



Saturday 30th June 2012, 7.30pm
Sackville School, Lewes Road, East Grinstead

East Grinstead Choral Society

presents

Rossini's

**Petite Messe
Solennelle**

Directed by Richard Jenkinson

with soloists

Alessandra Testai (soprano)
Virginia Stone (contralto)

John Upperton (tenor)
Michael Bundy (bass)

Marcus Andrews (solo piano)
Christopher Harris (harmonium)

Also featuring Sackville School's 'Music Stars'



Registered charity number 801961
www.egcs.co.uk



East Grinstead Choral Society began life 60 years ago, and has enjoyed being at the forefront of artistic and musical life in the area – not just for East Grinstead, but also for a much wider area. There have been performances in the Brighton Festival and at venues such as Worth Abbey, Ardingly College and further afield – concert tours have taken the choir to Austria, Germany, France, Belgium and Italy, often linking with choirs, orchestras, soloists and musical directors in East Grinstead’s many twin towns.

Members are drawn to the choir from Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex, Kent, South London, Essex ... all because of the reputation that has been built up for high quality rehearsal and performance – plus an excellent social life!

Over the years, the choir has won many prizes and awards, including the much coveted Choral Enterprise Award – TWICE! The aim is always to be thinking forward: enjoying success and a good reputation, whilst planning positively and imaginatively for the future. Part of this future planning includes encouraging young musical talent. The society operates a youth membership scheme, regularly involves groups from local primary schools in its concerts and, more recently, set up the ‘**Music Stars**’ scheme. This is the second year of ‘Music Stars’, where players from local schools are invited to audition for a chance to play in one of the society’s concerts. We will hear this year’s winners this evening.

Petite Messe Solennelle – Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)



Rossini was born at Pesaro and moved with his parents to Bologna at the time when Napoleon’s troops entered Northern Italy. Rossini had a musical upbringing and started composing at about the age of 12. By his late teens he was writing seriously for the theatre. He studied at the University of Bologna, becoming an enthusiast for the music of Mozart, who had died little more than two months before Rossini was born. Rossini later referred to Mozart as *“the admiration of my youth, the desperation of my mature years and the consolation of my old age.”*

Rossini achieved both fame and fortune early in his career, writing operas until he was 37 years old. In this period, he held positions as Musical Director of theatres in Naples and later in Paris. However, in 1829, his last opera *William Tell* was produced and he retired, having written nearly 40 operas. For the next 25 years, he wrote virtually nothing. Then, after settling in Paris in 1855, he started to compose again, mainly songs and piano pieces which often parodied contemporary styles. A collection of about 150 pieces date from the last 13 years of his life, many of them humorous or quirky in nature – he called them the *“sins of old age”*.

During this last period, in 1863, he was asked by a friend, Countess Louise Pillet-Will, to write a solemn mass for the consecration of a private chapel. He scored the

Qui tollis (*duet for soprano and contralto*)

Qui tollis peccata mundi miserere nobis.	Who takes away the sins of the world, take pity upon us,
Suscipe deprecationem nostram.	Receive our prayers.
Qui sedes ad dexteram patris.	Who sits at the right hand of the Father.

Quonium (*bass solo*)

Quonium tu solus sanctus, tu solus dominus, tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe.	For Thou alone holy, Thou alone Lord, Thou alone most high, Jesu Christ.
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Cum sancto (*soloists and chorus*)

Cum sancto spiritu in gloria Dei patris. Amen. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Amen	With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father, Amen. Glory to God in the Highest. Amen
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Part 2**Credo** (*soloists and chorus*)

Credo in unum Deum. Credo, patrem omnipotentem, factorem coeli et terrae, visibilium omnium et invisibilium. Credo in unum Deum et in unum Dominum, Jesum Christum, filium Dei unigenitum et ex patre natum ante omnia saecula. Deum de Deo, lumen in lumine. Deum verum de Deo vero genitum non factum consubstantialem patri, per quem omnia facta sunt. Qui propter nos homines et propter nostram salutem descendit de coelis. Credo. Et incarnatus est de spiritu sancto ex Maria virgine et homo factus est.	I believe in one God. I believe in an all-powerful Father, Creator of heaven and earth and of all things, visible and invisible. I believe in one God and in one Lord, Jesus Christ, only begotten Son of God and born of the Father before all ages. God of God, Light of Light, True God of True God, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father, by Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation, descended from heaven. I believe. And he was born by the Holy Spirit from the Virgin Mary and was made man.
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Crucifixus (*soprano solo*)

Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato passus et sepultus est.	He was also crucified for us, suffered under Pontius Pilate and was buried.
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Et resurrexit (*soloists and chorus*)

Et resurrexit tertia die secundum scripturas credo.

Et ascendit in coelum, sedet ad dexteram patris et iterum venturus est cum gloria iudicare vivos et mortuos cujus regni non erit finis et in spiritum sanctum dominum et vivificantem, qui ex patre filioque procedit simul adoratur et glorificatur qui locutus est per prophetas et unum sanctam catholicam et apostolicam ecclesiam credo.

Confiteor unum baptisma in remissionem peccatorum et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum credo. Et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen. In unum Deum credo.

And I believe that he rose again on the third day, according to the Scriptures. And he ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father and he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and there will be no end to his kingdom. And in the Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life, Who comes forth from the Father and the Son and is similarly adored and glorified, Who spoke through the Prophets. And in one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the remission of sins and I expect the resurrection of the dead and life to come of age. Amen. I believe in one God.

Preludio religioso (*piano solo*)

Ritornello (*harmonium*)

Sanctus (*soloists and chorus*)

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth!

Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.

Osana in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine domini.

Osana in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts!

Heaven and Earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed be He Who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

O salutaris (*soprano solo*)

O salutaris hostia quae coeli pandis ostium.

Bella premunt hostilia. Da robur. Fer auxilium.

O saving victim Who opens the gate of Heaven.

Hostile wars oppress us. Give us strength. Bring us help.

Agnus Dei (*contralto solo and chorus*)

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, take pity upon us.

Give us peace.



Alessandra Testai – Soprano

Soprano Alessandra Testai was born in the port city of Livorno, Tuscany. She began her singing studies at Liceo Musicale Pietro Mascagni, subsequently attending the University of Pisa. She continued her singing studies in London at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Alessandra has her musical roots in the varied traditions of Italian song – opera, classical recital repertoire and the popular songs of the street and countryside. She has sung as a soloist in opera and oratorio in several international festivals throughout Europe; roles include Susanna in *Le*

Nozze di Figaro (Cortona, Italy), Eve and Gabriel in Haydn's *Creation* (Cyprus) and various roles in Cavalieri's *Rappresentazione di Anima e di Corpo* (La Chaise-Dieu, France, and Southwark Festival, London), Jephthe, and Vanitas 1 and 2 by Carissimi, Pergolesi's *Serva Padrona* and *Stabat Mater*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Bach *Magnificat*, Mozart's *Vesperae Solemnae*, Purcell's *The Fairy Queen*, *The Island Princess* and *Dido and Aeneas*, Monteverdi's *Orfeo*, Cimarosa's *Amor Rende Sagace*, Papagena and the First Spirit in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and recently the soprano soloist in Rossini's *Stabat Mater* and *Petite Messe Solennelle*.

Alessandra has given lectures and classes in Italian vocal studies at the Royal Academy of Music, Trinity College, the Royal College of Music, the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and at the University of Malmö in Sweden. Forthcoming engagements include various recitals for Arts Centres and music societies with her lutenist husband Robin Jeffrey, and with The Tivoli Café Band.



Virginia Stone – Contralto

Born in Surrey, Virginia made her debut as an oratorio soloist at the age of seventeen; she went on to become a prize-winning student at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, in the City of London.

Virginia was formerly well-known as a soprano. Concert engagements have taken her throughout the U.K. and to France, Germany and Singapore.

Her oratorio repertoire covers a wide range of musical styles and she has performed in most of the celebrated choral works. Recent performances have included Mendelssohn's

Elijah, Mozart's *Requiem* and Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*. Other contemporary pieces include Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* and Tippett's *Third Symphony*.

Notable operatic appearances are: First Lady in Mozart's *Magic Flute*, Mrs Ford in Nicolai's *Merry Wives of Windsor* and Climene in Cavalli's *L'Egisto*. Virginia is also involved in church music and sings regularly at St. Cuthbert's in Earls Court.

Away from music, Virginia can be seen thrashing a ball on a tennis court or tearing around on her bicycle!



John Upperton – Tenor

Born in Co. Durham, John then read Music at the University of Liverpool as a first study pianist, continuing as a postgraduate singer at the Royal College of Music. He studies with David Pollard and works closely with the conductor David Roblou.

ROH engagements include Gherardo (*Gianni Schicchi*) and Panas (*Tsarina's Slippers*). At ENO he understudied Walter (*The Passenger*) Gregor (*Makropulos Case*), Herod (*Salome*) and Molqi in *The Death of Klinghoffer*. He is principal tenor for Midsummer Opera and has also

appeared with Longborough Festival Opera, Garsington and Birmingham Opera. Engagements abroad included New Israeli Opera and Teatro Olimpico, Vicenza. For his QEH début he sang Pirro in Rossini's *Ermione* and for his Purcell Room début, Janáček's *Zápisník Zmizelého*, which he recorded in April 2010. A gradual move into heavier repertoire includes the roles: Idomeneo, Florestan, Pollione, Edgardo, Don Carlo, Radamès, Macduff, Cavaradossi, Luigi, Caláf, Don José, Werther, Max, Lohengrin, Tristan, Siegmund. Siegfried, Tannhäuser, Bacchus, Chairman Mao, Peter Grimes and Aschenbach.

Concert repertoire includes Liszt's *Tre Sonetti di Petrarca*, Dvoák and Poulenc song cycles, Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*, Berlioz's *Les Nuits d'été*, Finzi's *Dies Natalis*, Strauss Songs, Dvoák's *Stabat Mater*, Verdi's *Requiem*, Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* and Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass*.



Michael R. Bundy – Bass

Michael Bundy, a music graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, has performed widely in diverse genres. He has appeared as soloist with The Sixteen, The OAE and with many distinguished conductors, including Trevor Pinnock and Sir John Eliot Gardiner. His operatic repertoire exceeds forty roles and he has sung with ENO, Kent Opera, Scottish Opera, the Royal Opera and Theater Basel. His work has also taken him to the Obecní Dum and the Narodni Divadlo (Prague), Mauritius and the Americas. He has issued three recordings for Naxos (mélodies by Widor, Vierne and Tournemire), and a book on the subject – Prophets without

Honour – plus recordings of Purcell *The Fairy Queen*, Chausson *Le Roi Arthus*, Tovey *The Bride of Dionysus* and Michael Hurd's *The Widow of Ephesus*. An exponent of contemporary music, he has premièred works by John Hardy, Eddie McGuire, Noam Sherriff, Francis Grier and Cecilia McDowall; on a lighter note, he has broadcast the roles of Olin Britt (*Music Man*) and Mr. Lindquist (*A Little Night Music*).



Marcus Andrews – solo piano

Marcus Andrews is a British pianist with a diverse repertoire of music spanning the 18th to 21st centuries. He has given solo, chamber and concerto performances at major venues in London including the Wigmore Hall, South Bank Centre and St Martin in the fields, as well as at music societies and festivals across the United Kingdom. Internationally, he has performed in the USA, Bermuda, France, Germany, Italy, Finland and the Lebanon. Particular areas of interest include the music of Nicolas Medtner and chamber music. Marcus studied privately with Yvonne Dinwiddy and then at Trinity College of Music with Simon Young, where he was awarded the Keyboard Silver Medal and won the Jaques Samuel Pianos Prize. He was then

appointed Graduate Assistant Accompanist at the University of Connecticut, where he studied with Neal Larrabee for his Master's Degree. He was awarded the Evelyn Bonar Storrs Scholarship and made a member of the National Musicians' Honor Society Pi Kappa Lambda. He has undertaken additional study as a bursary student at Dartington International Summer School and was invited to participate in the International Beethoven Masterclass in Positano by John O'Connor.

Marcus is a member of the Karrilon Trio and the Backman Trio. This season the Backman Trio will be recording contemporary English and Finnish music and giving numerous performances in both countries. Marcus won the TWIYCA accompanist prize with flautist Susan FitzGerald and the Harold Clarke Duo Prize with oboist Clare Welfare. He is a Professor of Piano at Blackheath Conservatoire and a tutor on the Kent International Piano Course.



Christopher Harris – harmonium

Christopher is a freelance musician and teacher who studied music as an organ scholar at Jesus College, Oxford, specialising in Medieval Music in Great Britain. He has continued his organ studies with The RCO/ St Giles Organ School and has given organ recitals in Westminster Abbey, St Martins-in-the-Fields and Queens College, Oxford.

He now works regularly with at least five choirs either as conductor or accompanist.

Works recently performed include Belshazzar's Feast, Bach's Mass in B minor, Mozart's Requiem as well as Vivaldi's Gloria and Britten's St Nicholas in St James, Piccadilly. As conductor of The Chancel Singers in Tunbridge Wells he will also be leading the music for services in Canterbury and Rochester cathedrals with bookings confirmed for York and Southwell Minsters and St Paul's Cathedral over the coming years.



Richard Jenkinson – Musical Director

This has been a really busy and successful season for Richard and for all his choirs. September saw the launch of his new choir Kent Chorus, which has quickly become established and popular, attracting more than 100 singers during its first year. The two major concerts, Mozart's *Requiem* and Handel's *Messiah*, were performed to sell-out audiences, standing ovations and great critical acclaim! Highlights with the London Orpheus Choir have also included a very successful *Messiah*, plus a celebrity Charity Christmas Concert and Britten's *St. Nicolas*.

Meridian Voices had a particularly hectic autumn and Christmas schedule, including a beautiful performance of Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* with authentic historic instruments at Finchcocks Museum in Kent. There was also a visit to East Grinstead's twin town of Mindelheim, where Richard conducted the combined German and English choirs, orchestra and soloists in a performance of Vivaldi's *Gloria*, and where social and cultural links were renewed and strengthened.

Most of all, this has been EGCS's Diamond Jubilee Season with so many memorable and successful concerts and events: Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, "*Last Night of the Christmas Proms*" at Chequer Mead and a superb spring concert of Baroque and Classical highlights with string quintet and organ.

But this has also been a sad year for EGCS with the deaths of two members. The choir sang at the funeral of John Fox, when the music was powerful, moving, uplifting – all at once. More recently the choir gave a Memorial Concert for David Stevens, with superb and sensitive interpretations of many works, including Faure's *Requiem*.

Also in this most busy year, EGCS organised and led the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Concert for our home town; another major success, and involving approximately 75 children from local primary schools who, as well as performing their own items, were thrilled to join in the choral experience of Handel's *Zadok* and Parry's *I was glad*.

All this goes to show why EGCS is rightly considered to be one of the leading choirs for the area and for many miles around! We are also seeing now the birth of many exciting plans, ideas and a new vision for the future.

Richard continues to enjoy his other role as solo organist and Continuo player with many concerts, plus appearances as guest organist for various Festival services, etc. He also greatly values his role as rehearsal accompanist to Forest Row Choral Society and to the Sussex Festival Choir.

Next Season, which marks his 25th anniversary with EGCS, is full of great music for all of Richard's choirs: works to be performed include Brahms *Requiem*, Haydn *Nelson Mass*, Bach's *B minor Mass* and *St. John Passion*, works by Schubert, Vivaldi, Pachelbel and Albinoni and a "*Magic of Mozart*" concert with EGCS at Chequer Mead.

East Grinstead Choral Society

Sopranos: Christine Baelz · Margaret Barnett · Cathy Brooke · Shoura Choubersky · Jane Clifford · Ros Dewar · Kay Fox · Jackie Frewing · Audrey Hadfield · Alanya Holder · Sarah Jacobs · Ros Livesey · Catherine Mangan · Gill Matson · Judith Moulange · Gill Olliver · Mary Osborn · Helen Phillips · Edith Ridout · Christina Robinson · Rachel Rogers · Felicia Shanahan · Sue Sharp · Diane Sherman · Liz Siwicka · Joan Thomas · Viv Turner · Sheila Walsh · Margaret Watt

Altos: Fiona Ablett · Christine Armstrong · Alison Barnett · Isabella Barton · Joan Bateman · Andrea Cater · Sheila Drury · Linda Edwards · Chris Grist · Gwyneth Gwenlan · Shirley Harrison · Linda Hope · Christine Jordan · Jane Lamb · Karin Leach · Sarah MacKenzie · Murial Mathers · Christine Matthews · Mandy McLeod · Catherine Older · Linn Parker · Joan Poole · Di Rees · Joyce Stevens · Frances Stapleton · Fiona Strzysuski · Georgina Westlake · Anne White · Jackie Wood · Mary Woodroffe

Tenors: Nigel Baelz · Marcus Clifford · Chris Dutton · Bob Hawley · Peter Puttock · Tom Scratchley · Chris Yate

Basses: Kim Barnett · John Cakebread · Andrew Clifford · Francis Crockford · John Cull · Aubrey Davidson · David Firshman · David Hadfield · Trevor Harrison · Phillip Holland · Geoff Lamb · Keith Maclean · John Older · Chris Reece · Kevin Stacey

Forthcoming events

Forest Row Choral Society and Friends "Sing Britannia!"

Saturday 7th July, 7.30pm – Holy Trinity Church, Forest Row

- **Patriotic music by Elgar, Handel and others**

London Orpheus Choir – www.londonorpheuschoir.co.uk

Saturday 3rd November, 7pm – St. James's, Piccadilly

- **Brahms – Requiem; Mendelssohn – Four Sacred Partsongs**

Kent Chorus – www.kentchorus.co.uk

Sunday 18th November, 4pm – Salomons, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells

- **Haydn – Nelson Mass; Vivaldi – Gloria**

With Meridian Orchestra – led by George Clifford

Exciting new season with EGCS!

September 2012 will see the re-launch of this famous choir, well-known over many years for the high quality of its concerts, and having just celebrated "60 Glorious Years"!

Be part of the success!

- **Sing** with us:
 - Rehearsals are fun and friendly, but hard-working.
 - They are held in the pleasant surroundings of the studio at the Jubilee Community Centre.
 - They are led by EGCS's two experienced professional musicians – **Jeremy Barham** and **Richard Jenkinson**.
 - There's practical help with learning the music.
 - There's socialising after rehearsals – plus parties!
- Other ways to **be involved**:
 - Join our **mailing list**, become a **Friend** or **Patron**.
 - **Advertise** on our posters or in our programmes.
 - **Attend** our concerts and **bring your friends!**

Keep in touch via our website: www.egcs.co.uk, or follow us on Facebook or Twitter and watch out for our **new season brochure**.

Saturday October 27th 2012 – St Mary's Church, Windmill Lane

Schubert – *Mass in G*, Albinoni, Pachelbel and others.
With Meridian Chamber Ensemble.

Saturday 15th December 2012 – Sackville School

Holst – *Christmas Day*, plus carols for choir and carols for all.
With local school choir.

Saturday 16th March 2013 – Jubilee Community Centre

Haydn's *Creation* with full orchestra and professional soloists.

Saturday 6th July 2013 – Chequer Mead Theatre

'*The Magic of Mozart*'.
With Meridian Chamber Orchestra and soloists.