



Dorset Guild of Singers



Mendelssohn

Elijah

Guest Conductor Simon Lole

Dorset County Orchestra



7.30pm

Saturday 26th April, 2014

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making
music

Programme

£1



The Dorset Guild of Singers

For over sixty years, the DGoS has provided a focus for large-scale music-making in a rural area, adapting to a changing musical and social environment. Since the mid 1940s, Dorset's rural choirs and choral societies have been joining together to perform large works with invited guest conductors, enabling local singers to work with leading figures. These include Sir Charles Groves, Andrew Davis, Jonathan Willcocks and Imogen Holst. At first, there were numerous small choirs (in 1946 eleven choirs took part) but now there are only three larger constituent choirs from Brianspuddle, Swanage and Wareham. Other choirs are invited as guests to join with the Guild in the original spirit conceived by the founder member, Joan Brocklebank. Joan was also instrumental in forming the Dorset County Orchestra who accompany our concert this evening.

Reg Charity No. 264168

Elijah



Mendelssohn had been planning *Elijah* for a number of years before he received a commission to compose a work for the 1846 Birmingham Music Festival. He completed *Elijah* in July 1846 but the final chorus parts were not received until just nine days before the first performance on 26th August in Birmingham Town Hall with over four hundred performers and conducted by Mendelssohn himself. The work was given a triumphant reception. For nearly a century, *Elijah* rivalled *Messiah* and *The Creation* for first place in the affections of English choral societies and has since become a corner stone of the choral repertoire.

Mendelssohn was greatly taken with the character of *Elijah*; "I imagined *Elijah* as a real, thorough-going prophet, such as we could do with again today. Strong, zealous but also irate, wrathful and morose, contrary to the courtly mob and the popular rabble, contrary to virtually the rest of the world, and yet borne aloft as if on the wings of angels." This gives an insight into the drama that Mendelssohn wished to achieve in his music, with its sharply delineated characters and rich chorus work.

The Oratorio is based upon the references to *Elijah* in the Old Testament books of Kings. *Elijah* the prophet challenges Baal, a heathen god, and Jehovah to a contest of divine strength.

A bullock is slain and tied to an altar; whichever of the two gods shall send fire from heaven and burn up the offering shall be the victor. For hours the Children of Israel cry to Baal, while *Elijah* taunts them: 'Call him louder, for he is a god!' Then *Elijah* calls on Jehovah, and fire rains down upon the altar. The Israelites are understandably impressed and turn again to the God of their forefathers, who responds by sending rain to the drought-parched land.

Despite his impressive victory, *Elijah* is soon under suspicion again; was it not he who brought down the curse upon Israel? *Elijah* flees into the wilderness, but consolation comes in the form of angels singing words of the popular Psalms, *Lift Thine Eyes*. *Elijah*, however, is still resistant to righteous exhortation. Finally, after earthquake, wind and fire have stunned *Elijah* into awestruck silence, God speaks to him with a '*still small voice*'. Chastened and invigorated, *Elijah* returns for a final, successful showdown with the devotees of Baal, then comes his ascent into heaven in 'a fiery chariot, with fiery, fiery horses'.

ELIJAH

Part One

- Introduction** As God the Lord of Israel liveth
Elijah prophesies a drought in Israel
- Overture**
- Chorus** Help Lord
The people sing in prayer of their anxiety and fears
- Duet and Chorus** Lord, bow Thine ear to our prayer
The people plead for help from God
- Recitative** Ye people, rend your hearts
Obadiah urges people to forsake their idols and return to God
- Air** If with all your hearts
If with all your hearts ye truly seek me, ye shall ever surely find me
- Chorus** Yet doth the Lord see it not
The people complain that God's curse has fallen on them
- Recitative** Elijah, get thee hence
God tells Elijah to go to a widow at Zarepath, promising that her supply of food will not fail before the Lord sends rain to the Earth. Elijah prays for her sick son who is then healed. Drought hastens.
- Recitative, Air and Duet** What have I to do with thee, O man of God?
- Chorus** Blessed are the men who fear Him
they ever walk in the ways of peace
- Recitative and Chorus** As God the Lord of Sabaoth liveth, before whom I stand
Elijah shows himself to Ahab, King of Israel, and accuses him of forsaking God for Baal. He challenges Ahab to gather Israel to Mount Carmel, to summon the prophets of Baal and to arrange a sacrifice, but to set no fire under it. "Call the god ye worship; and I will call on the Lord Jehovah; and the god, who by fire shall answer, let him be God".

- Double Chorus** Baal, we cry to thee
The priests of Baal call upon their god
- Recitative** Call Him Louder
*Elijah taunts the priests of Baal and they respond by calling more
and more fervently*
- Chorus** Hear our cry, O Baal
- Recitative** Call him Louder
- Chorus** Baal, hear and answer
- Air** Lord God of Abraham
- Quartet** Cast thy burden upon the Lord
- Recitative** O Thou, who makest Thine angels spirits
*Elijah asks God to show Himself to the people and calls down fire
from Heaven to consume the sacrifice*
- Chorus** The fire descends from heaven
Elijah sings of the power of God's word
- Air** Woe unto them who forsake Him!
- Recitative** O man of God, help they people
Obadiah calls on Elijah to ask God for rain.
- Recitative and Chorus** O Lord, Thou hast overthrown Thine enemies
Elijah prays and sends a youth to look for signs of rain.
- Chorus** Thanks be to God
The people sing a hymn of thanks to God for sending the rain

Interval

Part Two

- Air** Hear ye, Israel
God promises comfort to the oppressed
- Chorus** Be not afraid, thy help is near
- Recitative and Chorus** The Lord hath exalted thee
*Elijah challenges King Ahab, and foretells that God will smite Israel.
Queen Jezebel vows to take Elijah's life*
- Chorus** Woe to him
The people pledge to seize Elijah and kill him; Elijah flees to the wilderness
- Air** It is enough
Exhausted, Elijah pleads with God to take his life
- Recitative** See, now he sleepeth
Elijah sleeps beneath a juniper tree
- Trio** Lift thine eyes
A chorus of angels exhorts Elijah to lift his eyes to the mountains from whence God's help comes
- Chorus** He watching over Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps
- Recitative** Arise, Elijah
The angel tells Elijah to journey forty days and nights to the Mount of God. Elijah protests that he has laboured in vain, that God has let him down and he wishes only to die

- Air** O rest in the Lord
The angel exhorts Elijah to rest in the Lord
- Chorus** He that shall endure to the end
- Recitative** Night falleth round me
Night falls and the angel tells Elijah to stand on the mount and witness God's glory
- Chorus** Behold, the Lord passes by
The Lord passes by in tempest, earthquake and fire.
- Chorus** Go, return upon thy way
God commands Elijah to return to Israel. Elijah declares that he will return in the strength of God
- Recitative** I go on my way in the strength of the Lord
- Air** For the mountains shall depart
- Chorus** The did Elijah
The wondrous deeds of Elijah are described by the chorus. He ascends to Heaven in a whirlwind.
- Quartet** O come unto Him, everyone that thirsteth
- Chorus** And then shall your light break forth
Lord, our creator, how excellent thy name is.

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***The Conductor* - Simon Lole**



Simon Lole has spent a lifetime in music, starting as a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral in London. He received his musical training at the Guildhall School of Music and King's College, London University. He spent many years as a professional church musician, culminating in positions as Director of Music at Sheffield and then Salisbury Cathedral and a year running the Chapel Choir at Jesus College, Cambridge.

Since 2005, Simon has led a varied freelance career. He is very active as a composer and arranger, having more than 80 published works. He arranges much music for the BBC on both TV and radio, including music for the Festival of Remembrance in the Royal Albert Hall.

Simon is in great demand as a choral director. He is a regular Musical Director and organist for BBC Radio 4's "Daily Service", "Sunday Morning Worship" and a conductor, organist and arranger for BBC TV's "Songs of Praise". He is accompanist and vocal coach for the BBC's "Young Chorister of the Year" competition and choral advisor to the BBC's "Songs of Praise Schools Choirs' Competition".

As a choral expert he has run Summer Schools in South Africa and across the USA, Canada, Scandinavia and Europe.

Simon is also very busy as a musical director and arranger for some of the major record labels, including Decca and Deutsche Grammophon. He is MD for Aled Jones, Laura Wright and new girl group, Celeste. He has worked extensively with All Angels, Hayley Westenra, Blake and Camilla Kerslake, protégée of Take That's Gary Barlow, as well as with the rock band, Archive.

Simon has also moved into the world of broadcasting and is doing some presenting on BBC Radios 2 and 3, working on such shows as "The Early Music Show", "The Choir" and "Pause for Thought" as well as contributing to various TV shows.

Simon is also Director of Music at St Mary's Church in Swanage.

The Soloists

Sofia Larsson

Soprano

Exciting young soprano, Sofia Larsson graduated with a first-class honours degree in Music from King's College London in 2009 and completed the ENO Opera Works training programme in 2011. She is a member of *Song Circle*, with whom she has performed at the Oxford Lieder Festival, and a soloist for the Kohn Foundation Bach Cantata Series. She has won the Elena Gerhardt Lieder Prize, the 2nd Prize in the Thelma King Award for Singers, and was awarded the Amanda von Lob Memorial Prize and Andrew Sykes Prize by the Royal Academy of Music. Sofia will take up a scholarship on the International Opera School at the Royal College of Music on a full scholarship in September.



Susan Mackenzie-Park

Mezzo-soprano

Born in Scotland, Susan studied singing at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and then at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where she held an Ian Fleming Award and a Sir James Caird Scholarship.

Susan has enjoyed an international career in opera and appearing at International festivals throughout Europe, North America and Canada. Stage credits include Opera North, The Royal Opera, Kent Opera and Buxton Festival Opera. She has studied at The Britten-Pears School in Aldeburgh with Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyge.



Her recordings includes Suor Angelica with Antonio Pappano for EMI. Broadcasts include Britten *Noye's Fludde* for BBC 4 and Classic FM's 'Meet the Artist' series with Malcolm Martineau.

Iain Milne

Tenor

Iain was born in Inverurie, Aberdeenshire with a congenital disorder resulting in under-developed larynx - it is somewhat of a miracle that he can sing at all. He recently graduated with distinction in his MA from the Royal Academy of Music and was awarded the Sir Thomas Armstrong Prize, and the Gabrowsky Connell Prize for outstanding performance.

Iain has much experience in choral singing gained at Aberdeen, Norwich, Wells and Christ Church Oxford. As a soloist his highlights include Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* in the Fairfield Halls, Croydon, Handel's

The Messiah in Hamburg and Haydn's *Creation* in Aberdeen Music Hall. Recent operatic roles include Tamino in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* for Hampstead Garden Opera and Sandy/Officer 1 in Peter Maxwell-Davies' *The Lighthouse* at the Royal Academy.



Dorset County
Orchestra

St Mary's Church, Swanage
Saturday 21st June 2014
at 7.30pm

Conductor – Ian Pillow

Piano—Duncan Honeybourne

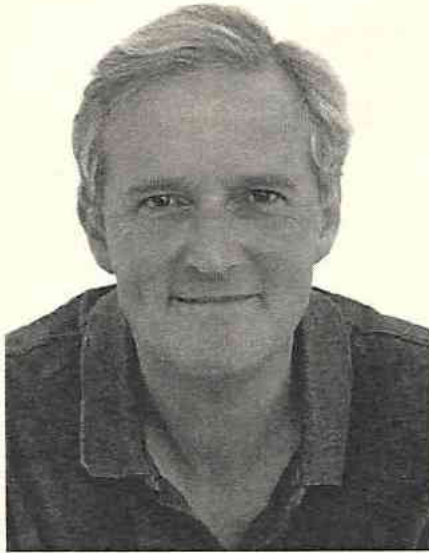
Shostakovich - Jazz Suite

Ireland - Piano Concerto

Dvorak - Symphony No. 9 ("New World")

Robert Evans

Baritone



Robert Evans began his musical education as a chorister at Hereford Cathedral and subsequently studied singing with Henry Cummings. He studied as a mature student at The Royal College of Music.

Robert made his London debut in 1987 at The Royal Festival Hall with the choir of The London Oratory. Having spent ten years in the choir of Westminster Cathedral (winners of the Gramophone Record of the year 1999) Robert moved to Salisbury, allowing him to concentrate on his freelance singing career, both as a soloist and as a consort singer working

with The Sixteen, The Cardinals Musick (winners of the Gramophone Record of the year 2010), Alamire, Tenebrae, The Kings Consort, and The Gabrieli Consort.

Although Robert spends most of his time performing classical music, he also enjoys the lighter end of the repertoire. He has sung in the West End (Starlight Express), cabaret, jingles and film sound tracks including Crimson Tide, Sleepy Hollow, Chocolat, King Arthur, Pirates of the Caribbean II, Flushed Away, The Da Vinci Code, Prometheus and his particular favorite, Muppet Treasure Island.

Tomas Magnusson

Treble voice

We are grateful to Malcolm Archer, Director of Chapel Music, Winchester College, for arranging the treble soloist for tonight's performance. Tomas is a pupil of the Pilgrims School, Winchester and is a quirister of Winchester College Chapel.





Dorset County Orchestra

1st Violins

Anita Hansen
Paul Ballam
Alison Bickley
Hugh Bolton
Bill Dickinson
Diane Ely
Janet Fortnum
Baerbel Glaser
Christine Perry

2nd Violins

Lin Abbott
David Faulkner
Jane Freeman
Kim Matthews
Margaret Moss
Brian Parkhurst
Debbie Simpson
David Williams

Violas

Marion Jones
Marion Criscuolo
Christopher Watts
Terence St John
Ian Pillow
Martin Tomkins

Cellos

Caroline Buxton
Anna Bowen
Helen Buffrey
Alex Emery
Mary Haysom
Josephine Knight
Julie Mitchell

Double basses

Judy Ashwin
Geoff Greenhough
John Sutherland-Smith
Richard Woodall

Flutes & piccolos

Jane Smith
Kathy Pask

Oboes/Cor anglais

Helen Simpson
Kevin Caldwell

Clarinets

Gwenda Malpass
Freya Jones

Bassoons

Miles Nipper
Rob Child

Horns

Ieuan Davies
Gill Curlett
Chris Bassett

Trumpets

Simon Richards
Bill Maddocks

Trombones

Mike Winter
Jill Dashfield
Jason Perryman

Tuba

Brian Eastment

Timpani

Alexander Henshaw

Organ

Richard Hall

The Orchestra has been delighting audiences for more than half a century, having been formed as long ago as 1951 at the instigation of the then County Music Organiser, Joan Brocklebank. The first conductor was the young Lawrence Leonard. Apart from its first season, when it received financial help from the Carnegie Trust, the orchestra has made its own way through subscriptions, concert proceeds and sponsorship.

The members of the orchestra come from all over Dorset and continue, under their present conductor Ian Pillow, to perform a wide selection from the classical repertoire. There have also been many successful joint ventures with local choral societies. As a local amateur orchestra they welcome membership enquiries from enthusiastic and committed players.

DGoS Main Choirs



Briantspuddle Singers was founded in 1943 by Biddie Kindersley. It continues to thrive today, giving around three concerts per year, as well as its long-established carolling around Briantspuddle at Christmas. The choir meets at a comfortable rehearsal space at Briantspuddle Village Hall. In 2013 Robert Dishington took over from Richard Hall (after 37 years!) as only its third conductor. Forthcoming concerts include extracts from *Dido and Aeneas*, Gilbert and Sullivan operas, Rogers and Hammerstein musicals, *Les Miserables* and more. Visit our website for more details and information about joining BPS.

www.briantspuddlesingers.co.uk

Purbeck Arts Choir began as a madrigal group over 50 years ago and was one of the earliest members of the Dorset Guild of Singers, with whom it has sung many major works in the choral repertory. They currently number around 60 singers and performances next season include Karl Jenkins' 'The Armed Man' on Saturday 8th November 2014 at St Mary's Church, Swanage, a Christmas Concert on 6th December and Bob Chilcott's Requiem on Saturday March 28th 2015, also at St Mary's Church, Swanage.

The choir rehearses weekly in term time from September to May on Thursday evenings in Swanage. New members are always welcome and there are no auditions, although previous experience is helpful. For further information please phone the conductor,

Jay Buckle on 01929 425865.



Wareham Choral Society was established about 60 years ago and it is one of the founder members of the Dorset Guild of Singers. Conducted by Jane Oakland, a vocal specialist, the choir performs two concerts each year in Lady St Mary Church. On November 15th they will commemorate WW1 with a programme of anthems, poetry, and readings recording the war time experiences of local people. On Dec 6th they will celebrate Christmas with traditional favourites and in Spring 2015 a programme entitled 'Gloria' with music by Karl Jenkins and Vivaldi. Rehearsals are held on Monday evenings during the Autumn and Spring terms from 7 to 9 pm in The United Reformed Church, Church Street, Wareham. New members for all voice parts are welcomed. If you enjoy singing and are free on Monday evenings, then why not give us a try?

www.freewebs.com/warehamcs

Guest Choirs



Dorchester Choral Society can be traced back to 1929 when it is remembered as *Dorchester Ladies' Choir* or *The Monday Choir*, and later became the mixed choir, *the West Walks Singers*, conducted by the notorious Joan Brocklebank. The name change to Dorchester Choral Society came after the choir's first visit to Dorchester's twin German town of Lubbecke in 1977.

Christine Page has directed the Dorchester Choral Society for the last fourteen years, leading the eighty-five strong membership of the choir. Works performed recently include Bach *B Minor Mass*, Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, Copland's *In the Beginning*. The choir performs Tippett's *Child of our Time* in November 2014 with Andreaskirche Lubbecke and L'Orpheon Bayeux, their two twinning towns, in both Germany and Dorchester.



Beaminster Singers has grown in size and reputation since its birth in 1987 and has now become a feature of the town's musical life, giving two or three concerts a year in the town and further afield.

Their repertoire ranges from oratorio and opera through part songs, anthems and motets, to jazz cabaret appearances. They sing at weddings, memorial services, carol services and family celebrations, and have furnished the choral section for both English Touring Opera and Armonico in their local performances.

They have around fifty members and meet on a Wednesday evening under the musical direction of Hilary Kenway. This May they will be performing Mozart's *Spaurmesse* and on November 22nd their concert in St Mary's Beaminster will include Haydn's *Missa Cellensis* and Handel's *Ode on St Cecilia's Day*.



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