

# MUSIC AT MILTON KEYNES CITY CHURCH

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

## September 2007 - March 2008

A warm invitation is extended to all lovers of music to join us regularly at Milton Keynes City Church. Over the coming months we will hear international artists of the highest calibre in our regular midweek recitals. Major orchestral and choral concerts include Handel's *St Cecilia Ode* and Britten's *Saint Nicholas* (9 Dec), Brahms' *Piano Concerto No 2* (16 Feb) and Bach's *St John Passion* (16 March). Our 'Musical Milestones' series of monthly illustrated talks (Monday) celebrates the anniversaries of Scarlatti, Sibelius, Szymanowski, Rimsky-Korsakov and Messiaen, while 'Exploring Music' (Thursdays) features the great English composers of the early Twentieth Century. We have a splendid line-up of Saturday Midday concerts, and on Sundays at 6pm there are beautiful services of reflection and celebration led by the Cornerstone Choir. From Byrd to Britten, Purcell to Porter, there is something for everyone in this series. The Cornerstone acoustic remains one of our greatest assets, but this season we have the added bonus of our concert grand piano newly refurbished to the highest international standards. We look forward to welcoming you....

Adrian Boynton  
(Director of Music)

### BOOKING

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

SUNDAY 21 OCTOBER (ARCO Strings) ~ SATURDAY 17 NOVEMBER (Autumn Gold)  
SUNDAY 9 DECEMBER (Handel/Britten) ~ SATURDAY 16 FEBRUARY (Mendelssohn/Brahms)  
SUNDAY 16 MARCH (St John Passion)

**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

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

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September**      **7.45pm**

**MUSICAL MILESTONES**      **250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

**ALESSANDRO AND DOMENICO SCARLATTI**

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton BA ADCM FRCO (CHM) FTCL LRAM  
*Alessandro Scarlatti was one of the most prolific composers of the Baroque era, contributing more than 20 oratorios, 40 motets, 115 operas and over 600 solo cantatas. His son, Domenico, whose 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary we celebrate this year, was exceptionally gifted, producing concertos, operas, masses, a superb 10-part setting of Stabat Mater, and dazzling keyboard sonatas which in many respects are way ahead of their time. Join us to savour the riches of this remarkable Baroque 'dynasty'.*

Admission £3.50 (students £1) at the door

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

**7.45pm**

**CRISTO BARRIOS (clarinet)**

**CLINTON CORMANY (piano)**

RAVEL:      Piece en forme d'habanera

BRAHMS:      Sonata in Eb major

BROTONS:      Clarinet Sonata

BERNSTEIN:      Clarinet Sonata

SALONEN:      Nachtlieder



**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October      7.45pm**

**MUSICAL MILESTONES      50th Anniversary Celebration**

**SIBELIUS (1865-1957)**

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

*'A profound logic creating a connection between all the musical ideas.'* This was Sibelius's view of symphonic form, and indeed his seven symphonies reveal an exceptional sense of structure, as well as mastery of orchestration. The voyage from the climate of Slav romanticism in the First Symphony to the profoundly original world of the Sixth and Seventh is one of courageous spiritual discovery. The symphonic poems too (*En Saga, Finlandia, Tapiola, Oceanides*) are masterpieces of colour and imagination. In tonight's anniversary tribute we consider also less familiar but equally outstanding areas of the composer's output – theatre music, chamber and keyboard works, choral music and songs.

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

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October      12 noon**

**JOHN MACDOMNIC (trumpet)**

**ADRIAN BOYNTON (piano/organ)**

TORELLI:              Sonata in D                      BITSCH:                      Scarlatti Variations

BACH:                  Fugue in D                      MOZART:                      Exsultate Jubilate

ARATUNIAN:      Trumpet Concerto              BIZET:                          Carmen Sequence

BAKER:                Virtuosity

*John MacDomnic is regarded as one of the UK's top trumpeters. He performs regularly with the Royal Philharmonic, London Philharmonic and BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. He leads Barbican Brass, appears in major West End shows and is a regular soloist at St Paul's Cathedral. With Adrian Boynton he has given solo recitals throughout the country, most recently in the prestigious chamber music series at the National Portrait Gallery in London. Today's recital features the lyrical and colourful concerto by brilliant American composer Alexander Aratunian, an entertaining set of variations by Parisian composer Marcel Bitsch, and a tribute to the great jazz trumpeter Kenny Baker.*

Admission £4 (conc £3.50, child £1) at the door

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October      6pm**

**CHORAL EVENSONG**

The Choir of the City Church directed by Adrian Boynton

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

**7.45pm**

**EXPLORING MUSIC:**

***The English Revival***

**VAUGHAN WILLIAMS**

***(i) The Early Years***

*Among the many contributions to the English revival at the beginning of the Twentieth Century, Vaughan Williams's was arguably the richest and most profound. His thorough absorption of English folksong and study of Tudor masters was the basis for a melodic-harmonic style of incredible subtlety and variety which had a far-reaching influence on his contemporaries and successors. The flow of his music is quintessentially English and reveals a wonderful feeling for landscape. Tonight we explore the masterpieces of the early years: 'Songs of Travel', 'Towards the Unknown Region', 'On Wenlock Edge', 'Sea Symphony', 'Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis', 'London Symphony' and 'The Lark Ascending'.*

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

**Sunday 21st October      3pm (please note start time)**

**ARCO STRINGS**

**Ben Godfrey (trumpet)**

**Celia Waterhouse (Leader)      Orlando Jopling (conductor)**

GRIEG:      Holberg Suite, Op 40

TIPPETT:      Fantasia Concertante on a Theme of Corelli

CUELLAR: Olympic Concerto for Trumpet and Strings

SUK: Serenade in E flat, op 6

*Arco Strings is a group of 24 talented instrumentalists dedicated to playing music for string orchestra to the highest standards. Their broad repertoire explores and exploits the full potential of string sound. The orchestra made a highly acclaimed debut at London's Conway Hall in 2003, directed by leading chamber musician Roger Coull. Since then ARCO has played to enthusiastic audiences at Beaulieu Abbey, St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, St James's Piccadilly, and here at the City Church. The orchestra has developed a special relationship with Father-and-Son Swiss composers Arturo and Salomon Cuellar, and today's concert features an exciting new concerto by Salomon, with international trumpeter Ben Godfrey as soloist. Prize-winning conductor Orlando Jopling directs.*

Tickets £9 (conc £8.50, child £3) through the booking line 01908 246486,  
[Cornerstone.music@tesco.net](mailto:Cornerstone.music@tesco.net) or at the door

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November      7.45pm**

**GRACE FRANCIS (piano)**

SCHUMANN: Faschingsschwank aus Wien, Op 26

LISZT: Petrarch Sonnets, Op 104

PROKOFIEV: Visions Fugitives, Op 22

CHOPIN: Scherzo No 1, Op 20

LISZT: Sonata in B minor / Spozalizio and Tarantella

***“Francis is a phenomenon. Technically there seems to be nothing she can't play. But more than that, there is a force in her, a compulsion, that gives her performances uncommon fire and energy”***

[David Cairns, Senior Music Critic, Sunday Times]

*Grace Francis studied with Irina Zaritskaya at the Royal College of Music where she received the Chappell Gold Medal, the highest award for pianists. She was a prizewinner at EPTA International Competition and also gained the prestigious Hallori Foundation Award. She has performed regularly at Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room, Barbican, St John's Smith Square and other leading venues, and given several broadcasts on BBC Radio 3, most recently of works by Chopin and Field. Tonight's recital features masterworks of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, an area of the repertoire with which Grace has particular affinity.*

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

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November      6pm**

**“THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD...” CHORAL MEDITATION FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

The Choir of the City Church directed by Adrian Boynton

*Beautiful music and readings for the season of Remembrance*

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

**7.45pm**

**MUSICAL MILESTONES**

**70th Anniversary Celebration**

**SZYMANOWSKI (1882-1937)**

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

*One of the great 'modern Romantics', Szymanowski was influenced equally by the German School of Strauss and the Impressionism of Debussy in his quest for a distinctive and original style. As a young composer working in Berlin he experimented with atonality, polytonality and elaborate rhythms, before a return to his native Poland, and the inspiration of his great forebear Chopin, awakened in him a latent Nationalism. Thereafter he produced music of exceptional richness and colour, inspired by Polish folklore, including the ballet 'Harnasie', the opera 'King Roger' and the beautiful Stabat Mater. Tonight's celebration also includes the Four Symphonies, Violin Concertos 1 and 2, string quartets, solo piano works and songs.*

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November      7pm for 7.30**

**AUTUMN GOLD**

**AN EVENING OF MUSICAL MAGIC AND MERRIMENT** *featuring*

**GUYATHRIE PEIRIS (soprano)**

**IAN PRIESTLEY (tenor)**

**ELIZABETH WARD (clarinet/saxophone)** **ADRIAN BOYNTON (piano)**

HANDEL ~ ARNE ~ MOZART ~ SAINT-SAENS ~ BIZET ~ PUCCINI ~ STRAUSS ~ NOVELLO ~  
GERSHWIN ~ BERNSTEIN ~ PORTER ~ KERN

7pm Sparkling Wine Reception

7.30

Gala Concert

8.45 Supper

9.30

Cabaret

*The lovely Guyathrie Peiris returns to the City Church just days before embarking on a four-month tour of Australia and the Far East. Tenor Ian Priestley interrupts a major operatic tour of Holland to return to the UK for this event. The duo offer an irresistible programme of Italian, French, German and English song, great operatic arias and duets and a selection of fine popular songs from the 'golden era' of the 40s and 50s. With instrumental offerings from the versatile Elizabeth Ward and a tasty supper prepared by Diane Turner of 'Food for Thought', this is an evening not to be missed. Book now to avoid disappointment. Parties of 6 or more are invited to reserve a table.*

Full Tickets £16 (conc £15) including sparkling wine reception, concert, supper and cabaret: in advance through the booking line 01908 246486 or email Cornerstone.music@tesco.net . Pre-Concert Reception and Concert only tickets £8 (conc £7.50) available at the door.

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

**7.45pm**

**EXPLORING MUSIC:**

***The English Revival***

**VAUGHAN WILLIAMS**

***(ii) The Later Years***

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

*Vaughan Williams believed that a composer should make his art an expression of the whole life of the community. His best works stand tall among the great works of the Twentieth Century in their broad human outlook, their probing of essential truths and their subtle insight into deep and spacious moods. Tonight we feature the amazing contrasts of the mature symphonies, from the violence and tension of No 4 to the visionary beauty of No 9. We also sample the unique texture of 'Serenade to Music' for 16 solo voices, the ecstatic 'Flos Campi' for solo viola, wordless chorus and orchestra, the richly coloured choral masterpiece 'Sancta Civitas', and the subtle humour of 'Five Tudor Portraits' and the Tuba Concerto.*

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

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November**

**12 noon**

**AURELIA BAROQUE TRIO**

**Simone Curley (recorder)      Yoko Miyazaki (violin)      Takako Mouma (harpsichord)**

QUANTZ:      Trio Sonata in C

BACH:      French Suite No 1

BACH:      Sonata a tre BWV 529

TELEMANN:      Flute Fantasia No 7

QUANTZ:      Sonata in E minor

BACH:      Adagio in G minor

TELEMANN:      Sonata a 3

*The Aurelia Baroque Trio was formed in 2004 when the three members met during their studies on the Early Music programme at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Their acclaimed debut in London as part of the LSO Discovery Series has been followed by appearances across the UK. Join them for this delightful lunchtime programme.*

Admission £4 (conc £3.50, child £1) at the door



Often referred to as the 'last of the great Romantic composers', Australian-born Erich Korngold caused a sensation when, at the age of 13, his 'Die Shneemann' was successfully given at the Vienna Court Opera and Schnabel played his Piano Sonata No 1. He went on to write several fine operas, symphonies, concertos and chamber works before settling in Hollywood, where he wrote music for many outstanding films including 'The Prince and The Pauper', 'The Adventures of Robin Hood', 'The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex' and 'The Sea Hawk'. Join us as we celebrate his legacy.

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December      11.30am (please note start time)**

**A CHRISTMAS CRACKER with THE NEW ENGLISH SINGERS**

**and SPECIAL GUESTS      Directed by Adrian Boynton**

*By popular demand, another sumptuous seasonal offering of choral music, instrumental solos and the spoken word, featuring The New English Singers and their special guests. Step aside from the commercial frenzy. Our 90 minute programme will certainly entertain, but will also seek to capture the true spirit and meaning of Christmas. Following the music, linger awhile to talk, relax and enjoy seasonal refreshments.*

Admission (to include refreshments) £5 (conc £4.50, child £1.50) at the door

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December      7.45pm**

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

**GUSTAV HOLST      (i) *The Early Years***

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

*Holst's music, while owing something to folksong influence and to the madrigalian tradition of Byrd and Weelkes, is intensely original and has a visionary quality similar to that found in Vaughan Williams, but expressed more directly and with greater natural technical facility. Important works of the early years include 'The Mystic Trumpeter' for soprano and orchestra, 'Somerset Rhapsody', the opera 'Savitri', 'Choral Hymns from the Reg Veda' (reflecting the composer's knowledge of Sanskrit), the fine choral ode 'The Cloud Messenger', the brilliant orchestra suite 'Beni Mora' and the outstanding 'St Paul's Suite' for Strings. The orchestral epic 'The Planets', written during World War 1, sums up the achievements of the early years and reflects many aspects of the composer's style.*

Admission £3.50 (students £1) at the door

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December      6pm**

**THE CORNERSTONE CAROL SERVICE**

**THE CITY CHURCH CHOIR AND BRASS      Directed by Adrian Boynton**

*The Christmas story in the words of Scripture.... contemporary poetry and prose.... beautiful choral settings from five centuries.... lively modern arrangements.... traditional carols for all to sing. The theme of our Christmas worship this year is 'Entertaining Angels': we aim to reflect this with some glorious heavenly sounds.*

Retiring Collection

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January      12 noon**

**CRAIG GREEN (trumpet/piano)**

**ADRIAN BOYNTON (piano)**

BACH:      Partita No 2 in C minor

HUMMEL:      Trumpet Concerto

BEETHOVEN:      Sonata in E major, Op 109

*Outstanding Milton Keynes musician Craig Green, a former student at Stantonbury Campus, was awarded a scholarship to Stowe School in 2003. He gained the Dip ABRSM with distinction on both Piano and Trumpet. His tutors were Maia Griffin and Alan Jenkin. In 2006 he won the Thames Valley Young Musician Award and earlier this year the Lions European Music Competition. He was invited to attend the Castelfranc International Piano Summer School in France. Craig was offered scholarships to study at*

the RAM, RCM and RNCM, but has recently taken up a place to read music at Christ Church Oxford. Admission £4, (conc £3.50, child £1) at the door

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January 6pm**  
**EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE**

**THE CHOIR OF THE CITY CHURCH** Directed by **Adrian Boynton**

*The Epiphany – in which we celebrate the manifestation of Christ in the world, symbolised in the story of the Magi – is a truly special liturgical season, enriched by wonderful music, poetry and prose. Come and share some of these treasures with us. The service will conclude by 7.20.* Freewill offering

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 7.45pm**  
**LIBOR NOVACEK (piano)**

MOZART: Rondo in BRAHMS: Sonata Op 2  
JANACEK: In the Mist BRAHMS: Intermezzi, Op 117  
LISZT: Années de Pelerinage Book 1

*“Beautifully phrased, subtly coloured and acutely characterised..... His command of the keyboard is very impressive and he aspires to the highest interpretive ideals”* [Gramophone, 2001]

*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 at several 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 by the 33<sup>rd</sup> Liszt International Record Grand Prix in Hungary. This is a recital not to be missed!*

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

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 7.45pm**  
**MUSICAL MILESTONES: Anniversary Celebration**

**THE GREAT FRENCH TRADITION: WIDOR, VIERNE & LANGLAIS**

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

*Continuing our occasional series exploring the work of the great French organist-composers, we focus on three central figures whose anniversaries have recently been celebrated. Vierne and Langlais were blind from birth. Along with Widor, famed for his exceptional ability as an improviser, they brought to perfection the genre of the organ symphony, in which the organ became a full romantic ‘orchestra’ in an expansive four-movement structure. All three composers displayed talents away from the organ loft, and tonight we will hear ballet scores and concertos by Widor, orchestral suites by Langlais and chamber music by Vierne. Join us for what promises to be an evening of exciting musical discovery.* Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 7.45pm**  
**HAZEL BROOKS (violin) ~ DAVID POLLOCK (harpsichord)**  
**VIVA VIVALDI**

BONPORTI: Invenzione in G minor, Op 10, No 4  
VIVALDI: Autumn (The Seasons) CORELLI: Sonata in F  
SCARLATTI: Two Sonatas, K177/178 HANDEL: Sonata in A  
VIVALDI: Winter (The Seasons) VIVALDI/BACH: Concerto in F

*Prizewinning duo Hazel Brooks and David Pollock are renowned for their stylish presentations of the music of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. They have appeared at some of Europe’s most prestigious early music festivals, most recently Barcelona and London’s South Bank. Their latest CD ‘La Eleganza’ has been warmly reviewed. Tonight’s superb*

programme features great music of the Italian Baroque, including two concertos from Vivaldi's 'Seasons'. Admission £8 (conc £7.50, child £2) at the door

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January**                      **7.45pm**  
**EXPLORING MUSIC:**                      **The English Revival**  
**GUSTAV HOLST**                              **(ii) The Final Years**

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

*Holst's response to the horrors of World War 1 is reflected in two visionary and luminous works for choir and orchestra: 'The Hymn of Jesus', based on the apocryphal Acts of St John and a setting of Walt Whitman's 'Ode to Death', one of the great landmarks of Twentieth Century English music. Also from the period comes the opera 'The Perfect Fool' with its distinctive ballet sequences. Works such as A Fugal Overture, Fugal Concerto and First Choral Symphony reflect a period of greater contrapuntal clarity. The last years of Holst's life give the promise of a richer, more lyrical phase in the tone poem 'Egdon Heath', 'Moorside Suite' for Brass Band, Concerto for Two Violins, Humbert Wolfe song settings, 'Choral Fantasia' (setting of Robert Bridges) and 'Brook Green Suite' for Strings.*

Admission £3.50 (students £1) at the door

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**                      **12 noon**  
**IAN PRIESTLEY (tenor)**                      **ADRIAN BOYNTON (piano)**  
**SCHUBERT: WINTERREISE**

*In 1827, the year before his death, Schubert completed his greatest vocal work. The cycle of 24 songs, based on poems of William Muller range in mood from intense passion through darkness and despair, to profound serenity. The songs reveal new harmonic insights, remarkable textural colours, and a deepening relationship between piano and voice. In this special lunchtime recital, Ian performs the entire 'Winterreise' cycle with pianist Adrian Boynton. Priestley's versatility has brought him leading roles in 'Magic Flute', 'Tales of Hoffmann', 'Die Fledermaus' and 'Carmen' with companies such as Carl Rosa, Sadlers Wells and Scottish Opera, as well as a host of oratorio engagements and cabaret appearances. He retains a special affinity for lieder and in recent years has performed all the major Schubert and Schumann cycles with Adrian Boynton.*

[Today's concert concludes at approx 1.25]                      Admission £4 (conc £3.50, child £1) at the door

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**                      **6pm**  
**CHORAL EVENSONG**

The Choir of the City Church directed by Adrian Boynton

*A creative service of words and music marking the climax of 'No Longer Strangers' at the City Church*

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February**                      **7.45pm**  
**MARK BEBBINGTON (piano)**

SCARLATTI:                      Three Sonatas  
SCHUBERT:                      Sonata in B flat, D960  
GRIEG:                              Lyric Pieces  
LISZT/WAGNER:                      Liebestod (Tristen) & Spring Chorus (Flying Dutchman)  
LISZT/DONIZETTI:                      Reminiscences of 'Lucia di Lammermoor'  
LISZT/VERDI:                      'Rigoletto' Paraphrase de Concert

*"An outstanding performer in every way" [Penguin Guide to Classical CDs]*

*The critical acclaim which has greeted Mark Bebbington's recent performances and recordings has singled him out as a young British pianist of the rarest refinement and maturity. His latest CD, of piano music by Constant Lambert and Malcolm Arnold, was Editor's Choice in the Feb 2007 edition of 'Gramophone'. His Frank Bridge CD released in*

2006 was given five-star rating by BBC Music Magazine and has become the magazine's 'Benchmark Bridge'. Recipient of numerous international awards and prizes, Mark has toured extensively throughout Europe and the Far East. He has appeared as soloist with the London Philharmonic and Philharmonia Orchestras and London Mozart Players, and has featured on BBC Television. Mark's City Church programme features the epic B flat Sonata from Schubert's final year and a selection of Liszt's finest transcriptions and paraphrases, including 'Rigoletto', one of the towering peaks of Romantic pianism.

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

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February**                      **7.45pm**                      ***(Pre-concert talk 7pm)***

**BEETHOVEN:**                      **EGMONT OVERTURE**

**BRAHMS:**                      **PIANO CONCERTO NO 2**

**MENDELSSOHN:**                      **SCOTTISH SYMPHONY**

**THE CORNERSTONE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

**Alexander Ardakov (piano)**                      **Adrian Boynton (conductor)**

*Our early Spring orchestral concert features three great German Romantic works. Brahms's Second Piano Concerto is regarded as one of the pinnacles of the concerto repertory, its brilliant and demanding technical features woven into a carefully argued structure of epic proportions. The warm, rich colours of Mendelssohn's Scottish Symphony, inspired by a visit to Holywood in 1829, are also superbly crafted into a most satisfying cyclic form. With charismatic Russian virtuoso Alexander Ardakov as soloist in the Brahms Concerto this promises to be a night to remember.*

Tickets £12 (conc £11.50) £10 (conc £9.50), child £5 available in advance through the Booking Line 01908 246486 or email [cornerstone.music@tesco.net](mailto:cornerstone.music@tesco.net) or at the door

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February**                      **7.45pm**

**MUSICAL MILESTONES**                      ***Centenary Tribute***

**THE GREAT FRENCH TRADITION:**                      **MESSIAEN (1908-1992)**

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

*Messiaen's music is compounded from his deep Catholic faith, his celebration of human love, and his delight in nature. He gave a new dimension of colour and intensity to organ music, making special use of acoustic reverberation and contrasts of timbre. His orchestral works use exotic percussion instruments to create oriental effects. Melodies derive from birdsong while rhythms often originate from ancient Greek procedures. Our centenary tribute – featuring great works such as 'La Nativite du Seigneur', 'La Transfiguration', 'Vingt Regards sur L'Enfant Jesus', 'Turangalila Symphony' and 'Quartet for the End of Time' – assesses the legacy of this remarkable musician, arguably the most influential composer of the Twentieth Century.*

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February**                      **6pm**

**CHORAL EVENSONG FOR MIDLENT SUNDAY**

The Choir of the City Church directed by Adrian Boynton

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February**                      **7.45pm**

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

**FRANCK BRIDGE (1879-1941)**

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

*Bridge was regarded as something of an 'outsider' by the musical establishment of his day. It was only when his works were rehabilitated by his former pupil Britten at the Aldeburgh Festival that his greatness became fully recognised. His early songs, chamber music and orchestral works are*

in a rich English Romantic idiom (akin to Delius, Ireland and Bax). Later works break new ground in harmonic language, texture and form. Featuring 'The Sea', Cello Concerto, 'Phantasie' Piano Trio, 'Dance Rhapsody' and String Quartets 1-4, this is a rare opportunity to explore the legacy of one of our most important and influential British composers.

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March                      7.45pm**

**ANGELA LEAR (piano)**

**CELEBRATING CHOPIN**

Grandes Etudes, Op 10: C minor ('Revolutionary')/ Fmajor/ G major ('Black Key')

Grandes Etudes, Op 25: Ab major ('Aeolian Harp') / C minor ('Ocean')

Ballade in G minor, Op 23

Mazurka in C# minor, Op 30 No 4

Scherzo in Bb minor, Op 31

Scherzo in C# minor, Op 39

Ballade in Ab major, Op 47

Nocturne in Eb major, Op 9 No 2

Polonaise in Ab major, Op 53 ('Heroique')

*"Angela Lear's performances are a revelation...*

*with Lear we hear what Chopin really intended"* [BBC Music Magazine]

*Following an outstanding debut recital at the age of 12, Angela Lear studied with Guy Johnson at the Royal Academy of Music and privately with Louis Kentner. She won the Aetna Montague Gold Medal for her performance of Ravel but turned down an offer to study Ravel with Nadia Boulanger in France because she would not neglect her first love, the music of Chopin. Among the cognoscenti Angela is known as one of the finest players of Chopin. She has given performances for Chopin societies throughout the world, including Chopin's birthplace and the Chopin Society headquarters in Warsaw. The Polish Government recognised her pre-eminence when they invited her to give the London celebration recital to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the composer's birth. Her six-volume CD series 'The Original Chopin' has attracted critical acclaim, including five stars from BBC Music Magazine. Angela's City Church all-Chopin recital will reveal the full range of the composer's remarkable achievements.*

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

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March                      11.30am (please note start time)**

**MICHAEL GRANT (clarinet/saxophone)**

**YUKI NEGISHI (piano)**

PIAZOLLA: Histoire du Tango

FINZI: Five Bagatelles

MAURICE: Tableaux de Provence

NAULAIS: Parfums d'Orient

BASSI: Fantasia on Verdi's 'Rigoletto'

DEBUSSY: Syrinx

*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 Julia Farrell. Winner of numerous prizes and a BBC Young Musician semi-finalist, he is already forging an international career, with performances so far this year in Italy, Vienna, Singapore and Australia. He is accompanied by the exceptionally talented Yuki Negishi, who made such a deep impression when she first appeared at the City Church in March 2007. Today's lunchtime programme promises fine music and great entertainment.*

Admission £4 (conc £3.50, child £1) at the door

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March                      6pm**

**GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD**

A CHORAL MEDITATION FOR PASSION SUNDAY

The Choir of the City Church directed by Adrian Boynton

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March            7.45pm**

**MUSICAL MILESTONES**

***Centenary Tribute***

**RIMSKY KORSAKOV (1844-1908)**

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

*Self-taught Rimsky Korsakov surpassed all his colleagues of the Russian Nationalist School in the art of clear and colourful orchestration. His music epitomizes the splendour and pageantry of Tsarist Russia. In tonight's centenary tribute we enjoy operatic highlights from 'The Snow Maiden' and 'The Golden Cockerel', great showpieces such as 'Fantasia on Russian Themes', 'Russian Easter Festival' Overture and the amazing 'Sheherzade'. We hear rarely performed symphonies, concertos and chamber works. We also explore Rimsky Korsakov's brilliant orchestrations of the works of fellow Russians Borodin and Mussorgsky.*

Admission £3.50 (student £1) at the door

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March            7.30pm**

**BACH:            ST JOHN PASSION**

**THE CORNERSTONE CHAMBER CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA**

**Directed by Adrian Boynton**

*Bach's St John Passion is the choice for our traditional Palm Sunday concert. For many people, the St John is the greatest of all Passion settings, combining beautiful reflective arias, dramatic crowd choruses and meditative chorales in a finely balanced structure which gives perfect pace to the unfolding drama. A line-up of outstanding soloists join the Cornerstone Chamber Choir and Orchestra for what promises to be a profound and moving experience.*

Tickets £12 (conc £11.50) £10 (conc £9.50), child £5 available in advance through the Booking Line 01908 246486 or email [cornerstone.music@tesco.net](mailto:cornerstone.music@tesco.net) or at the door

**GOOD FRIDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH            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 of the City Church 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 musical programme will be forwarded to our e-mail addressees in early March) The Reflection should conclude around 9pm.*

Retiring Collection

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND BOOKING:**

**The Music Office: Milton Keynes City Church, 300 Saxon Gate West, Milton Keynes, MK9 2ES. 01908 246486 07961 348697 email: [Cornerstone.music@tesco.net](mailto: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 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' or 'Patron' card will then be issued to you. 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

