

Somerset Chamber Choir

'...the choir has firmly established itself as among the best'

Somerset County Gazette

Eternity's Sunrise is the intriguing title of our vibrant and distinctive New Year concert of three twentieth-century masterpieces for choir and small instrumental ensemble. In these accessible and appealing works, each composer displays a flair for bringing familiar, ancient liturgical texts in English, Hebrew and Latin up-to-date by using memorable melodies, expressive harmonies, vivid orchestration and dramatic contrasts. All three works were composed with a specific building in mind - the Rutter (1985) for King's College Chapel, Cambridge, the Bernstein (1965) for Chichester Cathedral and the Panufnik (1997) for Westminster Cathedral on the occasion of Cardinal Hume's 75th birthday. Each celebrates the rich English choral tradition viewed respectively from the differing perspectives of an Anglican, an American Jew and an expatriate Polish Roman Catholic.

Plainsong mingles with jazz harmonies, dance rhythms vie with lyrical melodies and each work features what Panufnik has described as *'the impulsive rhythms and irregular pitch patterns of pealing church bells'*. For Rutter *'the ideals of beauty and calm reverence'* which he associates with the King's College choir *'represent inspiration and hope in an often heartbreakingly cruel and disordered world'*. On a lighter note, in an amusing verse appearing in the *New York Times*, Bernstein wrote: *'These psalms are a simple and mordent affair, tonal and tuneful and somewhat square.'*

The choir is joined by two of the UK's most promising young singers, **Sophie Bevan** *soprano* and **Tim Mead** *countertenor*, five talented instrumentalists from the Royal College of Music, virtuoso organist **Richard Pearce** and, making a welcome return, **Sally Pryce** *harp*, the brilliant soloist last January in the choir's performance of Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*.

Just the sort of life-affirming concert needed to banish those winter blues - so why not 'catch the Joy as it flies' and, for a couple of hours at least, 'live in Eternity's Sunrise'?

Friends booking from 4th October - Public booking opens 1st November

Tickets: £14 & £11. Box Office 01275 349010 - ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Somerset Chamber Choir - Regd Charity 1003687 - President: Lady Gass

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SCC - 20 YEARS OLD IN 2004!



WELLS CATHEDRAL
Saturday 31 July 2004 at 7pm

20th Anniversary Concert with Emma Kirkby soprano

**PURCELL *Hail, Bright Cecilia!* • HANDEL *Dettingen Te Deum*
BRITTEN *Hymn to St. Cecilia* • JAMES MACMILLAN *Christus vincit***

Top soprano **Emma Kirkby** heads a team of world-class vocal soloists, joining the choir and **Canzona**, recently appointed Ensemble-in-Residence at Magdalen College, Oxford to celebrate this significant milestone. We mark the occasion in grand style with a concert of wonderful music by four of this country's most famous composers. Book the date in your diary now and come to the party - a musical celebration of the county's own, much-loved **Somerset Chamber Choir** would be nothing without having its time-honoured supporters and new friends there!

The right is reserved, without incurring liability, to substitute artists and to vary the programme for reasons beyond our control, although these details are correct at the time of going to press.



King's College Chapel, Taunton
Sunday 4th January 2004 at 3pm

Somerset Chamber Choir

Sophie Bevan *soprano* • Tim Mead *countertenor*
Sally Pryce *harp* • Richard Pearce *organ*
Oliver Cox & Owen Gunnell *percussion*
Katherine Bicknell *flute* • Rosie Hillier *oboe*
Gabriella Swallow *cello*
Graham Caldbeck *conductor*



*But he who catches the Joy as it flies
Lives in*

Eternity's Sunrise

[William Blake]

20th -century English & American choral masterpieces

John Rutter - Requiem

Leonard Bernstein - Chichester Psalms

Roxanna Panufnik - Westminster Mass

Box Office 01275 349010