

PRESS RELEASE



PIANO RECITALS @ THE THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL 2016

This year's Three Choirs Festival takes place in Gloucester 23 – 30 July. It includes piano recitals by Mark Bebbington on the afternoon of Friday 29 July at St Barnabas Church, Tuffley and by Jâms Coleman, a young pianist who is a recipient of the Philharmonia Orchestra's Martin Musical Fund Award, on Thursday 28 July in St Mary de Lode Church. The Ukrainian pianist Natalya Pasichnyk will give a joint recital with her sister, soprano Olga Pasichnyk .

Mark Bebbington

Although the piano works of Rachmaninov are well known to pianists and concert audiences alike, the influence that the Russian composer exerted on generations of youthful British composers is less appreciated. In his Three Choirs Festival programme Mark Bebbington shows the links and cross-currents that the great Russian shares with the diverse music of Gurney, Ireland, Bridge and Venables.

In addition to three Preludes and the D major Etude Tableau by Rachmaninov he will play works by Ivor Gurney, who shared Rachmaninov's introspective temperament; John Ireland, whose youthful, virtuosic Rhapsody was inspired by the Rachmaninov Prelude in C sharp minor; Frank Bridge, whose youthful Dramatic Fantasia Bebbington describes as 'full of a deeply brooding chromaticism'; Herbert Howells - his very rarely performed Rhapsody, written in 1919; and Worcester-based Ian Venables, who acknowledges Rachmaninov as a favourite composer and whose 'melancholic lyricism' he has captured in the central section of his Caprice.

Jâms Coleman

Born in Anglesey, North Wales, Jâms Coleman is studying at the Royal Academy of Music with Professor Christopher Elton and Michael Dussek. He is an Oxford Lieder Young Artist and a Samling Artist and engagements include performances with James Gilchrist, Sir John Tomlinson, Nicholas Mulroy and Andrew Kennedy. He has performed at Wigmore Hall, on the BBC World Service, live on Radio 3's In Tune, at the Leeds and Oxford Lieder Festivals, the Two Moors Festival and the Hereford Three Choirs Festival.

Jâms has appeared frequently as a concerto soloist in repertoire including Beethoven's Third, Fourth and Fifth Piano Concertos and concertos by Chopin, Brahms and Mozart. He read music and was a choral scholar at Girton College, Cambridge. He also has experience working as a musical director and répétiteur and in 2014 he conducted fifteen performances of *Eugene Onegin* across Wales.

Olga and Natalya Pasichnyk

Polish –Ukrainian sisters Olga and Natalya Pasichnyk are graduates of the Chopin Academy in Warsaw and winners of numerous international competitions. Their recital has an Eastern-European theme and includes a selection of rarely-heard songs by Chopin, which have been overshadowed by Chopin's piano music but display a similar combination of delicacy, power and beauty, together with some of his mazurkas transcribed for voice (with Chopin's permission) by the singer Pauline Viardot. Natalya performs some of Mendelssohn's Songs without Words and the recital also includes folksongs from the sisters' native Ukraine.

CONCERT LISTINGS

An English Rachmaninov

Mark Bebbington *piano*

27 July

2.45 pm St Barnabas Church, Tuffley, Gloucester

Tickets £27, £22

PROGRAMME

Gurney Sehnsucht (from manuscripts)
The Sea (from manuscripts)
Preludes in D flat major, C minor, F sharp
Rachmaninov Prelude in G sharp minor op. 32 no 12
Howells Rhapsody op. 14 no 1
Rachmaninov Prelude in C sharp minor op. 3 no. 2
Ireland First Rhapsody

INTERVAL

Rachmaninov Prelude in D major op. 23 no 5
Ian Venables Caprice
Rachmaninov Prelude in B minor op. 32 no 10
Bridge Dramatic Fantasia
Rachmaninov Étude Tableau in D major op. 39. no 9

NOTE: Mark Bebbington has made some changes to this programme since the printed booking brochure for the festival went to press; this is the up-to-date version of the repertoire he will play.

Jâms Coleman *piano*

28 July

1 pm St Mary de Lode Church, Gloucester

Tickets £10

Programme to be confirmed

This concert is part of a series of three lunchtime recitals at the Three Choirs Festival 2016 by recipients of the Philharmonia Orchestra's Martin Musical Scholarship Award, supported by Father Michael Thomas.

Songs and Songs without Words

Olga Pasichnyk *soprano*

Natalya Pasichnyk *piano*

28 July

2.45 pm St Barnabas Church, Tuffley

Tickets £27, £22

PROGRAMME

Chopin Songs

Mendelssohn Songs without words

Viardot, Kosenko and **Skoryk** Selected Songs

Zador and **Lysenko** Ukrainian Folk Songs

Full programme details for Gloucester Three Choirs Festival can be found on the festival website. www.3CHOIRS.ORG

General booking opens on 11 April online and via the Ticket Office: 01452 768928

www.twitter.com/3choirs

www.facebook.com/3choirsfestival

More information, press tickets and a selection of high-resolution images from:

Clare Stevens
Head of Communications
Three Choirs Festival
7c College Green
Gloucester
GL1 2LX

Clare.Stevens@3choirs.org
01452 768935 (office)
07968 367079 (mobile)

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. **The Three Choirs Festival** has its origins at the end of the 17th century in visits by the lay clerks of Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester to one another's cathedrals for joint services and informal singing. More formal annual 'music meetings' can be traced back to around 1715 and have continued ever since, interrupted only by the two world wars, making this the oldest continuously running classical music festival in the world. The event rotates between the three cathedral cities on a three-year cycle. The next festival takes place in Gloucester 23 – 30 July 2016 and is the 289th Three Choirs Festival.
2. The **artistic director** of each festival is the director of music of the city's cathedral, currently Geraint Bowen (Hereford); Adrian Partington (Gloucester) and Peter Nardone (Worcester). They work with the chief executive of the Three Choirs Festival Association, an operations director in each city and local voluntary committees to plan and deliver the festival programmes.
3. **The Three Choirs Festival Chorus** is largely drawn from auditioned members of the choral societies of Worcester, Gloucester and Hereford, with the largest contingent each year coming from the host city. Amateur choral singers have been taking part in the festival since the middle of the 19th century to augment the cathedral choirs of boy trebles and male altos, tenors and basses.
4. The **Philharmonia Orchestra** has been resident at the Three Choirs Festival for the past six years. More information about the residency:
http://www.philharmonia.co.uk/concerts/residencies/three_choirs_festival