

**Beethoven**

Mass in C

**Mozart**

Exsultate, Jubilate K165

**Stravinsky**

Mass

**Mozart**

Solemn Vespers K339

*(Vesperae solennes de Confessore)*

## Wells Cathedral

Saturday 3 August 7pm

### Somerset Chamber Choir



"...has a deserved  
reputation for excellence"  
Somerset County Gazette

### Wessex Chamber Orchestra

**Jeni Bern**

soprano

**Kathryn Turpin**

mezzo-soprano

**Mark Wilde**

tenor

**Simon Kirkbride**

bass

**Graham Caldbeck** Conductor

**Box Office 01275 349010**

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# The Somerset Chamber Choir

## is one of the South West's leading young choirs

'Over the years the (choir) has firmly established itself as among the best'  
*(Somerset County Gazette).*

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Four great works by **Mozart, Beethoven and Stravinsky**, three composers who took the musical world by storm and changed it for ever, are brought together in the incomparable setting of Wells Cathedral in a concert full of vivid contrasts.

Beethoven's majestic **Mass in C** was commissioned by Haydn's patron, Prince Esterhazy, and was composed in 1807 at the same time as the Fifth and Sixth Symphonies and the Fourth Piano Concerto. From the gentle, unaccompanied opening Kyrie, through the blazing outburst of the full orchestral, solo and choral forces the Gloria, to the closing heartfelt Agnus Dei, Beethoven felt that he had 'treated the text in a manner in which it has rarely been treated' and in so doing produced a masterpiece.

The same certainly can also be said of Stravinsky's neo-classical **Mass for choir, soloists and wind instruments** written in 1948, almost a century and a half later. Inspired by his study of the Mozart's masses to write a Mass for his own time, Stravinsky composed one of the most distinctively original choral works of the twentieth century. His short, ritual-like setting strips away the layers of musical varnish acquired by the text in centuries of previous settings, rather in the manner of the restoration of a great Renaissance fresco, and in the process refreshes and renews our perception of the colours and meaning of these familiar words in the process.

Two of Mozart's most famous vocal works are also featured in the programme. The **Solemn Vespers** (Vesperae solennes de Confessore, K339), composed when Mozart was still in his mid-twenties, are simply breathtaking in their verve and inventiveness. The most familiar movement is perhaps Laudate Dominum, where the soprano soloist weaves her sublime, leisurely melody against a beautiful choral and orchestral backcloth. However, undoubtedly this is a work which belongs principally to the choir, whose effervescent and hugely varied music exudes a heart-warming joie de vivre. **Exsultate, Jubilate**, Mozart's best known motet for soprano and orchestra, culminates in the celebrated 'Alleluia' whose vitality and joy is guaranteed to lift the listeners' spirits as high as the soloists top C.

**Book now to join us for this wonderful event and start the summer holidays in grand style!**

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Friends of the Choir have priority booking from 4th May. In addition, Mr & Mrs Tudway Quilter have kindly granted Friends and their guests exclusive access to their lovely garden, The Combe. Ask for details of the Friends Scheme when booking your tickets. Public booking opens on 8 June.

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### Tickets:

£25, £20, £15, £10 (nave reserved), £8 (side aisles unreserved)

**Call 01275 349010**

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Somerset Chamber Choir  
Regd Charity 1003687 - President: Lady Gass  
46 Sumerlin Drive, Clevedon, BS21 6YW

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*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.*