

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 24th September 7.45pm

MUSICAL MILESTONES 250th 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 250th 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 26th 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 8th 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 13th 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 14th October 6pm

CHORAL EVENSONG

The Choir of the City Church directed by Adrian Boynton

Thursday 18th 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 or at the door

Wednesday 7th 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 11th 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 12th 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 17th 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 22nd 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 24th 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 15th 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 20th 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 23rd 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 5th 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 6th 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 10th 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 33rd 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 14th 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 23rd 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 17th and 18th 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 31st 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 2nd 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 3rd 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 7th 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 16th 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 or at the door

Monday 18th 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 24th February **6pm**

CHORAL EVENSONG FOR MIDLENT SUNDAY

The Choir of the City Church directed by Adrian Boynton

Thursday 28th 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 6th 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 150th 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 8th 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 9th March 6pm

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

A CHORAL MEDITATION FOR PASSION SUNDAY

The Choir of the City Church directed by Adrian Boynton

Monday 10th 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 16th 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 or at the door

GOOD FRIDAY 21st 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

EMAIL CONTACT:

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

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