

Saturday 7th November 2009

7.30pm

St Saviour's Church, Eastbourne

EASTBOURNE
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

COME SING, COME PLAY
MOZART'S REQUIEM
THE PERFORMANCE



eastbourne
symphony
orchestra

Supported by Eastbourne Borough Council



Welcome to the Come Sing, Come Play performance of Mozart's Requiem. Singers and orchestral players from all over Sussex (and some from beyond) have joined together today to rehearse this well known work. Tonight's special performance is the result of today's rehearsals and coaching by our two choral and orchestral conductors, David Force and Michael Withers. Thank you for your support.

David Force is the choral coach and the conductor for tonight's performance. David read music as an Organ Scholar at the University of Durham and is currently Head of Academic Music at Eastbourne College. An experienced orchestral and choral conductor, he has appeared as an organ soloist and accompanist on several commercial records and has broadcast on BBC radio and television. He is in much demand as a continuo keyboard player and plays harpsichord, organ and a range of medieval and renaissance wind and string instruments in several early music ensembles.

Michael Withers is the orchestra coach. Michael is a multi-instrumentalist and an experienced conductor, musical arranger and editor. His specialist area of research is English opera of the 17th and 18th centuries, in which field he has produced a number of performing editions of the works of Purcell's contemporaries. He is also Musical Director of the Sussex-based Heber Opera Company.

Lisa Wigmore is the leader of the Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra and she is also a member of the adjudication panel for our annual competition. She started to play the violin when she was seven and at 13 she was awarded a junior exhibition to the Royal College of Music and continued her studies there under Jack Steadman in the senior department, where she gained her ARCM and GRSM. Since leaving the RCM she has studied under Tina Gruenberg. Lisa is a well-known violin teacher in Sussex, teaching privately as well as working in the strings department at Eastbourne College. Many of her pupils have been successful in gaining entry to the National Children's Orchestra and some of the major music colleges.

Requiem

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Conductor David Force **Leader** Lisa Wigmore

Soprano Dorothy Withers, **Alto** Ruth Force, **Tenor** Greg Crittall, **Bass** Stephen Hawksley

Just a few weeks before his death in 1791 at the age of 35, Mozart was approached by a man acting on behalf of an anonymous patron who wished to commission from him a Requiem Mass. This patron we now know to be Count Franz von Walsegg-Stuppach, whose wife had died in February that year. The Count, who was a keen and able amateur musician, wished to be regarded as a major composer and saw in this commemorative commission an opportunity to further his own ends by passing off the Requiem as his own. Mozart was himself on his own death bed during most of the composition process and died before the work was completed, much to the consternation of his widow Constanze who feared that the payment for the work would have to be returned. Thus it was that Franz Süssmayr, one of Mozart's most able pupils, was engaged to complete the score. Only the Kyrie had been left anywhere near completion by Mozart, with much of the rest consisting only of the vocal parts and a figured bass, with some hints about the intended orchestration. The last three movements were almost entirely Süssmayr's own work, although it is possible

that Mozart had discussed with him his intentions prior to his death. As supplied to the Count, the work was passed off as entirely Mozart's own, and it is only in comparatively recent times that the ensuing mystery and speculation surrounding its authorship has been clarified. Despite all this, the work remains as a masterpiece of Mozart's mature style: a moving last testament from a genius.

Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra

The Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra started life in 1979, led by Musical Director Graham Jones. From this time, the orchestra has been keen to maintain a high standard of music-making and today orchestra members come from all generations and from many walks of life, and many are professional musicians in their own specialist area.

As well as symphony concerts, the orchestra has performed concerts for children, Christmas concerts, and music-from-the-movies concerts with film clips on the big screen in the Congress Theatre. And, for over 20 years, the ESO has organised an annual choral concert which has taken place in the Congress Theatre and, until recently, in Chichester Cathedral.

One of the orchestra's aims is to promote music among the young. Over 20 years ago the Duke of Devonshire gave a sum of money which was used to start the annual ESO Young Soloist Competition which celebrates its 23rd year in 2010. This is now a nationally recognised event, attracting entries from the major music colleges. This competition has become another of the ESO's important regular dates and has provided top quality soloists for the many concertos performed over the years.

With 113 concerts performed, 2010 sees the ESO celebrate 30 years and its next concert in April will be the 100th which Graham Jones, the musical director, will have conducted.

Details of the ESO's story are on www.eso.org.uk, as are details of events planned for its celebratory year which are also available from concertmanager@eso.org.uk or 07780 993801.

If you are interested in joining the ESO please contact the Orchestra Manager on orchestramanager@eso.org.uk or 07789988477.

In order to maintain its varied musical programme and the high quality of its performances, the orchestra needs continuing financial support. An essential source of income is provided by the Friends of the ESO. If you are interested in becoming a Friend, please contact Dr Leslie Morrison (ESO Treasurer) on lmorr49062@aol.com or 01323 764586. The annual subscription, payable on 1 January each year, is £12 for one person and £22 for a couple. The rate for the current year is halved if you join after June.

Corporate sponsorships enable the ESO to sustain and enhance the quality, range and frequency of its programmes and to extend its community service. For more information, please contact Dr Arnold Goldman (ESO External Relations Manager) on a.goldman@cowbeech.f9.co.uk or 01323 832311.

Thank you

Our thanks to the singers and orchestra players for taking part; we hope that you have enjoyed the day. Our thanks also go to the ESO Working Group as well as Susan Morrison, Bernice Metcalfe, and Nicky and Robin Moray.

Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra Concert Diary

More details from concertmanager@eso.org.uk or 07780 933801

We are celebrating our 30th season in 2010

ESO Young Soloist Competition

Saturday and Sunday 9 and 10 January 2010, all day, Eastbourne College Music School
Round One

Sunday 7 February 2010 2pm Eastbourne College Theatre

Final Round (£7 on the door)

Supported by Eastbourne College

ESO Choral Concert

Sunday 18 April 2010, 7.30pm, St Saviour's Church, Eastbourne

Shostakovich Festive Overture

Fauré Requiem

Fauré Cantique de Jean Racine

Vaughan Williams Five Mystical Songs

ESO Summer Concert

Sunday 20 June 2010, 6.30pm St Saviour's Church, Eastbourne

ESO Autumn Concert

Saturday 16 October, 2010 7pm St Saviour's Church, Eastbourne
programme to include

Grieg Piano Concerto, Soloist John York

(an ESO patron from the very early days, John York first played with the orchestra on 7 June 1981 in the Winter Garden; the Grieg Piano Concerto was part of the programme)



There will be a retiring collection for the Poppy Appeal
Poppies will also be available

In order to keep costs low, this programme has been produced at minimal expense