

Saturday 30th July 2005 at 7pm

WELLS CATHEDRAL



Durufle's church, St Etienne du Mont, Paris

HAYDN Theresa Mass **DURUFLÉ** Requiem

Elizabeth Watts *soprano*

Leigh Woolf *mezzo-soprano*

Andrew Kennedy *tenor*

Christopher Maltman *baritone*

Rupert Gough *organ*

Graham Caldbeck *conductor*

Somerset Chamber Choir

'One of the finest groups of singers
in the region'

Somerset County Gazette



London Festival Orchestra

'a brilliant example of balance, discipline
and orchestral cohesion'

The Times

Tickets from MusicBox **01275 349010**

HAYDN Theresa Mass • DURUFLÉ Requiem

The music

Haydn's late Masses are among the glories of the Classical period and his **Theresa Mass**, composed and first performed in 1799, is one of the most intimate and lyrical of all. Its nickname probably originated after a performance in which the Empress Maria Theresa, wife of Franz II, was the soprano soloist. The musical variety of the Mass is vast and hugely engaging. Following the gentle, chamber music atmosphere of the opening, Haydn takes us on an exciting musical journey through vigorous dancing fugues, beautifully expressive writing for the soloists, and vivid and powerful choruses, all supported by wonderfully imaginative writing for the orchestra.

Duruflé's **Requiem** (1947), partly modelled upon Fauré's famous setting, has earned a very special place in 20th century French music. Rooted in the composer's deep commitment to the Gregorian plainchant that provided the source of his musical and spiritual inspiration, the work is an extraordinary fusion of disparate elements - modal writing, subtle counterpoint and the sensuous harmonies and refined scoring of the composer's mentors, Debussy, Ravel and Dukas. The resulting synthesis created an unforgettable masterpiece. The unaccompanied **Quatre Motets sur de thèmes Gregoriens** (1960), which open the second half, make ideal companion pieces, each also being based upon plainsong, and each totally distinctive.

Joseph Haydn and Maurice Duruflé - two composers...two contrasting styles...two very different centuries and contexts. Add to this mix four brilliant young soloists including both established and fast-rising stars, a superb cathedral organist and one of the finest orchestras in the country, and the result promises to be a stunning concert in this most inspiring of Cathedral settings.

An event not to be missed - call the box office now!

Friends booking from 30th April
Public booking opens 4th June
Tickets: £25, £20, £15, £10 (nave reserved)
£8 (side aisles unreserved)

Tickets from MusicBox: 01275 349010

www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk

ALL MAJOR CREDIT & DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED

MusicBox, 19 Coleridge Vale Road East, Clevedon, BS21 6NS

Somerset Chamber Choir • Registered Charity 1003687

President: Lady Gass

Vice Presidents:

Sir David Willcocks CBE, MC

Chris Cutting FRCS, FFAEM

Benjamin Luxon CBE

Adrian Male FRICS

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.

The performers

Over two decades, the **Somerset Chamber Choir** has built an enviable reputation for first class music-making and now performs regularly, in exciting and innovative programmes, with many of the UK's finest vocal soloists and instrumentalists. Membership enquiries welcome at recruitment@somersetchamberchoir.org.uk.

The **London Festival Orchestra** was established in the 1950s as an elite house orchestra for the Decca Recording Studios. It is now resident at The Warehouse, a state-of-the-art rehearsal, recording and concert venue in the heart of the South Bank; it has an enviable discography with BMG-Arte Nove and has recorded for Deutsche Grammophon, Hyperion and ASV.

Christopher Maltman is one of this country's most highly regarded young baritones; a regular recitalist at Wigmore Hall, he has also enjoyed huge success in his roles at Glyndebourne, the Royal Opera, Covent Garden and English National Opera (ENO). **Leigh Woolf**, a prize-winning graduate of the Royal College of Music (RCM), has performed with Glyndebourne on Tour and ENO and is now also much in demand on the concert platform. **Andrew Kennedy** is a Vilar Young Artist at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, where this season he is singing a variety of roles; he is also a BBC New Generation Artist and will represent England in the 2005 BBC Singer of the World Competition. **Elizabeth Watts**, currently nearing the end of her Opera studies at the RCM, is widely tipped as a star of the future. She recently took the title role in Handel's *Semele* with British Youth Opera and her performance in Tippett's *Third Symphony* was described by The Sunday Times as 'outstanding'. **Rupert Gough** is Assistant Organist of Wells Cathedral and has been a finalist in the Royal College of Organists' Performer of the Year competition.

Future Somerset Chamber Choir Concerts

conducted by Graham Caldebeck

Sunday 8 January 2006 at 3pm

KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL, TAUNTON

Something Old, Something New

including works by

Monteverdi, Verdi, Barber & James MacMillan

with

David Miller theorbo & guitar



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Saturday 29 July 2006 at 7pm

WELLS CATHEDRAL

ROSSINI

Petite Messe Solennelle