



colston hall



BRISTOL
CHORAL SOCIETY

CONCERT SEASON 2011–12

MOZART: REQUIEM
MINI-MESSIAH
BACH: CHRISTMAS
ORATORIO
FAURÉ: REQUIEM
BERLIOZ: TÈ DEUM
HANDEL:
ISRAEL IN EGYPT





Saturday 15 October 2011

7.30pm, Colston Hall

MOZART: THE MAGIC FLUTE OVERTURE CLARINET CONCERTO REQUIEM

Bristol Ensemble

Emma Johnson – Clarinet

Adrian Partington – Conductor

Charlotte Newstead – Soprano

Rebecca Chellappah – Mezzo Soprano

Philip Sheffield – Tenor

Nicholas Perfect – Bass

From the brimstone-licked *Dies Irae* of his unfinished *Requiem*, through the countervailing balm of the serene *Adagio* at the heart of the *Clarinet Concerto* to the frolicking fugal exuberance of the *Overture to The Magic Flute*, we open our season with a musical snapshot capturing three very different faces of Mozart taken in the last months of his life. The Bristol Ensemble joins a distinguished quartet of soloists, while to perform the concerto, step forward 'Britain's favourite clarinetist' (*The Times*) – Emma Johnson 'spontaneous in her expressiveness' (*Gramophone*).

£23, £19, £15, £12, £10. Under 25s £5.

Concessions available

Part of the
Festival of Song



Saturday 26 November 2011

2pm – 4pm, Colston Hall

COME & SING MESSIAH

An opportunity to 'Come & Sing' a selection of choruses from Handel's *Messiah* with Adrian Partington and Bristol Choral Society. All are welcome – experienced or inexperienced. The ability to read music would be beneficial, but all that is required is a voice and some enthusiasm! Please bring your own *Messiah* score if you have one, but music will be available to hire. Stay to hear the choir perform their 'Mini Messiah' (from memory) at 4.30pm – free admission for Come & Sing singers.

Adults £7 (or £9 including score hire) includes free admission to Mini Messiah, accompanied children under 18 FREE

4.30pm

MINI MESSIAH FAMILY CONCERT

Players from the English Symphony Orchestra

Warwick Cole – Harpsichord

Adrian Partington – Conductor

Stephanie Spragg – Soprano

Lionel Rochineux – Tenor

Following the success of last year's first family concert, 'Mini Messiah' returns to introduce families to even more of Handel's masterpiece. Lasting under an hour, this entertaining, educational and inspiring afternoon is perfect for children and adults of all ages. Don't miss the only BCS performance of *Messiah* this year – all from memory of course!

Adults £5, accompanied children under 18 FREE



Saturday 17 December 2011

7.00pm (NB earlier start), Colston Hall

J S BACH: A CHRISTMAS ORATORIO PARTS 1, 2, 3, AND 6

Corelli Orchestra

Adrian Partington – Conductor

Helen-Jane Howells – Soprano

Sebastian Field – Counter Tenor

Mark Padmore – Tenor

Ashley Riches – Bass

Bach's six-part Nativity-to-Epiphany 'Oratorium *Tempore Nativitatis Christi*' must rank as one of the most exuberant Christmas presents ever unwrapped – a sacred seasonal stocking stuffed with spine-tingling choruses, heartfelt arias and bewitching story-telling – topped and tailed by some of the most jubilant music Bach was to pen. After their *B minor Mass* with us in 2008, returning alongside Sebastian Field ('Ravishing' *The Independent*), the role of the Evangelist is sung by one of the greatest Evangelists of our time, the incomparable Mark Padmore. 'Padmore's great gift... is to sing from the soul' says *The Evening Standard*; 'Mark Padmore is just about the finest Bach tenor in the business' (*Sunday Telegraph*).

£23, £19, £15, £12, £10. Under 25s £5.

Concessions available



Saturday 31 March 2012

7.30pm, Colston Hall

FAURÉ: REQUIEM BERLIOZ: TÈ DEUM

With Gloucester Choral Society

Choristers of Bristol and

Gloucester Cathedral Choirs

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Adrian Partington – Conductor

Hannah Atherton – Soprano

Paul Charles Clarke – Tenor

Richard Walshe – Bass

Over 900 performers took part in the premiere of Berlioz' lavishly-scored, organ-rich, chorally-supersized setting of the *Tè Deum*, a majestic, at times elemental hymn writ large to 'the eternal hopes and fears of the human race'. Its first performance provoked wild enthusiasm and 'tears that flowed like a river'. Tonight's performance is writ larger than usual, including two movements often omitted, and for the ringing tenor 'Te ergo quaesumus' we welcome Paul Charles Clarke – recently an ardent Alfred for Welsh National Opera's *Fledermaus*. Cementing the French connection is Fauré's altogether more intimate and reassuring *Requiem* – a 'lullaby of death' discharged in the reposeful resignation of the beguiling *In Paradisum*.

£23, £19, £15, £12, £10. Under 25s £5.

Concessions available



Saturday 16 June 2012

7.30pm, Bristol Cathedral

HANDEL: ISRAEL IN EGYPT

Corelli Orchestra

Warwick Cole – Harpsichord

Adrian Partington – Conductor

Linda Gerrard – Soprano

Rachel Marsh – Soprano

Richard Scott – Counter Tenor

Gareth Treseder – Tenor

Edwin Hillier – Bass

Christopher Dollins – Bass

In our second brush with Handel this season, the period instruments of the Corelli Orchestra regroup for an oratorio second only in popularity to *Messiah* in the 19th century. Accustomed to arias conjuring intimations of the operatic stage, Handel's own contemporaries were slower to be persuaded of the virtues of *Israel in Egypt*, a work brimming with vivid choruses. But then choruses are what this retelling of the Exodus story is all about – plagues of frogs and hailstones grist to the mill of Part One's almost-exclusively-choral rollercoaster.

£20, £15 (reserved), £12, £8 (unreserved). Under 25s £5. Concessions available



Saturday 4 February 2012

10.00am – 4.00pm

Tyndale Baptist Church

COME & SING SAMUEL COLERIDGE TAYLOR'S HIAWATHA'S WEDDING FEAST

Every year we are delighted to host a day's singing for friends from far and wide. Every year we are packed out. Every year Adrian Partington works his magic to get a half-decent performance from us by the end of the day. But most important of all, every year we have a great time! In the second opportunity this season to 'Come & Sing' with us, we will explore Samuel Coleridge Taylor's exciting cantata *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast* – the first performance of which Parry described as "one of the most remarkable events in modern English musical history". Early booking is advised for this hugely popular day!

Tickets £14 (under 18s £7) including score hire (please book in advance).

Application forms from Sarah Fernandes, 0117 962 3223 or sarah@sarahfernandes.co.uk or download from www.bristolchoral.co.uk
NB 4 Feb Come & Sing tickets are **not** available from the Colston Hall

www.bristolchoral.co.uk

TICKETS FROM COLSTON HALL **0117 922 3686**

ABOUT US

Bristol Choral Society is a thriving mixed voice choir with 160 singing members and a wide range of ages. First established in 1889 Bristol Choral Society is conducted by Adrian Partington, one of the UK's foremost choral conductors.

Membership is by audition and prospective members are warmly welcomed to 'try us

out' before they join. Choir members will be happy to chat to you and answer any questions. You will receive a warm welcome!



For more information please contact **Frances Roberts** on 0117 927 6997 or email choir@bristolchoral.co.uk

Adrian Partington – Music Director
Steven Kings – Assistant Music Director
Robert Dean – Vocal Consultant

Registered Charity No. 266472

Friends and supporters

Major choral concerts with professional symphony orchestras are very expensive to stage – but they are part of the city's cultural life, and only Bristol Choral Society is able to mount such concerts on a regular basis, as it has been doing for well over a century. But the choir needs all the help it can get!

The choir is very grateful to the many individuals who help as Supporters, Friends or Patrons.

PATRONS Osborne Clarke,
Mr Steve Elliott

FRIENDS Mr Don Butterfield,
Mr Nigel Edwards, Mr and
Mrs Martin Harker, Ms Jan
Longden, Mr David Mander,
Mr David Muttram, Dr Graham
Pegg, Mrs Frankie Sahn

SUPPORTERS Mrs Jean
Bradford, Mr Peter Buchanan,
Mrs Marjorie Cook, Mr Peter
Gee, Ms Annette Hecht,
Mr and Mrs Ray Hele,
Mr John Hopper, Bridie and

Callen McClusky, Mrs Cilla
Newsom, Mr Geoff Peattie,
Mr Malcolm Pillar, Mrs Lilian
Preece, Mr Chris Tagholm,
Mr Philip Unwin, Mr John Wilson

LIFE MEMBERS

Miss Mary Sheppard and
Miss Barbara Lewellen

For more information about the
benefits available to BCS
supporters please contact
Ann Butterfield,
0117 949 6551 or email
contribute@bristolchoral.co.uk

www.bristolchoral.co.uk

Apprentices

Bristol Choral Society encourages the next generation of singers and welcomes students in School Year 9 (or above) to the **Choral Apprenticeship Scheme**.

To join the scheme applicants simply need to enjoy singing, and be willing to commit to free membership of the choir for at least one year. Sight-reading and knowledge of music theory are not essential and each successful applicant will be assigned a mentor of the same voice part who will offer support at rehearsals and concerts. The scheme is entirely free of all costs.

In addition to the Apprenticeship Scheme for teenagers, we also have ongoing outreach work in some of Bristol's primary schools and have been joined by three Bristol schools as 'attached choirs' for recent concerts.



TICKETS

Tickets are available from the **Colston Hall box office** in person, by telephone

0117 922 3686

or online at www.colstonhall.org and from **choir members**.

Booking opens Monday 27 June.

Booking fees apply to payments made by card.

Save money with the BCS season ticket! 15% discount for our 4 major concerts (15 October, 17 December, 31 March, 16 June) when booked together. Cannot be used in conjunction with concessions.

Concessions (where available):

Under 25s all tickets £5, senior citizens 10% discount, registered disabled £10 plus one free seat for carer.

'Bristol Choral Society is a really splendid choir; responsive, dynamic and controlled'

Margaret Faultless
MUSIC FOR AWHILE
and co-leader, OAE

TICKETS FROM COLSTON HALL **0117 922 3686**