

# WIMBLEDON CHORAL SOCIETY

St John's Church  
Waterloo, SE1

Saturday 10th June  
7.30pm

Songs of Love

Johannes Brahms

From The Bavarian Highlands

Edward Elgar

The Hawthorn Tree

Gustav Holst arr. Ty Kroll

Lay A Garland

Robert Lucas Pearsall

The Long Day Closes

Arthur Sullivan

Conductors

Michael Ashcroft

Norman Harper

Piano

Tim Sutton

Violin

Simon Hewitt Jones

Accompanist

Daniel Swain

Tickets: £13, £10, £7.50 (students)

Box office: 020 8605 2444 or [tickets@wimbledon-choral.org.uk](mailto:tickets@wimbledon-choral.org.uk)



This concert is truly 'Music for a Summer Evening'. The pieces chosen, all of them secular, are a delightful mix of late 19th-century compositions, largely inspired by nature and reflections on various aspects of love. Whilst they may not be as familiar as some other works performed by the choir, these pieces are charming and perfect for a gentle June evening in the spacious St. John's Church, Waterloo, which is situated close to the South Bank and well-placed for a post-concert stroll by the river or a cosy supper at one of the many local restaurants.

The great romantic German composer, Johannes Brahms, wrote over 370 songs, many of them love songs, often inspired by folklore. The *Liebeslieder* chosen for this concert certainly live up to the reputation of Brahms as the Great Romantic and are easy to listen to, lyrical without being overly sentimental and contain a wonderful combination of passion and melodic interest. The poetry was originally written in German, but will be sung in the English translation.

During the 1890s the Elgars spent several holidays in Southern Bavaria, where they spent a number of evenings in local hostelries drinking and watching displays of folk dances of the region. During the day they walked and admired the Alpine scenery. Elgar began work setting six poems his wife Alice had written to music in the style of Bavarian folksongs. The scenes *From the Bavarian Highlands* reflect the deep influence of nature on Elgar and the charm of these six songs is irresistible.

Three further pieces are from the heart of English romanticism. *The Long Day Closes* is one of Sullivan's best-loved partsongs, full of nostalgia and sentiment. *Lay A Garland* is a richly harmonised madrigal in 8 parts by Robert Pearsall, creator of the ever-popular arrangement of the Christmas carol, *In Dulci Jubilo*. The group of songs finishes with a dazzling and breath-taking arrangement of the *Dargason* from Holst's *St Paul's Suite*, familiar from its original scoring for string orchestra. Interwoven into this infectiously lively and energetic dance is the familiar English folksong *Greensleeves*.

This concert promises to provide a very special evening of beautiful music from some of our best-loved composers.

Instrumental items during the concert will be provided by Simon Hewitt Jones and Daniel Swain, two young artists on the verge of an international career.

[www.wimbledon-choral.org.uk](http://www.wimbledon-choral.org.uk)

## **Forthcoming Events**

### **Monday 12th June 2006, 7.30pm**

Quiz Evening with special guest  
quizmaster William G Stewart  
Drake House, St George's Road, SW19  
T: 01737 233788

### **Saturday 18th November 2006, 7.30pm**

Joint Concert with Croydon Philharmonic Choir  
Vaughan Williams - Serenade To Music,  
Bruckner - Te Deum, Jenkins - The Armed Man  
The Fairfield Halls, Croydon