

MUSIC AT MILTON KEYNES CITY CHURCH



300 Saxon Gate West, Milton Keynes, MK9 2ES. 01908 246486
cornerstone.music@tesco.net www.cornerstonemusicmk.co.uk

September 2016 - January 2017

Welcome to our Autumn programme. We hope you will find much to enjoy and will be able to join us regularly. Adrian Boynton (Director of Music)

Wednesday 28th September 7.30 (Pre-concert talk 7pm)

THE SIXTEEN Conductor: Eamonn Dougan

CHORAL PILGRIMAGE 2016: 'The Deer's Cry'

BYRD: Diliges Dominum / Christe qui lux es et dies
 Emenders in Melius / Miserere mini Domine
 Ad Dominum con tribulater / O luxbeata Trinitas
 Laetentur coeli / Tribue Domine

TALLIS: Miserere nostri / When Jesus Went

PÄRT: Woman with the Alabaster Box / Nunc Dimities

"The Sixteen are brilliant at lifting us up to another world" [The Telegraph]

The world-famous choir return for their seventh successive choral pilgrimage appearance at the City Church. They celebrate the works of William Byrd and Arvo Pärt, masters of sacred music in very different eras, both of whom faced considerable persecution for their work. The programme explores the different ways in which Pärt uses his unique 'Tintinabuli' style to mesmerising effect. It also features Byrd's most substantial and arguably finest motets from his 'Cantiones Sacrae' - 'Ad Dominum cum tributaries' and 'Tribue, Domine'.

Tickets £20 (front/middle centre and front row balcony), £15 (rear and balcony sides) available by email cornerstone.music@tesco.net, telephone 07961 348697, or at the door. Doors open 6.30pm Pre-concert talk 7pm

Sunday 9th October

6pm

CHORAL EVENSONG

Reflecting on William Tyndale

THE CHOIR OF THE CITY CHURCH

Directed by Adrian Boynton Led by Revd Tim Norwood

Freewill offering

Saturday 15th October 7.30pm

SVETLANA MOCHALOVA (cello)

SLAVA SIDORENKO (piano)

In support of Chernobyl Relief Foundation in the UK



BEETHOVEN: Cello Sonata No 4 in C, Op 102
MENDELSSOHN: Variations Sériuses in D minor, Op 54
SCHUMANN: Drei Fantasiestücke, Op 73
GLAZUNOV: Chant du Ménéstrel, Op 71
RACHMANINOV: Vocalise / Cello Sonata in G minor, Op 19

Russian cellist Svetlana Muchalova graduated with first class honours from the Royal Northern College of Music in 2006 before completing her Masters with distinction. She is a Britten-Pears Young Artist and has appeared in many international festivals. Ukranian-born Slava Sidorenko gained the coveted Gold Medal at the RNCM before studying on the International Artist Diploma Course. He has won prizes in the Luzenko, Moray, Brant and Busoni international competitions and was awarded the Silver Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians in 2008. He made his Wigmore Hall debut in 2009. In this special concert supporting Chernobyl Relief, Svetlana and Slava offer some of the great masterworks of the cello and piano repertoire. A superb evening is in prospect.
Admission by programme at the door £12.50 (conc £12, children £2)

Monday 17th October 7.30pm

MUSICAL MILESTONES *Latin American Celebration*

VILLA LOBOS - CHAVEZ - REVUELTAS - GUARNIERI - MIGNONE

A talk by Adrian Boynton, illustrated with fine CD recordings

Appropriately in this Olympic year, Brazilian composers take centre-stage in the first of two evenings celebrating the music of Latin America. Villa Lobos is rightly regarded as the most important creative figure in Twentieth Century Brazilian art music. Guarneri and Mignone who followed him made significant contributions in the field of orchestra music, chamber music and song. Tonight we also consider the work of two outstanding Mexican composers, Carlos Chavez and Sylvester Revueltas.
Admission £5 (student £1) at the door

Thursday 27th October 7.30pm

EXPLORING MUSIC *Baroque Masters*

HANDEL: (i) Early Years

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

Handel travelled widely in Germany and Italy before settling in England. His music reflects his cosmopolitan life, and the taste of the public for whom he composed. Important works of the early years are 'Dixit Dominus', 'Utrecht Te Deum', 'Chandos Anthems', 'Coronation Anthems' (including 'Zadok the Priest'), 'Birthday Ode for Queen Anne', 'Water Music', Harpsichord Suites (including the 'Harmonious Blacksmith' Variations), the pastoral 'Acis and Galatea', and the operas 'Rinaldo', 'Ottone' and 'Julius Caesar'.

Admission £5 (student £1) at the door

Saturday 29th October 7.45

POLYMNIA 10th ANNIVERSARY GALA CONCERT

with LESLEY GARRETT (soprano)

John Byron (director), Anna Tilbrook and Anna Le Hair (piano)

Programme to include:

MOZART: Laudate Dominum VERDI: La Vergine degli Angeli

STANFORD: Magnificat in G ELGAR: Lux Aeternam (Nimrod)
GRAINGER: Brigg Fair RUTTER: Gaelic Blessing
GJEILO: Northern Lights SHEARING: Sonnets and Songs
BARBER: Sure on this Shining Night

Polymnia have sung in a wide range of venues, including Mantua's Ducal Palace as part of the Mantova Chamber Festival, Granada Cathedral, and the Nerja Caves in Spain, as well as The Stables and MK Stadium (for the Rugby World Cup). For their 10th Anniversary Gala Concert, they are joined by international soprano Lesley Garrett. Lesley will perform some of her favourite songs, accompanied by Anna Tilbrook, and join Polymnia in Mozart's Laudate Dominum, Verdi's La Vergine degli Angeli and Rutter's Gaelic Blessing. The choral repertoire has an English focus, including George Shearing's Jazz-based settings of Shakespeare, Stanford's iconic Magnificat and John Cameron's arrangement of Elgar's Nimrod. Hilton Hotel will provide interval drinks in aid of their DM Thomas Foundation for Young People charity and the concert will also support the NSPCC.

Tickets £30 and £25 available from cornerstone.music@tesco.net or telephone 07961 348697

Sunday 6th November 6pm

CHORAL REFLECTION FOR ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS

THE CHOIR OF THE CITY CHURCH directed by Adrian Boynton

A service marking this very special season with music by Vittoria, Parry and Stanford, and including a reflection by Revd Wendy Carey.

Freewill offering

Wednesday 9th November 7.30pm

REIKO FUJISAWA (piano)

TOGANA: On the Edge of the Wind

TAKEMITSU: Rain Sketch II

BACH: Goldberg Variations

“Fujisawa’s boundless energy and lightness of touch provoke grins; the clarity she brings is remarkable.” [Classical CD Weekly]

Following studies in Tokyo, San Francisco and London, Reiko Fujisawa has established herself as a soloist of formidable stature. She made her debut at Southbank Centre in 1999, at Wigmore Hall in 2003, and performed with the soloists of the R.P.O. in the inaugural season at Cadogan Hall. She has since made appearances at prestigious venues all over the UK and overseas. Fujisawa has a special affinity with the music of Bach, and in tonight’s recital offers a rare opportunity to hear the entire Goldberg Variations. The Goldbergs surely represent one of the iconic monuments of Western music - on the one hand a work of exceptional beauty and refinements, on the other a Rubik’s Cube of invention and architecture.

Admission £10 (conc £9.50, child £1) at the door

Monday 14th November 7.30pm

MUSICAL MILESTONES: Latin American Celebration

HAHN - GINASTERA - PIAZZOLLA - RAMIREZ - BROUWER

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

In the second of our Latin-American celebration evenings the focus is on Argentina, and in particular Alberto Ginastera, the centenary of whose birth falls this year. His output includes operas, ballet, symphonic works, concertos for harp, piano and cello, chamber music and a sizeable quantity of keyboard works. Ramirez wrote fine songs and choral works, including the celebrated Alfonsina y el Mar, Cantata Sudamericana and the work for which he is best known, Misa Criolla. Piazzolla revolutionised the traditional tango into a new style termed 'nuevo tango', incorporating elements from jazz and classical music.
 Admission £5 (student £1) at the door

Saturday 19th November 11.30am

TOMOKO YAMAZAKI KUSAKA (mezzo-soprano)

ROSIE REED (flute) ADRIAN BOYNTON (piano)

PERGOLESI:	Se tu m'ami	VIVALDI:	Vieni, vieni,
HANDEL:	Sonata in C	GLUCK:	Dance of the Blessed Spirits
GOUNOD:	Air des fleurs	DONIZETTI:	Oh mio Fernando
FAURÉ:	Sicilienne	RUTTER:	Suite Antique
YAMOMOTO:	Berceuse	NAKADA:	The Departing Spring
CLARKE:	Great Train Race	NAKAYAMA:	Bouncing Ball and the Lord

A voice of exceptional beauty and poise [Operaworks]

Tokyo born Tomoko Kusaka studied with the distinguished baritone Vittorio Terranova in Milan. She is a recipient of the prestigious Niigata Music Award. As a member of the Japan Opera Foundation and the National Opera in Japan she has played numerous roles, including Cherubino (Marriage of Figaro), Hansel (Hansel and Gretel), Lucia (The Thievish Magpie) and Sister Martha (Dialogue des Carmelites). Flautist Rosie Reed gained a first class degree from Southampton University and postgraduate diploma with distinction at Trinity College London. She was a finalist in the Harold Clarke Woodwind Competition 2006. She enjoys a busy career as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral player in styles ranging from classical to jazz and pop.

Admission £8 (conc £7.50, child £1) by programme at the door

Thursday 24th November 7.30pm

EXPLORING MUSIC: Baroque Masters

HANDEL ii) Mature Years

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

In 1711 Handel composed the first Italian opera written specially for our English audience. For the next 30 years he became immersed in the ups and downs of operatic activity in London, producing over 40 works. Then, as public interest in opera declined, he brought fresh creativity to oratorio, producing more than 20 magnificent works rich in choral drama and orchestral colour. Tonight we savour great moments from the operas 'Rodelinda', 'Partenope', 'Ariodante' and 'Alcina' and oratorios 'Israel in Egypt', 'Samson', 'Solomon', 'Semele' and 'Messiah'. Other important works of these years include the Concerto Grosso Op 3, the Organ Concerti and 'Music for the Royal Fireworks'.

Admission £5 (student £1) at the door

Sunday 27th November 8pm *(Please note start time)*

PURCELL: SONATA FOR TRUMPET AND STRINGS

HANDEL: ODE ON ST CECILIA'S DAY

FINZI: IN TERRA PAX

BRITTEN: SAINT NICOLAS

Stephen Brown (tenor) John Stainsby (baritone)

THE CORNERSTONE CHAMBER CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA

Leader: Philippa Barton

Solo Trumpet: John MacDomnic

Directed by Adrian Boynton

To celebrate St Ceciliastide, Advent and St Nicolastide, the Chamber Choir and Orchestra offer an imaginative programme of superb English repertoire. Cecilian odes in the Baroque era were conceived as 'occasional' works and normally expected to receive just a single performance, but Handel's 1739 offering proved such a hit that it was hastily scheduled for a further six performances in the same season! Finzi's 'In Terra Pax' is a beautiful pastoral setting of words of Robert Bridges, reflecting the central message of the Christmas story. 'Saint Nicolas', originally written for the centenary celebrations at Lancing College 70 years ago, is one of Britten's most vivid and heartwarming works. Join us to enjoy this special Advent programme.

Tickets £16 (conc £15.50), £13.50 (conc £13), children £1 by email from cornerstone.music@tesco.net, telephone 01908 246486 (ans mach), 07961 348697, or at the door

Sunday 4th December 6pm

THE ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

THE CHOIR OF THE CITY CHURCH Directed by Adrian Boynton

The atmosphere of Advent - season of hope and expectation - is wonderfully evoked in this beautiful candlelit service featuring passages of scripture, poetry and prose, and musical settings from five centuries.

Freewill offering

Monday 5th December 7.30pm

MUSICAL MILESTONES Contemporary Masters

LIGETI - KURTAG - REICH - GLASS

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

"They didn't invent the wheel so much as they showed us a new way to ride"

[John Adams]

A celebration of two Hungarians and two Americans, as we mark the 10th anniversary of Ligeti's death, the 90th birthday of George Kurtag and the 80th birthdays of Steve Reich and Philip Glass. Ligeti made skilful use of polyrhythm and micro-polyphony to forge a new compositional technique. Kurt makes great play with 'space' in many of his works. His musical language has a rare expressive intensity, crossing the borders between spontaneity and reflection. Reich and Glass are the great minimalists, creating phrase patterns marked by the use of repetition, slow harmonic rhythm and canons. These four are among a handful of contemporary composers who can legitimately claim to have altered the direction of musical history.

Admission £5 (student £1) at the door

Monday 12th December 2pm - 5pm
PIANO MASTERCLASS by ALICJA FIDERKIEWICZ

The great Polish pianist Alicja Fiderkiewicz gives a masterclass at the City Church for pianists of grade 7, 8, diploma standard and above. Fiderkiewicz is regarded as an outstanding teacher, and has recently given masterclasses to students at Chetham's International Summer School. Pianists who would like to take part in the masterclass are invited to contact Adrian Boynton (boyntonmusic@gmail.com or 07961 348697) indicating their level of performance and the repertoire they would like to offer. The charge for participation will be in the region of £15 - £30 depending on the number who apply, and the length of time allotted to each performer. It promises to be a stimulating afternoon. Observers are warmly welcome - £7.50 at the door

Monday 12th December 7.30pm
ALICJA FIDERKIEWICZ (piano)

SCHUBERT: Sonata in Bb, D960
DEBUSSY: Estampes
CHOPIN: Ballade No 3
SYMANOWSKI: Three Preludes, Op 1
CHOPIN: Fantasie in F minor

***"a pianist of rare quality. She plays with the kind of old-fashioned simplicity associated with the playing of her great compatriots, Horsowski and Rubinstein."** [Piano Magazine]*

The great Polish pianist Alicja Fiderkiewicz studied at Moscow Conservatoire, the Symanowski School in Warsaw and the Royal Northern College of Music, from where she graduated with distinction in both performance and teaching. She was a prizewinner in international competitions, and was awarded the Calouste Gulbenkian Music Fellowship. She has performed for BBC Radio 3, in all the major London venues, including Wigmore Hall and St John's Smith Square, and internationally in Israel, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Cyprus, Poland, Japan and Ukraine. Alicja's recital combines outstanding repertoire from her homeland with Schuberts monumental Bb Sonata and Debussy's brilliant impression of Eastern Asia and Spain.

Admission £10 (conc £9.50, child £1) at the door

Tuesday 13th December 12.30pm
THE CITY CENTRE CAROL SERVICE

THE CHOIR OF THE CITY CHURCH directed by Adrian Boynton

A short service of 40/45 minutes, with beautiful choral settings from the choir, and popular carols for all to sing. Followed by seasonal refreshments.

Saturday 17th December 11.30am
A CHRISTMAS CRACKER with

THE NEW ENGLISH SINGERS & SPECIAL GUESTS Directed by Adrian Boynton

A highlight of the seasonal calendar! The New English Singers capture the true spirit of Christmas in a well balanced and carefully crafted programme of carols old and new. Instrumental solos offered by our special guests provide further opportunity for celebration and reflection. It promises to be a joyous and heart-warming occasion. Following the music, seasonal refreshments will be served.

Admission (including refreshments) £8.50 (conc £8) children £1 at the door

Sunday 18th December 6pm
THE CORNERSTONE CAROL SERVICE ‘Emmanuel God, with us’
THE CHOIR OF THE CITY CHURCH & CORNERSTONE BRASS
Directed by Adrian Boynton

A joyful celebration of the Saviour's birth in words and music, with familiar carols for all to sing, magnificent choral offerings from the choir and lively contributions from Cornerstone Brass. Do join us, and bring your family and friends.

Freewill offering

Thursday 22nd December 7.30pm
LONDON CONCERTANTE (Guest Director/Soloist: Ben Norris)
VIENNESE CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT

STRAUSS: Wine, Women and Song
TCHAIKOVSKY: Nutcracker Suite
SCHUBERT: Rondo for Violin and Strings
STRAUSS: Tales from the Vienna Woods
BRAHMS: Hungarian Dance No 5
STRAUSS: Blue Danube Waltz

London Concertante is one of the UK's leading chamber orchestras, currently enjoying its 25th Anniversary season. The ensemble celebrates Christmas with a host of Viennese delights, including the very best of 'Waltz King' Johann Strauss II. Also featured are a Tchaikovsky perennial favourite and Schubert's superb Rondo in A, a masterful combination of virtuosity and lyricism which will allow the talents of Scottish fiddle sensation Ben Norris to be displayed to full advantage. Come along for a pre-Christmas treat.

Tickets £28, £25 from cornerstone.music@tesco.net, telephone 01908 246486 (ans mach), 07961 348697 or at the door

Sunday 8th January 6pm
THE EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE ‘Light of the World’
THE CHOIR OF THE CITY CHURCH Directed by Adrian Boynton

The lovely season of Epiphany commemorates the revelation of Christ to the world, symbolised in the story of the Magi, with beautiful readings, both from the Bible and other sources and fine musical settings by Bach, Handel, Howells and Leighton we celebrate this special time.

Freewill offering

Monday 9th January 7.30pm
MUSICAL MILESTONES: **80th Anniversary Special**
MAURICE RAVEL (i) **Early Years**

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton
Ravel is frequently classified alongside Debussy, yet the differences between these two contemporaries are more striking than the similarities. Ravel shows more respect for classical forms than Debussy, and in contrast to the latter's 'veiled impressionism', often demonstrates exceptional clarity in his scoring and structures. Tonight we hear the great piano and chamber works of the early years - 'Jeux d'eau', 'Miroirs', 'Gaspard de La Nuit', String Quartet and 'Introduction and Allegro' - outstanding orchestral works - 'Scheherazade' and 'Rhapsodie Espagnole' and the operative masterpiece 'L'Heure Espagnole'.

Admission £5 (student £1) at the door

Wednesday 18th January 7.30pm

ALEXANDER ARDAKOV (piano)

RACHMANINOV: Morceaux de Fantaisie, Op 3 / 10 Preludes, Op 23

CHOPIN: 3 Etudes, Op 10

Ballade No 1 in G min, Op 23 / Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38

Ballade No 3 in Ab, Op 47 / Ballade No 4 in F minor, Op 52

“Audiences are swept up in the sensitivity, intensity and passion of his playing that takes them on a journey from the most tender and intimate perceptions to the dramatic peaks of life’s greatest moments.” [Daryl Hardman]

Graduate of Moscow Conservatoire and prizewinner in the Viotto International Competition in Italy, Ardakov has developed into an exceptional recitalist of versatility and musical integrity. He has recorded with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and made many appearances on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM. He is an outstanding interpreter of romantic repertory, and tonight’s recital of Rachmaninov and Chopin will display his at his very best, including a rare opportunity to experience the complete set of Chopin’s Ballades in the same concert.

Admission £10 (conc £9.50, child £1) by programme at the door

Saturday 21st January 11.30am

STEPHEN BROWN (tenor) JOHN FISHER (piano)

ADRIAN BOYNTON (piano)

BRAHMS: Piano Pieces, Op 118

FINZI: A Young Man’s Exhortation, Op 14

BLUMENFIELD: Etude for the left hand in A flat, Op 36

SCHUMANN: Dichterleibe

Stephen Brown studied at Trinity College London and at the Benjamin Britten International Opera School at the Royal College of Music. His career has led to major roles with the UK’s leading companies, including English Touring Opera, Carl Rosa and D’Oyly Carte. He has become a much appreciated soloist in major concerts here at the City Church most recently in Elijah, Samson and as the Evangelist in Bach’s Passions. Stephen joins Adrian Boynton in the young Finzi’s masterly setting of ten poems of Thomas Hardy and arguably Schumann’s greatest song cycle. The recital also features fine romantic repertoire from outstanding local pianist John Fisher, who recently featured on BBC Radio 3.

Admission £8 (conc £7.50, child £1) by programme at the door

Thursday 26th January 7.30pm

EXPLORING MUSIC Baroque Masters

J.S. BACH: (i) Great Cantatas and other Church Music

A talk illustrated with fine CD recordings by Adrian Boynton

In the first of six illustrated talks covering all aspects of the composer’s legacy, Adrian Boynton surveys the Cantatas (of which there are over 200) and other Church music, contrasting the works which Bach produced during his early years at Weimar with the mature works of the Leipzig period. This is glorious repertoire, containing some of Bach’s most beautiful and least-known music.

Admission £5 (student £1) at the door