

25th Anniversary Concert

FAURÉ Requiem | VAUGHAN WILLIAMS A Sea Symphony Monday 6 July, 7.30pm | Barbican Centre, London

Celebrating 25 years since its first concert in the summer of 1984, Crouch End Festival Chorus will perform two popular works on Monday 6 July at the Barbican.

For the chorus, the concert nestles between an album release, plus outdoor gig, with The Kinks' Ray Davies in June; and in August its sixth appearance at the BBC Proms, performing Berlioz *Te Deum*. It's a mark of the extraordinary journey the chorus has made in a relatively short space of time, and typical of a busy and varied schedule that helps to maintain a famously high standard of music making.

Gabriel Fauré's simple and beautiful Requiem (written 1887-1890) was begun shortly after the death of his father, although whether this was influential is open to debate: Fauré later said it was "composed for nothing ... for fun". Of its Pie Jesu movement, Saint-Saëns said, "just as Mozart's is the only Ave Verum Corpus, this is the only Pie Jesu".

Ralph Vaughan Williams's music is thought of as quintessentially English, although in *A Sea Symphony* (written 1903-1909) you can hear the influence of his younger mentor, Maurice Ravel. These settings of poems by Walt Whitman established the young Vaughan Williams as a major composer. The sea was a popular source of inspiration at the time – other works include Elgar's *Sea Pictures* and Stanford's *Songs of the Sea* – and they reflect the ocean's expansiveness and mystery, its changing moods and its importance to us as an island nation.

David Temple, the choir's conductor and co-founder, sang with the London Philharmonic Choir for several years before founding Crouch End Festival Chorus. He says, "strangely enough, *Sea Symphony* is one of the few standard works I have never sung, so our first performance of this with Crouch End was probably my first as a conductor where I wasn't singing the tenor part out loud throughout." The Fauré was a staple for the chorus in its early years – an early performance featured a young Bryn Terfel as a soloist. The only performance in the last 15 years was a recent collaboration with Fortismere School, an example of the Chorus's increasing outreach work.

The line-up also includes the **London Orchestra da Camera**, with soprano **Naomi Harvey** and baritone **Grant Doyle**. The soprano in the Requiem will be **Maeve Campbell** from the acclaimed Finchley Children's Music Group, with whom the chorus have frequently worked.

ENDS

PERFORMANCE AND BOOKING INFORMATION

Monday 6 June, 7.30pm
Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS

TICKETS: £24 – £9.50

- Half price for ages 18 and under
- 20% discount for CEFC Friends, Crouch End Card holders and Barbican Card holders

Box office: 020 7638 8891 | www.barbican.org.uk

Notes: see over



Conductor:
David Temple

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2009



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NOTES

In the last year, the singers of **Crouch End Festival Chorus** have sung at the BBC Proms and the BBC Electric Proms; in the chorus's own concert promotions at the Barbican and the new King's Place; and recently in two packed-out performances of Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610* with Emma Kirkby and period instruments in home turf in Muswell Hill.

Early June sees the release of *Kinks Choral Classics* – 15 new recordings with Ray Davies, to be followed by a joint concert at Kenwood House, Hampstead Heath. On 2 August the chorus performs Berlioz *Te Deum* at the Proms. The chorus also features on the new album by Kate Royal.

In recent months it has expanded its outreach work, including a special performance with primary schools, funded by Thornton's Budgeons. The choir celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2009, and during this anniversary year it has given world premieres by Matthew Ferraro, Orlando Gough and jazz composer Roland Perrin.

ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND - PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

On 19 June, the chorus will make its Friday night rehearsal public, offering a fascinating insight into how concerts are prepared. Venue: Fortismere School (South Wing), Tetherdown, Muswell Hill. 7.15pm

And on the morning of 20 June the chorus will host a light hearted singing workshop. Venue: Hornsey School For Girls, Inderwick Road, Crouch End. 11am.

Full details to follow soon.



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