

THE KING'S SINGERS

To end the year, one of the best-known and respected small vocal ensembles in the world. What began tentatively with a few choral scholars from King's College, Cambridge (where their initial attempt at a name – Schola Cantorum pro Musica Profana in Cantabridgiense – seemed not to catch on!) they gave their debut concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in 1968 – as the King's Singers.

Since then, their total complement of just 19 different members has delighted audiences throughout the world with incomparable musicianship, charm and wit, and we welcome them here during their fortieth anniversary year. As the Times recently reported, they are 'still unmatched for their musicality and sheer ability to entertain.'

Their programme, entitled 'Romance du Soir' has been described as 'a truly beautiful selection... perfectly shaped... a fun, memorable programme' and includes music by Saint-Saëns, Larson, Weelkes, Wilbye, Elgar and Schubert, plus a selection of Victorian love songs and chansons d'amour.

A perfect celebrity finale to a brilliant year.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
Wednesday 3rd June 2009 at 7.30pm



SUBSCRIBER AND TICKET DETAILS

1 John Lill	£16
2 Esbjerg Ensemble	£14
3 Tasmin Little	£16
4 City of London Sinfonia	£16
5 Royal String Quartet	£14
6 The King's Singers	£16

Subscriber Ticket

£66

All tickets are available at half price for children.

The Subscriber Ticket covers all six concerts, guarantees seats, mailings, and occasional free pre-concert drink.

It represents a saving of almost 30% on the full price, and buys six marvellous concerts for just £11 each.

Don't hesitate!

Tickets and further information from:

Mrs Frances Davies
Oswestry School
Upper Brook Street, Oswestry,
Shropshire, SY11 2TL

Telephone 01691 681135

or from

The Secretary
Oswestry School Bellan House

or at

Music Makers, Albion Hill, Oswestry

BOOKING FORM ENCLOSED

OSWESTRY SCHOOL



RECITAL SERIES

2008 – 2009

Series Director: Christopher Symons



THIS nineteenth Season, with its usual mix of old and new, seeks to expand yet further a reputation earned and maintained through the renown of the artistes appearing. That Oswestry School (a relatively small but ancient school in a small town) can provide a platform for the likes of Brendel, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, the OAE, Tasmin Little, the London Mozart Players, the Škampus, Marc-André Hamelin, Roscoe, Lill etc, must surely rank as a truly remarkable achievement.

In October, to open the Season and inaugurate our new grand piano, we welcome back one of the true friends of this Series, the internationally acclaimed pianist John Lill. Then comes the fabulous Esbjerg Ensemble from Denmark. In January, another visit from international star Tasmin Little, followed in February by the next of our much-valued collaborations with SMT and Orchestras Live, this time the City of London Sinfonia.

In March, one of the most exciting string quartets on the international scene, the Royal Quartet, from Poland, and then to close what will have been a truly varied and delightful line-up, a true Celebrity Recital by a group known to music lovers around the world, the King's Singers.

JOHN LILL (piano)

Much loved and admired throughout the world for the deep authority and musicianship which he brings to all his performances, we are delighted to welcome John back to this Series. Besides being such a renowned international pianist, he has proved himself a true friend to all music lovers in this area, this being his fourth visit, and we are delighted that he will be the one to give the opening recital on our new and magnificent grand piano.

His programme will include two of the most dramatic and exciting works in the popular repertoire – the great B minor Sonata by Liszt, and the Bach-Busoni Chaconne – as well as works by Rachmaninov.

Limited seating in the Peter Humphreys Centre, plus a free glass of wine to all Subscribers to open the new Season, means that purchase of a Subscriber Ticket is the only sure means of securing a seat.

PETER HUMPHREYS CENTRE
Wednesday 1st October 2008 at 7.30pm

ESBJERG ENSEMBLE

This wonderful ensemble, founded in 1967 and the foremost chamber group in Denmark, comprises in all twelve musicians from all around the world, in various chamber combinations. They have developed an enormous repertoire (from baroque to contemporary) and continue to fulfil the aim set for them by the Danish Ministry of Culture when they were founded – to perform classical chamber music at the highest level, in south-west Jutland, the whole of Denmark and internationally. Indeed, we have caught nine of them *en route* from Scotland to London as they tour.

Their huge recording catalogue is widely regarded throughout Scandinavia, and their regular broadcasting schedules have ensured that their impact on Danish music has been immensely powerful and inspirational. Their programme here will include two popular works – Poulenc's marvellous Sextet and the Piano Quintet of

Schumann – as well as works by Farrenc (his Nonet) and Peter Brunn's 'Letters to the Ocean'.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
Saturday 25th October 2008 at 7.30pm

TASMIN LITTLE (violin) CHRISTOPHER SYMONS (piano)

This will be Tasmin's third visit to Oswestry, and such an international star needs little introduction. Her wonderful performance of the Beethoven concerto in April held a capacity audience spellbound, such was the intensity of her playing and rapport with the orchestra.

Exuding great personality and infectious charm, Tasmin is celebrated both as a solo and chamber violinist and as a concerto player throughout the world. In 2008 she was the subject of ITV's South Bank Show, in which her passion for performing in unlikely places was featured – including a power station and a prison!

In this recital, she will play unaccompanied for the first half (either on her 'Regent' Stradivarius or her Guadagnini) the Patterson Luslawice Variations and the First Sonata in G minor by Bach. In the spacious acoustic of this venue, we can expect glorious music to issue forth. In the second half, joined by Christopher Symons, we will hear the G major Sonata of Brahms and then a 'couple of show-pieces'. Watch out!

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
Thursday 22nd January 2009 at 7.30pm

CITY OF LONDON SINFONIA

Once again we are thrilled that, thanks to the Shropshire Music Trust and the Orchestras Live scheme, we can present the City of London Sinfonia, another of our great national orchestras, conducted by Nicholas Ward.

Founded in 1971 by Richard Hickox, the orchestra performs regularly at the Barbican, has a concert series at the Cadogan Hall, is the resident orchestra for Opera Holland Park and performed in the 2008 BBC Proms. It performs more than 100 concerts each year in the UK and abroad, and has over 100 recordings to its name.

The Orchestras Live scheme is designed to bring to areas more remote from the big centres some of the UK's most prestigious smaller orchestras, and we count ourselves extremely fortunate that Oswestry's set-up not only meets this criterion but also turns out a sufficiently large audience to justify the continuing collaboration.

The programme includes Mozart's Divertimento in D K138, Finzi's Clarinet Concerto (soloist Sarah Williamson) and Schubert's Symphony no 5 in B flat.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
Thursday 12th February 2009 at 7.30pm

ROYAL STRING QUARTET

Founded in Warsaw at the Academy in 1998, the Royal Quartet has already received numerous prestigious awards and honours, and is one of the most talked-about young string quartets in music circles today. Chosen as the Wigmore Hall Quartet in Residence for 2006 (as was the Škampa before them) they were one of the BBC Young Generation Artists (2004), and in the same year they were chosen to play for our Queen and royal family during the state visit of Poland's President.

They have studied, both individually and as a group, with some of the greatest quartets, including the Amadeus, Guaneri and Chilingirian, but their greatest mentors have been (and continue to be) the Alban Berg Quartet, in Cologne.

Their programme comprises three great quartets: Mozart's 'Hoffmeister', the A minor Quartet of Mendelssohn and Beethoven's very last quartet, the opus 135 in F.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
Saturday 21st March 2009 at 7.30pm