

**WIMBLEDON**

CHORAL SOCIETY

CARDIFF POLYPHONIC CHOIR  
ORCHESTRA VITAE

**A  
GREAT  
BRITISH**

*Feast*

WILLIAM WALTON  
**BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST**

EDWARD ELGAR  
**ENIGMA VARIATIONS**

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS  
**FIVE MYSTICAL SONGS**

Conductor: **Neil Ferris**

Baritone: **Matthew Brook**

**Guildford Cathedral**

**Saturday 8th March 2014**

by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter

Stag Hill, Guildford, Surrey

**7.30pm**

**SEE REVERSE FOR BOOKING DETAILS INCLUDING  
EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT**

## **This concert contains three knockout masterpieces of the early twentieth century and promises to be a musical assault on the senses (in all the right ways).**

Sir William Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* catapulted him to international recognition and was the first British choral and orchestral piece to make its mark after the oratorios of Elgar. It tells the story of the heathen King of Babylon, Belshazzar, who gave a great feast where he used the stolen sacred drinking vessels of the exiled Jews in Babylon. Walton's music gallops along at high speed painting vivid pictures of this dramatic story, with quirky corners, catchy harmonies and constant surprises; its pace is breath-taking and if you have never heard it before experiencing the large chorus and huge orchestra will prove to be an unmissable event.

Like Walton and *Belshazzar*, *Enigma Variations* secured Elgar's international reputation. This hugely popular orchestral piece is a masterwork of miniature pictures; each movement represents a portrayal of one of his friends, including the famous *Nimrod*. The enigma is the hidden theme (supposedly), the secret of which Elgar took to his grave.

*Five Mystical Songs* by Vaughan Williams, a past president of Wimbledon Choral Society, is a setting of poems by the British poet, George Herbert. Set for baritone soloist, chorus and orchestra, there are exquisite gems such as *I got me flowers* and *Come my way* all finished with the familiar and rousing *Antiphon* (Let all the world in every corner sing).

All three pieces were composed within a period of thirty two years, by, arguably, the greatest British composers of the 19th – 20th centuries, and yet they have an extraordinary resonance with modern Britain ideally suited to the Orchestra Vitae ('Life in Performance') with the magnificent baritone voice of Matthew Brook.

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**Plasma screens will be placed near the pillars in the Cathedral for this concert.**

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### **Booking details:**

**Box Office: 01483 444333 / 020 8605 2266**

Guildford Tourist Information Centre, 155 High Street, GU1 3AJ [www.visitguildford.com](http://www.visitguildford.com)

E-tickets: [www.wimbledon-choral.org.uk/tickets](http://www.wimbledon-choral.org.uk/tickets), or from choir members

**Early Bird Discount before 31st January**

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### **Prices:**

**£25 (front nave), £20 (mid nave/west gallery), £18 (rear nave), £10 students**

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**All unreserved seating apart from Friends of Wimbledon Choral Society**

For bookings of 10 or more tickets please contact 020 8605 2266 for special terms.

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### **Future Dates**

**Thursday 20th March**

Mozart Requiem, St Martin-in-the-Fields

**Sunday 18th May**

Verdi Requiem, Royal Albert Hall

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