

WIMBLEDON
CHORAL SOCIETY

French Masters

with the Salomon Orchestra
and Jaroslaw Nadrzycki

Saturday 26th March 2011, 7.30 pm
Guildford Cathedral

By kind permission of
the Dean and Chapter

Fauré

Requiem

Poulenc

Gloria

Saint-Saëns

Introduction and
Rondo Capriccioso



soprano Elizabeth Donovan
baritone Johnny Herford
conductor Neil Ferris

Tickets: £20 (Front Nave)
£15 (Back Nave & West Gallery), £10 (Students)
Box Office: 01483 444789 (Electric Theatre)
E-tickets: wimbledon-choral.org.uk/tickets

For bookings of parties over 10
please telephone 020 8605 2266

FRENCH MASTERS

According to Gabriel Fauré: “It has been said that my Requiem does not express the fear of death and someone has called it a lullaby of death. But it is thus that I see death: as a happy deliverance, an aspiration towards happiness above, rather than as a painful experience”. Of the many settings of the Requiem, this is probably the most widely loved. In comparison with the large-scale masterpieces of Verdi, Brahms and Berlioz, Fauré’s setting seems gentle and unassuming, yet it is this very quality of understatement which contributes so eloquently to the work’s universal appeal.

Poulenc’s sense of humour and love of life shine through all his music, however solemn the text might be. One of his friends said of him, “There is in him something of the monk and the street urchin.” The **Gloria** brilliantly expresses these characteristics, with its captivating mixture of solemnity and mischievous exuberance. This work may not be so familiar to audiences, but it is a wonderful example of brilliant choral writing which will complement the Requiem in this concert of some of the very best French music.

Camille Saint-Saëns’ Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso is one of the composer’s most popular compositions; the young prize-winning Polish violinist Jaroslaw Nadrzycki will undoubtedly dazzle us with his technique in this virtuoso piece.

The Salomon Orchestra was conceived in Vienna in 1963 by the conductor Nicholas Braithwaite and a group of his contemporaries. The orchestra has worked with artists in the early years of their professional careers, many of them now established names in British music making, including conductors Andrew Davis, Simon Rattle and Martyn Brabbins, and soloists such as Felicity Lott, Jean Rigby & Nigel Kennedy to name but a few. The orchestra is named after violinist, composer and impresario Johann Peter Salomon (born in the same house as Beethoven in Bonn) who brought Haydn to England 1791 and reflects the predominance of that composer in the orchestra’s early repertoire. Since then the orchestra has become known for its performance of late romantic and 20th Century works.

Wimbledon Choral Society is considered to be one of the finest amateur choral societies in the South-East of England, singing regularly in Southwark and Guildford Cathedrals and the Royal Albert Hall. In common with most choirs the Society is constantly seeking new members, particularly tenors and basses. Interested persons should contact membership@wimbledon-choral.org.uk or visit the website.

Forthcoming events: Will Todd’s *Mass in Blue*, Saturday 11th June, St. John’s Church Waterloo. An upbeat setting of the latin mass with a blend of jazz & blues styles and strong choral writing.

There is ample parking at Guildford Cathedral, which is just off the A3 and well-signed.