



Saturday 29 July 2006 at 7pm

Wells Cathedral

Somerset Chamber Choir

"One of the finest examples of mixed professional and amateur performers in the country"

Gioacchino **ROSSINI**

Petite Messe Solennelle



James **MACMILLAN**

Seinte Mari moder milde

Benjamin **BRITTEN**

A Wedding Anthem

Arvo **PÄRT**

Littlemore Tractus

...which was the son of...

Katherine Manley *soprano*

Louise Mott *mezzo-soprano*

Nathan Vale *tenor*

Keel Watson *bass*

Christopher Stokes *organ & harmonium*

Philip Moore & Andrew West *pianos*

Graham Caldbeck *conductor*

Tickets from MusicBox on **01275 349010**



Petite Messe Solennelle

ROSSINI
MACMILLAN
BRITTEN
PÄRT

**Tickets from MusicBox:
01275 349010**

19 Coleridge Vale Road East,
Clevedon, BS21 6NS
£23, £19, £15, £12 (nave reserved)
£10 (side aisles unreserved)

All major credit & debit cards accepted
Friends of the choir have priority booking

Somerset Chamber Choir
Registered Charity 1003687
President: Lady Gass
Vice-presidents: Sir David Willcocks
Chris Cutting, Benjamin Luxon
Adrian Male

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 a fine reputation for first class music-making, performing regularly with the UK's finest vocal soloists and instrumentalists.

Conductor, **Graham Caldbeck**, is one of Britain's leading choral conductors who, in addition to taking this choir to ever higher levels of achievement, also conducts Nonsuch Singers (*"one of London's best chamber choirs"* *The Times*).

Our four young soloists are highly talented, versatile performers. Each has already made a considerable impression, appearing in recitals, concerts and recordings, as well as performing in the UK's major opera houses.

Christopher Stokes, is Organist & Master of the Choristers of Manchester Cathedral, prior to which he was Organist & Master of Music at St. Martin-in-the-Fields and Director of Music at St. Margaret's, Westminster. He is also a regular on Radio 4's Daily Service.

BBC Music Magazine described our piano duo as playing *"with immense grace, sensitivity, enchantment and charm"*.

The music

Four striking choral classics by Benjamin Britten, James MacMillan & Arvo Pärt, provide a fascinating contrast to the main work in our programme, the misleadingly entitled *Petite Messe Solennelle*, written towards the end of Rossini's life while he was living in Paris.

Neither small nor solemn, the *Petite Messe* is undoubtedly a masterpiece. An exciting and unique work, written to be sung by *"three sexes - men, women and castrati..."*, it applies an almost irreverent Italian operatic style to its traditional liturgical text. Despite exhibiting Rossini's clearly undimmed sense of humour, the work contains choral writing of rare intensity.

Rossini wrote on the score *"Dear God, there it is, finished, this poor little Mass. Is it really sacred music (musique sacrée) that I have made or is it merely abominable music (sacrée musique)? I was born for opera buffa, as you well know! A little skill, a little heart, that is all. So be blessed and admit me to Paradise!"*.

In reality, the *Petite Messe* is an inspiring work of wit, parody, grace and sentiment, whose first performance left the composer, Meyerbeer, ecstatic - *"trembling and even weeping at times"*.

Rossini died, universally honoured, four years after the *Petite Messe* was first performed; join us to judge for yourself whether the composer might have gained the Paradise he so keenly desired!

Our next concert

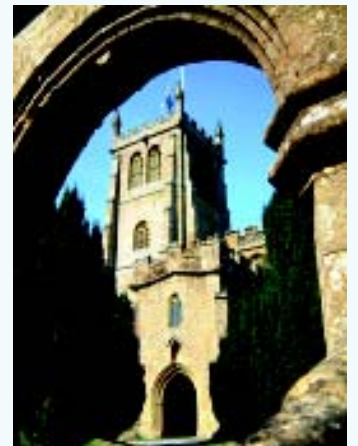
Sunday 1 October 2006 at 3pm
All Saints' Parish Church, Martock

GREAT CHORUSES from favourite Oratorios

Gather in Martock Parish Church, bedecked in Harvest splendour, as we sing choral classics from the glorious age of Purcell through to the present day of John Rutter.

Arrive early to admire this beautiful parish church, the second largest in Somerset; the interior, with its lavishly decorated tie-beam roof, is perhaps the grandest in the County.

Call **01275 349010** for details



Membership enquiries are welcome at recruitment@somersetchamberchoir.org.uk
www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk