall aged 14 with the New English Orchestra and returned there as soloist in the Elgar Concerto in 2003. Following studies at the Royal Conservatoire in Madrid he won a full scholarship to study with Eric Gruenberg at the Royal Academy of Music, where he was recipient of numerous awards and prizes. His Wigmore Hall debut in 2006 was critically acclaimed. Ivo Varbanov completed postgraduate studies at the Royal Academy in 1998, in which year he won top prizes in the International Chamber Music Competition in Italy. His two solo CDs (Mussorgsky and Brahms) and duo CD with cellist Seeli Toivio have received outstanding reviews. 'The Two Ivos' offer a thrilling programme reflecting the musical traditions of Moravia, Armenia, Bulgaria, Spain and England. Don't miss the opportunity to hear them.

Admission £8 (concession £7.50 child £2) at the door.

Sunday 14th June 6pm

SEASONS OF THE SPIRIT

THE CHOIR OF THE CITY CHURCH Directed by Adrian Boynton
A musical celebration for the season of Pentecost and the Holy Trinity.

Freewill offering

Thursday 18th June 7.45pm

EXPLORING MUSIC: The English Revival

TIPPETT: (ii) The Middle and Final Years

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

Tippett's compositions of the mid/late 1950s inhabit an opulent sound-world of expressive harmonies, rippling woodwinds and soaring strings (Piano Concerto, Symphony No 2). These colourful ideas are organised into tighter blocks of sound in the works of the 60s (King Priam, Concerto for Orchestra), matching contemporary developments in the music of Stravinsky and Messiaen. The final years are marked by a sublime lyricism and a vision of reconciliation (The 'Ice Break', 3rd and 4th Symphonies, 'The Rose Lake'). Most often it is from black American music, specifically the blues, that healing comes.

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door.

Thursday 25th June 7.45pm

SEQUEIRA COSTA (piano)

SCHUMANN: Carnival
CHOPIN: Sonata in B minor
DEBUSSY: Suite Bergamasque
TURINA: Three Fantastic Dances

Sequeira Costa's impressive career spans six decades. He has performed with the major orchestras of the world at leading international venues and partnered Itzak Perlman and Edwin Fisher in chamber music recitals. He has sat on the jury of the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow on no less than nine occasions, and several times on the juries of the Chopin, Leeds and Rubinstein competitions. He recently performed all five Beethoven Concertos at the International Festival in South-East Asia. His understanding of the French and German Schools is unsurpassed; his many recordings include the complete works of Schumann and Rachmaninov. Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear him.

Admission £8 (conc £7.50 child £2) at the door

Sunday 12th July 7.30pm

SUMMER CELEBRATION featuring

DAVID FANSHAWE: AFRICAN SANCTUS

THE CORNERSTONE CHAMBER CHOIR AND INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

Directed by Adrian Boynton

David Fanshawe spent much time in Africa in his mid to late twenties absorbing African culture, researching into African folk music, and making a unique library of location recordings. In 1972 he wrote the extraordinary 'African Sanctus', which blends, dramatically and movingly, the authentic sounds of various regions of North and East Africa with the colours, rhythms and harmonies of Twentieth Century Western music. An award-winning BBC television film of the 'Sanctus', made on location, was shown in many parts of the world in the mid 70s, and since then the work has received international acclaim. We are hoping that David Fanshawe will make a guest appearance on this special evening to introduce the work and speak about his musical journey along the River Nile. Our celebration concert will include other works too. Full details of the musical programme will appear on our website, www.cornerstonemusicmk.co.uk, from around 8 June. Special rates for parties available. Ring 01908 246486 or 07961 348697 for details.

This is a charity concert in aid of Advantage Africa.

Tickets £12.50 (conc £12), £10.50 (conc £10), child £5 available in advance through the Booking Line 01908 246486, email cornerstone.music@tesco.net or at the door.

Sunday 19th July 6pm

CHORAL EVENSONG

THE CHOIR OF THE CITY CHURCH Directed by Adrian Boynton

Freewill offering

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND BOOKING:

**The Music Office: Church of Christ the Cornerstone, 300 Saxon Gate West, Milton Keynes, MK9 2ES. 01908 246486 07961 348697
Email: Cornerstone.music@tesco.net**

EMAIL CONTACT:

Please share with us your e-mail address if you would like to receive regular concert information

FRIENDS AND PATRONS OF MUSIC AT THE CITY CHURCH

You can support 'Music at the City Church' by becoming a 'Friend of Music'. Friends enjoy regular discounts on the cost of midweek evening concerts. We recommend a minimum annual donation of **£15**, or **£25** for a couple. To become a 'Patron' a donation of **£50** is suggested. The names of patrons are listed in the programmes of our major concerts. Please send your donation to Mrs J Boynton at MK City Church, 300 Saxon Gate West, Milton Keynes, MK9 2ES, marking the envelope 'Friend' or 'Patron' and writing your address on the reverse of the cheque. Cheques payable to **Church of Christ the Cornerstone**. A 'Friend' card will then be issued to you. If you are a tax payer it would be helpful if you could complete a form which allows us to gift aid your donation - these are available at concerts or on request from the above address. If your Friendship has lapsed (i.e. if it is a year or more since you last subscribed), we hope you will take this opportunity to renew your subscription.

Thank you

Jill Boynton
(Administrator/Treasurer)

