

Guildford Cathedral
Saturday 16 March 2013
7.30pm

By kind permission of
the Dean and Chapter

soprano
Claire Watkins
mezzo-soprano
Catrin Johnsson

tenor
Ben Thapa

bass
John Savournin

conductor
Neil Ferris

Brandenburg Sinfonia

tickets:

£22 (front nave)
£20 (centre nave & west gallery)
£18 (rear nave)
£10 (students)

box office: 01483 547870 (Guildford Cathedral)
e-tickets: www.wimbledon-choral.org.uk/tickets

Mozart *Requiem*

Pärt

The Beatitudes
Cantus in memoriam
Benjamin Britten

Vasks

Pater Noster

Tchaikovsky

The Crown of Roses

Arensky

Variations on a Theme by
Tchaikovsky

WIMBLEDON
CHORAL SOCIETY

A Crown of Thorns

Mozart's *Requiem Mass in D minor* (K626), composed in 1791, needs little introduction as one of the best loved pieces of music in the choral repertoire. Much of it reached a broader audience in Peter Shaffer's 1979 play *Amadeus* and later in 1984 in the film of the same name. The *Requiem* is complemented by three other choral pieces, two of which were composed almost exactly two hundred years later.

Estonian Arvo Pärt composed *The Beatitudes* originally in 1990 and revised it in 1991. It is a beautifully written and reflective work. Written for chorus and organ, only single pedal notes are played whilst the choir sings but it ends with a majestic flourish on the organ. As a small tribute to Benjamin Britten, on the 100th anniversary of his birth, the Brandenburg Sinfonia will also play Pärt's *Cantus in memoriam Benjamin Britten*.

The haunting *Pater Noster* (1991) was composed by Latvian, Pēteris Vasks, whose works are becoming performed increasingly in this country. This piece promises to linger long after it is heard.

A little over a hundred years earlier, in 1883, Tchaikovsky wrote his *Sixteen Children's Songs* (Op 54), of which No.5 was titled "*Legend*". Better known in its English translation as "*The Crown of Roses*", it describes the child Jesus and portends the crown of thorns. It was sung by the choir in its Christmas concert last December and is being performed again in this concert because it is the basis for Anton Arensky's richly scored *Variations on a Theme by Tchaikovsky*, composed a year after Tchaikovsky's death in 1893.

This programme has been designed with the large open spaces of Guildford Cathedral in mind. With the combined forces of outstanding international soloists, the wonderful Brandenburg Sinfonia and an excellent choir, all conducted by Neil Ferris, it promises to be an exceptional evening of choral and orchestral music.

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Guildford Cathedral is easily accessible, being just off the A3. There is parking around the cathedral and an excellent Refectory for a pre-concert supper.

Ticket Information

All tickets are for unreserved seating (apart from members of the Friends of Wimbledon Choral Society). For bookings of 10 or more please contact 020 8605 2266 for special terms.

Future dates

Saturday 15th June 2013, 6pm, St John's Church, Waterloo SE1 *The Year in Song*

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"When the voices sang unaccompanied, and there is a great deal of a cappella music in the work, the sound was full and rounded and beautiful to hear." *Bob Briggs*