



## College Chapel to host Wells Cathedral Choir

Wells Cathedral Choir was founded in 909 when boys first sang in the Cathedral. Just a few years ago, they celebrated a very impressive 1100th anniversary!

The full choral tradition dates back more than 800 years, while as recently as 1994, the foundation was enlarged by the addition of girl choristers.

Today's choir consists of 18 boy choristers, 18 girl choristers, and 12 Vicars Choral (the men of the choir), though the boys and girls generally only sing together for larger events.

The Choir tours extensively – last year visiting Hong Kong and Beijing, and an international jury from *Gramophone Magazine* recently hailed them as the greatest choir in the world with children.

The Choir draws upon a wide repertoire of liturgical music, masterpieces from the Renaissance, and current day choral works. They also perform larger works in collaboration with orchestral partners.

In October, Wells Cathedral Choir will present a rich and varied programme of choral music with organ accompaniment. In the first period, they will perform an array of excerpts and miniatures, and after the interval, one major piece.

Opening proceedings will be '*Insanae et vanae curae*' from the oratorio 'The return of Tobias' by Joseph Haydn, followed by a passage from '*All-Night Vigil*' (Op.37) by Sergei Rachmaninoff. The fifth movement, *Nunc Dimittis*, which we will hear, was so beloved by the composer that he requested it to be sung at his funeral.

Other highlights include an extract from '*Ein Deutsches Requiem*' (Op.45) by Johannes Brahms, '*Seek him that maketh the seven stars*' by Jonathon

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for our 73rd Season

See Box Office on page 2.

## Virtuosi start to Season

### Memorial Hall will launch the start of the Nash Ensemble 50th anniversary celebrations

Marlborough Concert Series is delighted to welcome The Nash Ensemble of London for the opening night of our 2014-15 programme, in one of the first recitals of their landmark season celebrating 50 years of music making.

recitalist, she has also performed with, among other ensembles, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, the Oriol Ensemble, Berlin, the Academy of Saint Martin in the Fields, and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

Stephanie Gonley



During the course of five decades, The Nash Ensemble has established a reputation as one of the country's finest and most adventurous chamber groups championing contemporary composers every bit as much as performing traditional repertory.

By the close of the new season, they will have premièred more than 300 new works, including 193 commissioned by the ensemble.

For our recital, The Nash Ensemble will perform with a fresh line-up of virtuosi musicians, including: Stephanie Gonley and David Adams (violin), Rebecca Gilliver (cello), Philip Dukes (viola), and Simon Crawford-Phillips (piano).

Stephanie Gonley is leader of the English Chamber Orchestra and frequently appears with the ECO as director and soloist. A passionate

David Adams is leader of the Orchestra of Welsh National Opera. Equally at home with the violin and viola, he continues to make guest appearances, recordings and broadcasts with The Nash Ensemble, Endellion String Quartet, and the Hebrides Ensemble. He plays a *Johannes Gagliano* violin from 1800 and a *Betts* viola (c.1840) previously played by his father, (principal viola with the Hallé during the 1960s /1970s).

Rebecca Gilliver is principal cellist of the London Symphony Orchestra, and frequently guest principal with orchestras abroad, including the Australian Chamber, and the New Sinfonietta, in Amsterdam. A keen chamber musician, Rebecca has collaborated with international artists such as Nikolai Znaider,

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## Wells Cathedral Choir

Dove, and 'Jesus, springing,' a Christmas miniature by Bob Chilcott.

Also on the programme is 'Lux Aurumque,' 'Light and Gold' – a choral piece in one movement by Eric Whitacre. Inspired by a poem of the same name, the text is a translation into Latin accomplished by Charles Anthony Silvestri.

It includes the words: "Light, warm and heavy as pure gold, and the angels sing softly to the new born baby," making it another Christmas favourite.

Matthew Owens Master of the Choristers



And finally before the break – 'I was glad' by Sir Hubert Parry – an *entrance* traditionally sung during the crowning of the British monarch. The arrangement by Parry was originally composed for the coronation of Edward VII (1902), and later revised for the crowning of George V (1911).

More recently, it was used as processional music for the wedding of Prince William and Catherine (Kate Middleton), in 2011.

After the break, the programme resumes with the 'Requiem' (Op.9) by Maurice Duruflé.

Duruflé was born in Louviers, north-western France, in 1902. At the age of 12, he became a chorister at Rouen Cathedral Choir School, where he studied piano and organ.

In 1920, he entered the *Conservatoire* in Paris, later graduating with first prizes for organ, harmony, piano accompaniment, and composition.

The Requiem, set in nine movements and scored for soloists, choir, organ, and orchestra, is probably his most widely recognised piece.

It was commissioned in 1941 by the Vichy regime (the French State Government of unoccupied southern France) and completed in 1947.

Jonathan Vaughn, Assistant Organist at Wells Cathedral will accompany the Choir under the direction of Matthew Owens, Master of the Choristers.

Please take your seat in chapel by 6:45pm as this concert will start at the earlier time of 7:00pm. ■

## Nash Ensemble

Sarah Chang, and Roger Vignoles with whom she has recorded for BBC Radio 3.

Philip Dukes has performed as concerto soloist with many of the great British orchestras. He made his BBC Promenade debut in 1995, returning again in 1999, 2005 and 2007, and in 2011, celebrated the 20th anniversary of his London recital debut with a gala concert at the Southbank Centre, London. He is Professor of Viola at the Royal Academy of Music in London, and Artistic Director of Marlborough College.

Simon Crawford-Phillips has played in many of the major European concert halls, including the Concertgebouw, the Vienna Konzerthaus, and the Cologne Philharmonie. Recent concerto soloist performances have included works by Beethoven, Chopin, Mozart, Shostakovich, and Stravinsky. He is a frequent guest with The Nash Ensemble, the ECO chamber ensemble, and the Philharmonia soloists.

The Nash Ensemble will introduce their recital with an early work by Gustav Mahler, the **Piano Quartet in A minor**. More accurately, the piece is the intended first movement of an incomplete piano quartet begun during the composer's first year of study at the Vienna Conservatory.

The Quartet received its first performance on July 10th, 1876 with Mahler at the piano, just a few days after the composer's 16th birthday. Two further performances ensued – the first at the home of Dr. Theodor Billroth, a close friend of Brahms; the second in Iglau (formerly Germany, now Czech Republic), in September of the same year.

Some time after, the manuscript was apparently lost only to be rediscovered by Mahler's widow, Alma, during the 1960s – giving rise to a 20th Century première in New York, in January 1964.

## Box Office 73

Phone – 01672 892566

Email – [mccstickets@btinternet.com](mailto:mccstickets@btinternet.com)

**Ticket prices held for the third year running, including discounts when applying for four or more concert events.**

**To buy tickets, simply complete and return a booking form, and send your payment with an SAE to:**

**MCCS Box Office, Henry Hony Centre, Marlborough College, SN8 1PA.**

**Contact the Box Office to request a booking form, or visit – [marlboroughconcertseries.org](http://marlboroughconcertseries.org)**

**Sunday, 21-Sept-14, at 7:30pm  
The Nash Ensemble of London**

**Sunday, 12-Oct-14, at 7:00pm  
Wells Cathedral Choir**

**Sunday, 09-Nov-14, at 7:30pm  
John Lill (piano)**

**Sunday, 11-Jan-15, at 3:00pm  
Grimethorpe Colliery Band**

**Sunday, 01-Feb-15, at 3:00pm  
Southbank Sinfonia**