

# a feast of Schubert

*Wimbledon Choral Society  
with the New Queen's Hall Orchestra*



*Schubert - Mass in A Flat  
Schubert - Symphony No. 5  
Handel - Gloria*



*Michael Ashcroft - Conductor*

*Elizabeth Weisberg - Soprano  
Lucie Spickova - Mezzo-Soprano  
Ross Buddie - Tenor  
Philip Tebb - Bass*

Saturday  
26th May 2007  
7.30pm

Royal College  
of Music

Prince Consort  
Road, SW7

**Tickets:** £16, £13, special student rate £7.50

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

Designed by Sir Arthur Blomfield in 1901, the magnificent barrel-vaulted Concert Hall in the Royal College of Music is an ideal setting for Wimbledon Choral Society's May concert. Access to the hall, which is dominated by the performance stage with its JW Walker pipe organ, is gained via the splendidly impressive outer hall of this Grade II listed building, which will set the scene for a concert which should prove to be every bit as glorious.

Shortly before Schubert started composing his best known work, *Symphony No. 8 in B minor*, commonly known as *The Unfinished Symphony*, he completed his first version of the *Mass in A flat*. Schubert's output was phenomenal given his short life and this Mass took seven years of rewriting until the composer was satisfied with it. Beethoven said of him "Truly, the spark of Divine genius resides in this Schubert!" - it certainly can be found in this wonderful setting of the Mass which will form the main course of this musical feast.

Before this will be served Schubert's delightful *Symphony No. 5*, a lightly orchestrated starter before the main course to set you in the mood. As a teasing little appetiser to begin the evening will be Handel's short *Gloria*, only discovered in 2001 and written for a small handful of instruments and soprano solo.

The Royal College of Music is situated on Prince Consort Road, directly opposite the rear of the Royal Albert Hall, and is ideally placed for the many restaurants and cafés in and around the area, especially in Gloucester Road, for a pre-concert drink, or a post-concert supper to round off what promises to be a fabulous evening.

The following were voluntarily expressed following a performance of Verdi's *Requiem* in Guildford Cathedral and are examples of the many tributes to the choir's fine quality of sound and professionalism:

***"I have to admit that I have never heard a choir, anywhere, sing with such unity of purpose and I yearned to be part of it. The opening was like dark, soft velvet and the 'Libera Me' was spine-tingling, while the discipline of the choir in the dynamic contrasts and word endings was stunning."***

***"The combination of the choir's excellence and the colour and fibre of the NQHO's instruments and players revealed Verdi's great work as can rarely have happened in sixty or seventy years."***

For press information please contact: [publicity@wimbledon-choral.org.uk](mailto:publicity@wimbledon-choral.org.uk)

## **Forthcoming Events**

### **Monday 4th June 2007, 7.30pm**

Drake House, St George's Road, SW19  
Quiz Evening with special guest  
Quizmaster William G Stewart

### **Saturday 10th November 2007, 2pm & 7pm**

Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7  
Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance

### **Saturday 24th November 2007, 7.30pm**

Fairfield Halls, Croydon  
Delius - On Hearing The First Cuckoo In Spring  
Elgar - Cello Concerto (Guy Johnston - cello)  
Vaughan Williams - A Sea Symphony  
in partnership with Streatham Choral Society  
with the New Queen's Hall Orchestra