

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY



AUTUMN CONCERT

Conducted by Derek Watmough MBE

Orchestra leader - Rita James

Featuring Helena Leonard Soprano
Andrea Gray Mezzo - Soprano
Wilmarc Ellman Organ
and
The Royal Tunbridge Wells
Choral Society Orchestra

Programme 50p

**ASSEMBLY HALL, TUNBRIDGE
WELLS, 26th NOVEMBER 1995**

AUTUMN CONCERT

WE PRESENT :

GLORIA - VIVALDI (RV 589)

Helena Leonard - Soprano

Andrea Gray - Mezzo Soprano

EXSULTATE JUBILATE - MOZART
(K 165)

Helena Leonard - Soprano

INTERMISSION

Intermission: 15 Minutes

Light foods and beverages will be made available in the Buffet.

MAGNIFICAT - RUTTER

Helena Leonard - Soprano

MUSIC NOTES

VIVALDI GLORIA

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Gloria in excelsis Deo
<i>(Glory be to God on high)</i> | Chorus |
| 2. Et in terra pax hominibus
<i>(And on earth peace to men of goodwill)</i> | Chorus |
| 3. Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te
<i>(We praise thee, we bless thee,
we adore thee, we glorify thee)</i> | Duet |
| 4. Gratias agimus tibi
<i>(We give thee thanks)</i> | Chorus |
| 5. Propter magnam gloriam tuam
<i>(For thy great glory)</i> | Chorus |
| 6. Domine Deus, Rex caelestis. Deus
Pater omnipotens
<i>(Lord God, heavenly King
God the almighty Father)</i> | Aria, Soprano |
| 7. Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe
<i>(Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son)</i> | Chorus |
| 8. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis; Qui tollis peccata
mundi, miserere nobis
<i>(Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
who takes away the sins of the world, have
mercy upon us)</i> | Mezzo-Soprano,
Chorus |
| 9. Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationum
nostram
<i>(Thou who takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer)</i> | Chorus |
| 10. Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis
<i>(Thou who sittest at the right hand of the
Father, have mercy upon us)</i> | Aria, Mezzo Soprano |
| 11. Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, Tu solus Dominus,
Tu solus Altissimus Jesu Christe
<i>(For thou alone are the Holy One, thou alone
art the Lord, thou Jesus Christ alone art the
Most High)</i> | Chorus |
| 12. Cum Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris; Amen
<i>(with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the
Father; Amen)</i> | Chorus |

Cont'd.....

MUSIC NOTES

The Pieta Girls Orphanage in Venice (one of four maintained by the State) had a population of between 400 and 500 in 1663, rising to 1000 in 1738. The girls were divided into two groups - commoners, who received a general education, and those who received a specifically musical education. How many were in the latter group is not known, but they were widely praised for their musical abilities, both vocal and instrumental.

Antonio Vivaldi (1675 - 1741) was appointed teacher of the violin in 1704, shortly after he had been ordained. This was the start of an often stormy relationship with the Governors of the Pieta.

It has been suggested by Michael Talbot, in his book on Vivaldi, that all the parts in the Gloria were originally sung by the girls, the tenor part at the notated pitch and the bass part one octave higher, the harmony being completed by the bass continuo. Despite this interesting speculation, the Choir will today sing the work in the normal four-part version.

EXSULTATE, JUBILATE

MOZART (1756 - 1791)

1. Exsultate, jubilate
(Exalt, Rejoice)
2. Fulget amica dies
(The day brightens pleasantly)
3. Tu virginum corona
(Thou crown of maidens)
4. Alleluia

This work, in which man is urged to strike up sweet songs and beg the Virgin for peace, was written for Vananzio Rouzzini, who was in Milan for Mozart's opera *Lucio Silla*. "He sang like an angel" said Mozart. Accordingly, Mozart rewarded him with a work specially written to display his particular talents. The work was first performed in 1773 and has often been described as a vocal concerto.

OUR SOLOISTS

Helena Leonard Soprano

Helena Leonard was born and educated in Cheshire where she began her singing career as a mezzo-soprano. In 1983 she entered Trinity College of Music, London to study voice with Elizabeth Hawes and gained her licentiate (LTCL). She made her London debut at St. James Church, Piccadilly singing the part of Mary in Berlioz's *L'Enfance du Christ*.

Helena then went on to a postgraduate vocal course at the Guildhall School of Music with Johanna Peters. At this time her voice was changing to soprano. She joined the English National Opera as a soprano, was in the chorus from 1988 to 1995, and had her first solo role in a production of *Rigoletto* in 1992.

In April 1993 Helena took part in the Evelyn Glennie competition for percussion with a special composition by Marjorie Anstey for percussion and two voices. They were awarded first prize.

Andrea Gray Mezzo-Soprano

Andrea was born in Birmingham in 1965. She left there when she gained a place to study singing at the Royal College of Music. Since leaving college in 1988 she has sung professionally as a soloist with various choral societies.

She has sung in numerous professional groups, including the Academy of Ancient Music, Ambrosian Opera Chorus and the Finzi singers.

FORTHCOMING CONCERTS

During 1996

St Matthew Passion - J S Bach

Sunday, 24th March 1996

in the Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells

Ripiano choir provided by **Holmewood House School**

Ein Deutsches Requiem - J Brahms

Sunday, 10th November 1996

in the Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells.



The Choir will not be performing a Carol Concert this Season, but will be carrying out community work around the Borough, bringing the spirit of Christmas to the aged and sick.

On Sunday, 3rd December the Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra will be playing "Music From Vienna", conducted by Roderick Dunk; in the Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells.

THE ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY

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Honorary Life Members

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If you would like to become a Patron and support the Society please contact the General Secretary, Mr. Geoff. Stredder by telephone (01892 525790).

The Choir also obtains financial support from
The Royal Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

The Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society is a Registered Charity,
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