

Guildford Cathedral
Saturday 24 March 2012, 7pm



BACH

St Matthew Passion

Thomas Hobbs - *Evangelist*
George von Bergen - *Jesus*

Elin Manahan Thomas - *soprano*
Clare Wilkinson - *mezzo soprano*
James Geer - *tenor*
Robert Davies - *bass*

Neil Ferris - *conductor*

with **Florilegium**
and **Farnham Youth Choir**

Tickets: £22 (Front Nave)
£17.50 (Rear Nave & West Gallery) £10 Students
Box Office: 01483 444789
www.wimbledon-choral.org.uk/tickets

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the Dean and Chapter

WIMBLEDON
CHORAL SOCIETY



Bach's St. Matthew Passion is considered to be one of the greatest pieces of choral Easter music, and a live performance is a 'must' for anyone who has not yet experienced it. The calm spaces of Guildford Cathedral are the perfect setting for Bach's waves of heart-rending and exquisitely beautiful music. The version we are presenting is in English, in a "profoundly sensitive new translation" (*Gramophone*) from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

Wimbledon Choral Society joins forces with **Florilegium**, one of Britain's most outstanding period instrument ensembles and the international award winning **Farnham Youth Choir**.

The soloists are all outstanding interpreters of Bach, including **Elin Manahan Thomas**, ("ravishing simplicity" – *The Times*). The Evangelist is Guildford-born **Thomas Hobbs** and is noted for his performances of Bach; he also studied with the Society's President, Ian Partridge. Recognised internationally for her performances of Bach, **Clare Wilkinson** has made numerous recordings of his music, including a critically acclaimed St Matthew Passion.

Highlighted by *Opera Now* as one of last season's most promising up and coming talents, **George von Bergen** takes the part of Jesus. **Robert Davies** ("a dark bass baritone of unmistakable authority" – *The Independent on Sunday*) and "The most arresting voice was the powerful tenor of **James Geer**" (*Opera Magazine*) complete this exceptional line-up of soloists.

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

Please note the slightly earlier than usual start time of 7pm.

Ticket Information

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

Future Dates

Saturday 9th June 2012, 6pm, Tradition and Creation – A Wonderful World
including music by Bob Chilcott, Cecilia McDowall, John Rutter, Ward Swingle and Louis Armstrong.

Monday 11th June 2012, 7.30pm, Quiz Evening with William G Stewart
bring your own wine and soft drinks for a really entertaining evening.