

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY

# Fauré: Requiem

## & Cantique de Jean Racine



**Saturday 7th July 2007**

**Conductor:** Richard Jenkinson  
**Soloists:** Sarah Lingard (soprano)  
Roland Millar (baritone)  
**Organ:** Michael Bacon  
**Piano:** Anthony Zerpa-Falcon  
**Violin:** George Clifford

**7.30pm Vale Royal Methodist Church,  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1BX**

**Admission by programme:  
adults £10, children £1**

**ROYAL  
TUNBRIDGE WELLS  
CHORAL  
SOCIETY**

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# The programme

## **Choir: Fauré – Cantique de Jean Racine, Op. 11**

Verbe egal au Tres-Haut, Notre unique  
esperance,  
Jour eternel de la terre et des cieux,  
De la paisible nuit, Nous rompons le silence,  
Divin Sauveur jette sur nous les yeux!  
Repands sur nous le feu de ta grace puisante,  
Que tout l'enfer fuie au son de ta voix,  
Dissipe le sommeil d'une ame languissante,  
Qui la conduit a'oubli de tes lois,  
O Christ sois favorable a ce peuple fidele  
Pour te benir maintenant rassemble,  
A ta gloire immortelle Et de tes dons qu'il  
retourne comble.

Word equal to the Most High, our only hope,  
Eternal day of earth and sky, Of peaceful night,  
We break the silence, Divine Saviour, cast Thine  
eyes on us!  
Cast on us the fire of Thy mighty grace,  
That all Hell may flee at the sound of Thy voice,  
Cast sleep from a languishing soul  
Thou who bears it to the limit of Thy laws,  
O Christ, look favourably on this faithful people  
Who gather now to bless Thee,  
Receive the songs they offer To Thy immortal  
glory  
And Thy gifts which they return manifold!

## **Roland Millar, baritone:**

*Plaisir d'amour* – Jean Paul Martini  
*Angels guard thee (Berceuse de Jocelyn)* – Benjamin Godard

## **Sarah Lingard, soprano:**

*Mandoline; Clair de lune; Après un rêve* – Fauré

## **Anthony Zerpa-Falcon, piano**

French selection

## **Choir: A selection of French Madrigals**

### **Interval: 20 minutes**

Light refreshments available free in hall downstairs

## **Choir & soloists, including George Clifford (violin): Fauré – Requiem, Op. 48**

Introit & Kyrie  
Offertoire  
Sanctus  
Pie Jesu  
Agnus Dei  
Libera me  
In paradisum

# The composer & the conductor

## Gabriel Fauré (1845 – 1924)



Fauré had an intense dislike of the large-scale effects and lack of religious feeling in Berlioz's *Requiem*. His own setting avoided the dramatic *Dies irae* poem, which so dominates the *Requiem*s of Mozart, Berlioz and Verdi. It was even smaller in scale, with only five movements, when it was first performed at the Madeleine in Paris on 16 January 1888. The occasion was the funeral of a member of the congregation, but the impetus for the work had been the death of Fauré's mother on the last day of the previous year. This performance lacked the *Offertoire*, which was not composed until 1889. It was included in a performance on 21 January 1893, along with a setting of *Libera me* which had been written as an independent piece in 1877. Both new movements included sections for a baritone solo: the original five movements were for choir only, except for a boy singing the solo *Pie Jesu*.

The *Libera me* brings in a few lines of *Day of terror, day of Judgement*, but Fauré handles it with great restraint and the music remains within the scale of the rest of the work. For the most part, the tone of this timeless piece is elegiac and calm, and the key word is *requiem, rest*: the work begins and ends with it.

Jean Racine (1639-99) was one of Europe's leading dramatists, and one of the few French classical playwrights to have had any success outside their own country. His other writings are less often remembered, and it is only because of Fauré that anyone except a literary specialist is aware that in 1688 he published translations of a series of Latin hymns for the days of the week. *Verbe egal au Tres-Haut* is a free version of *Consorts paterni luminis*, the hymn for Tuesday matins, which was thought at the time to be by St Ambrose, the fourth-century bishop of Milan. Matins was sung, at least in strict monasteries, during the night and the words refer to breaking the night's silence with praise to God, putting to flight dark's evil spirits and driving away sloth, though Racine's classical phraseology is less specific than the original. Fauré wrote his setting in 1865 at the end of his student days and it won the composition prize at his college, the Ecole Niedermeyer. It has a mature simplicity that most students would foolishly scorn!

Programme Notes by Clifford Bartlett. This note was supplied through the Programme Note Bank of Making Music, the National Federation of Music Societies.

## Richard Jenkinson – conductor



Richard received his early musical training through the Sussex County Music Service. He won a scholarship to continue his studies at the Royal College of Music, where – among many inspirational characters – Sir David Willcocks was a great influence and source of inspiration. During this time, Richard won major prizes, and was awarded the medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians.

Richard now has a busy and vibrant career as a freelance musician, specialising in choral music of all kinds, as conductor, accompanist and composer, working regularly with major choirs and choral societies in and around London and Southern England.

This season is to be as busy as ever: conducting a wide variety of works, including Haydn's *Stabat Mater*, Bach's *Missa Brevis in G minor*, Vivaldi's *Gloria* and RTWCS's critically acclaimed performance of *The Kingdom* at Rochester Cathedral during the Elgar anniversary. He is also much in demand as concert organist, in venues as far apart as Chelmsford and Arundel Cathedrals and San Giorgio e Paulo in Venice.

This year's Concert Tours abroad include Italy, Austria and Germany, as Conductor and Organist.

# The performers

## **Sarah Lingard – soprano**

Sarah was raised in Herefordshire where she attended the Cathedral School and studied singing with Elizabeth Ritchie, before continuing her studies with Hazel Wood at Trinity College of Music, where she gained a first class Honours degree.

Whilst at Trinity she performed as a soloist in Purcell's *King Arthur*, *Swifter Isis*, *Swifter Flow*, Handel's *Acis and Galatea*, Monteverdi's *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*, Tim Lissimore's *The Triumph Of Life* and Neely Bruce's *Hansel and Gretel* (as Gretel). She also performed under Sir Charles Mackerras in Haydn's '*Nelson*' *Mass*, and in a masterclass with Emma Kirkby.

She has performed solos in the Three Choirs Festival and with Bookham, East Grinstead and Dartford Choral Societies. As the first recipient of the Friends of the Hereford Three Choirs Festival Bursary she also performed a solo recital in the Bishop's Palace, Hereford, and, as part of the Thomas Traherne Festival, was soprano soloist in Finzi's *Dies Natalis* in the presence of Christopher Finzi, the composer's son.

She has sung with Chapelle du Roi and Tenebrae, with whom she toured Bermuda and Switzerland, and she teaches at Brighton College, St.Cecilia's, Wandsworth and University College School, Hampstead.

## **George Clifford**

George is twenty and a Scholarship student at the Royal Academy of Music, studying violin with Igor Petrushevski, one of the UK's top violin teachers, and singing with Glenville Hargreaves. He sings with East Grinstead Choral Society, and with Sussex Cantorum and Prodigal Singers.

George was a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, playing in prestigious venues across the country, including the Royal Albert Hall in the BBC Proms. In his first year at the RAM, he was leader of the String Orchestra, and was highly commended in the Waterhouse Prize for BMus violin students. This year he has been leader of the Modern Instrument Baroque Orchestra, and a member of the Concert Orchestra, recently performing Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 under the baton of Sir Colin Davis. George is currently Music Scholar at East Grinstead Parish Church where he sings in the choir, plays the organ, arranges music and occasionally directs.

## **Roland Millar – baritone**

Roland has been active in the area as both a singer and a conductor for nearly 20 years. He sings with choirs locally and in London and regularly performs as soloist with them, as well as appearing as a guest soloist with others. Roland has also conducted various children's and adult choirs and currently conducts the Forest Row Orchestra and the Grosvenor Orchestra in Tunbridge Wells.

## **Michael Bacon – organ**

Michael's love of the organ began when he used to watch his Grandfather play at a church in Doncaster (where he was organist for over 60 years!). But it wasn't until after he left university that the organ replaced the viola as his instrument of choice. Having moved to Tunbridge Wells, he became co-organist at the United Reformed Church and studied with Thomas Trotter, City of Birmingham Organist. He then took up the post of Organist at King Charles The Martyr in 1987, where (apart from a short time away) he's been one of their organists ever since. He is a Senior Sound Engineer at the BBC, working for Radio 3.

## **Anthony Zerpa-Falcon – piano**

Born in Sevenoaks into an Anglo-Spanish family, Anthony has performed across the UK and abroad: in China, Hong-Kong, Spain, France, Germany, Russia, Italy, Greece and the Netherlands. He has performed with the BBC Concert Orchestra, the Liverpool Philharmonic, the Philharmonie der Nationen, the Neue Westfalen Philharmonie, the Orquesta Sinfonica de Gran Canaria and in 1991, was awarded a full scholarship to study at the Guildhall School of Music in the class of Joan Havill, attaining a first class honours degree, and winning all the prizes for keyboard, as well as scholarships from the Countess of Munster Musical Trust, and the Myra Hess Foundation.

After winning the Concert Recital Diploma (Premier Prix), he was invited to study at the International Piano Academy in Northern Italy. As one of only six students selected from around the world he received classes for two years from some of the world's leading concert artists and professors, including Dmitri Bashkirov, Murray Perahia, William Grant Nabore, Alicia de Larrocha, Karl Schnabel, Charles Rosen, Fou Ts'ong and Leon Fleisher.

# The choir

## Sopranos

Glynis Avis  
Jane Clifford  
Diana Dann  
Ann Greenfield  
Katy Hawes  
Barbara Hazeldon  
Ann Huggett

Sheila Jones  
Alison Kain  
Helen MacNab  
Mary Marshall  
Moira McMillan  
Michelle Palmer  
Patricia Prior

Jane Reed  
Kathleen Rose  
Gillian Rowe  
Johanna Thorpe  
Audrey Wallin  
Catherine Whitlock  
Sue Williams

## Altos

Christine Bazley  
Julia Blake  
Margaret Butcher  
Marion Chase  
Pauline Coxshall  
Kay Dunlop  
Heather Featherstone

Jean Finch  
Eileen Gall  
Cordula Grzonka  
Heather Herrin  
Helen Holcroft  
Caroline Horobin  
Victoria Joyce

Catherine Rigby  
Rosalyn Robertson  
Yvonne Spencer  
Audrey Stuart-Black  
Hilary Weston  
Felicity Wilkin

## Tenors

Alan Clarkson  
George Clifford  
James Day

Donald Haley  
Guy Huntrods  
Gareth Looker

Bill McMillan  
Peter Norgate  
Alan Spencer

## Basses

Clive Brock  
Gerald Chew  
Richard Gosling

Iain Hamilton  
Michael Holcroft  
Trevor Hurrell

David Miller  
Cyril Rogers  
Michael Selway

## Forthcoming concerts to be given by the choir

### Sunday 18th November 2007, 3.00pm

The Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells

Haydn *The Creation* – to celebrate the 100th birthday of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society's President, Roy Douglas. This is his favourite choral work.



### Saturday 24th November 2007,

Lutherkirche, Wiesbaden, Germany

Edward Elgar *The Kingdom* – with the Bach Choir of Wiesbaden.



### Saturday 16th December 2007

St Mary's Church, Goudhurst

Our regular seasonal performance of carols and festive music.

# Support

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Roy Douglas

## Vice President

Derek Watmough MBE

## Honorary Life Members

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Joyce Stredder

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Mr I Short  
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Miss L Stroud  
Mr R F Thatcher  
Mr D Watmough  
Mr M H P Webb  
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We are very grateful to our Patrons for their valuable support. We no longer have help to pay our production costs from the Arts Council or the Local Authority. If you would like to become a Patron and support the Society in this way please contact The Treasurer: Michael Selway on 07905 605 441. For £40 per annum (2006/2007 rate) you will receive a seat of your choice for each of our concerts per season. If you have a favourite seat, this will be reserved for you.

## If you enjoy singing...

... why not come and join us for our next concerts. Rehearsals are held on Mondays at 7.30pm, normally at St John's Church, Tunbridge Wells.

To find out more contact Celia Sumner on 01892 534814 or Helen MacNab on 01892 526434; or visit our website at [www.rtwcs.org.uk](http://www.rtwcs.org.uk).

We welcome singers of all levels of experience. Prospective members are not required to audition and can come to several rehearsals before committing to joining.



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