

Waverley  Singers



Messiah

— in —

FARNHAM

'From Scratch'

Saturday

14 October, 2017

at Farnham Maltings

Conductor Richard Pearce

with the Chameleon Arts Orchestra

Soprano Eleanor Sanderson-Nash

Alto Hannah Poulson

Tenor Stephen Mills • *Bass* Harry Thatcher

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The Waverley Singers are sorry to announce that Hannah Poulson is indisposed and unable to sing the Alto solos this evening. However, we are delighted to welcome Olivia Warburton who has come at very short notice to take Hannah's place.

Olivia Warburton studies on the opera course at the Royal Academy of Music under Kate Paterson, Yvonne Howard and Andrew Smith. After graduating with first class honours and distinction from both the BMus and MA programmes, Olivia spent time as Erasmus student at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz, Köln with Prof. Brigitte Lindner. During her studies she was awarded the Andrew S Sykes Prize for outstanding achievement; the Lesley Garrett Opera Prize; and the Most Promising Singer Award (Dean and Chadlington Festival).

A keen recitalist, Olivia has made debuts at the Aldeburgh and Oxford Lieder Festivals. She is a Britten Pears Young Artist, Samling Artist and member of the Academy's prestigious Song Circle. Olivia has performed at venues including Wigmore Hall, St John's Smith Square, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Kings Place, and the Royal Courts of Justice. This season she looks forward to performing in a concert of Venetian songs curated by Richard Stokes at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace.

As a soloist and regular chorus member for the Bach/Kohn Foundation Bach Cantata Series, she has worked with leading harpsichordists and conductors including Laurence Cummings and Masaaki Suzuki - in 2015 performances in collaboration with The Julliard School took her on tour to the Lincoln Center, New York; the Boston Early Music Festival and the Bach Festival, Leipzig. Operatic highlights include the title role in *Dido and Aeneas* under Michael Chance, Valetto in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* for Royal Academy Opera and the roles of Cherubino *Le nozze di Figaro*, Rosina *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and Annio *La clemenza di Tito* for Royal Academy Opera Scenes. This season she looks forward to performing the role of Stewardess in *Flight* for Royal Academy Opera.

Olivia is grateful to the Countess of Munster and Josephine Baker Trusts for their support of her studies.



Richard Pearce *Conductor*

Richard Pearce was organ scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge, where as conductor and organist he toured and recorded extensively with the chapel choir. After graduating with first class honours in music, he studied piano accompaniment for two years at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. He is fortunate to work in a variety of musical fields, but working with chamber choirs and choruses has become a speciality. Richard enjoys the challenge of preparing an extremely wide variety of repertoire including much contemporary and new music. He records and broadcasts regularly with the BBC Singers. He has a long-standing association



with the Royal Choral Society, and performs with them several times a year at the Royal Albert Hall in London. In addition he makes twice-yearly trips to Sweden to work with groups in the Stockholm and Malmö areas. Richard is regular organist with the Philharmonia and BBC Symphony Orchestras in London. He also performs regularly in Promenade concerts and recordings, including at the *Last Night of the Proms* to a worldwide television audience. He frequently conducts and plays for services at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster and at the Houses of Parliament. Richard is a vocal coach and staff accompanist at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London.

Eleanor Sanderson-Nash *Soprano*

Eleanor is from Wadhurst in East Sussex. In 2017 she graduated from the Masters of Performance course at the Royal College of Music with Distinction under the tutelage of Janis Kelly and Caroline Dowdle, where she was supported by a Martin Harris Award and a Charles Branchini Award, the Josephine Baker Trust, Friends of Music in Mayfield, The Lake House Charitable Foundation and the Tom Cocklin Memorial Trust. She also won First Prize in the RCM Lied Competition in 2017 and was the recipient of the Ted Moss and Bertha Taylor-Stach Prize. In opera, Eleanor has enjoyed playing roles including Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*, Mozart), Helena (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Britten), Nanetta (*Falstaff*, Verdi), Despina (*Così fan*



Tutte, Mozart), Childerico (*Faramondo*, Handel) Eurilla (*Acis and Galatea*, Handel) Ida (cover) (*Die Fledermaus*, Strauss), Cobweb (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Britten), Ellen (*Lakmé*, Delibes), April (*Company*, Sondheim) and Elisetta (*Il Matrimonio Segreto*, Cimarosa). Recent concert engagements include Dvorak *Stabat Mater*, Haydn *St Nicholas Mass*, Rossini *Petite Messe Solennelle*, Haydn *Stabat Mater*, Mozart *Requiem*, Mozart *Coronation Mass in C Major*, Haydn *Little Organ Mass* and Handel *Messiah*. Eleanor is looking forward to performing First Woman in Judith Weir's *The Vanishing Bridegroom* for British Youth Opera. Eleanor also has future engagements with Merry Opera Company, and Ormond Opera.

Hannah Poulson *Mezzo-Soprano*

Hannah is from Dockenfield in Surrey. She began studies on the Royal Academy Opera Course in September of 2016, having obtained a Distinction in her Masters at the Royal Academy of Music and continues her training under the tutelage of Elizabeth Ritchie and Iain Ledingham. Hannah is a recipient of the Alice Gamble Award. Recent operatic roles include; Anna Kennedy *Maria Stuarda*, Donizetti (*Magnetic Opera*), Mrs. Grose *The Turn of the Screw* Britten (Manchester Opera Ensemble), Raven and Chorus *May Night*



Rimsky-Korsakov (Royal Academy Opera), Hippolyta *A Midsummer Night's Dream* Britten (Surrey Opera), Bradamante *Alcina* Handel (RAO), Junon *Orphée aux enfers* Offenbach at Hackney Empire (RAO), and Frau Peachum in RAO's *Die Dreigroschenoper* by Kurt Weill. Oratorio appearances and up-coming season performances include Pergolesi *Stabat Mater*, Handel *Dixit Dominus*, Bach *St John Passion*, Haydn *Nelson Mass* and *The Creation*, Vivaldi *Gloria*, Mendelssohn *Elijah* and Duruflé *Requiem*, and she is looking forward to singing the solos in Mahler's

3rd Symphony. She is currently in the midst of a world premier tour of Louis Mander's *The Life to Come* with libretto by Stephen Fry, and is preparing for her next role of Minskwoman, in RAO's

Flight by Jonathan Dove. Hannah is sponsored by the Josephine Baker Trust and also the Mario Lanza Educational Foundation and gratefully acknowledges their support.

Stephen Mills Tenor

Stephen is in demand throughout the classical repertoire and is sought after for both Oratorio and Opera, as well as on the concert platform. He is currently undertaking a Masters in Performance as the Dmitri Hvorostovsky Scholar at the Royal College of Music. He is also generously supported by The Kathleen Trust, The Clemence Charitable Settlement, The Mario Lanza Educational Foundation, The Tom Cocklin Trust and the Josephine Baker Trust. In 2014, Stephen received a First Class Honours degree from the Birmingham Conservatoire where he studied with Julian Pike and Paul Bambrough, having received a scholarship from the EMI Music Sound Foundation. His operatic experience includes Le Fils in *Les mamelles de Tirésias*, Ormindo in Cavalli's *Ormindo*, Vašek in *The Bartered Bride*, Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Gherardo in *Gianni Schicchi*, Richard Dauntless in *Ruddigore*, Hugh in *Hugh the Drover*, Mr Erlanson in *A Little Night Music*, and Le Chevalier in *Dialogues des Carmélites*. Stephen has



been a member of the Grange Park Opera Chorus in both 2015 and 2016 in their productions of *La Bohème*, *Samson et Dalila*, *La Fanciulla del West* and *Don Carlo*. He also sang in the Chorus at Lyon Opera House in the world première of *Benjamin, dernière nuit* as part of the 'Festival pour l'humanité' in January 2016. Stephen performed the part of Heddle Nash in Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music* at Buckingham Palace in

February 2017, and Vaughan Williams' *On Wenlock Edge* at Leith Hill Place, Surrey in May 2017 with Dr Natasha Loges and the Bach Quartet. Stephen reached the finals of the RCM Lieder Prize in 2016, the Kathleen Ferrier Youth Competition in 2011, the Reginald Vincent Lieder Prize in 2012 and the Edward Brookes Lieder Prize in 2014. His solo oratorio experience includes Bach's *Magnificat*, *B Minor Mass*, *St. John Passion* and *Christmas Oratorio*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Mozart's *C Minor Mass* and *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah*, Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, *Missa Sancti Nicolai* and *Creation*, Gounod's *Messe Solennelle de Ste. Cécile* and Britten's *Saint Nicolas Mass*.

Harry Thatcher Baritone

Harry is a Music International Artist. He is a Betty Brenner Scholar and is supported by the Basil Coleman Opera Award, the Josephine Baker Trust, the Tom Cocklin Trust and the Countess of Munster at The Royal College of Music. Harry has studied with Andrew Watts and Peter Savidge, and is currently under the tutelage of Russell Smythe. On the concert platform Harry has performed with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Orchestra of Opera North at the Royal Albert Hall and the Birmingham Symphony Hall. He has sung the bass solos in oratorios including Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Haydn's



Creation and various Bach Cantatas. Operatic roles and scenes for The Royal College of Music International Opera School include Erste

Priester *Die Zauberflöte* (Mozart), Billy Budd *Billy Budd* (Britten), Tarquinius *The Rape of Lucretia* (Britten), Demetrius *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Britten) and Frank *Die Fledermaus* (Strauss). Harry has covered the role of Death *Savitri* (Holst) and has sung Spencer Coyle in *Owen Wingrave* (Britten) for British Youth Opera. The 2016 season included two roles for Grange Park Opera. Harry sang Bello *La Fanciulla del West* (Puccini) and Flemish Deputy *Don Carlo* (Verdi). Harry was a Somerset Song Competition finalist

2015 and Won the Basil A Turner prize 2017 for Spencer Coyle in *Owen Wingrave* (BYO). This season includes a set of Britten Scenes and *Faramondo*

(Handel) at the RCMIOS where he will sing the role of Teobaldo. Harry will sing Starek in *Jenufa* in his first major role for Grange Park Opera.

The Chameleon Arts Orchestras were formed in 1987 by Chameleon Arts Management, to answer the need of Choral Societies nationwide for quality performances of the great works for choir and orchestra. From Monteverdi to Maxwell Davies and beyond, the orchestras perform in Churches, Cathedrals and Concert Halls throughout the country and can regularly be seen in concert at venues such as St John's Smith Square, Worcester Cathedral, Sherborne Abbey, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Tewkesbury Abbey, Leominster Priory, Ripon Cathedral, Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Southwark Cathedral and the prestigious Saffron Hall.

The Players

Leader: Simon Baggs

First violins: Rebekah Allan, Miranda Allen, Orpheus Leander, Hugh Davies

Principal 2nd violin: Alistair Kennedy

Second violins: David Burton, Emma Shackleton, Helen Twomey

Principal Viola: Adrian Smith

Violas: Jane Brown, Jane Tyler

Principal Cello: Lorraine Deacon

Cello: Lawrence Durkin

Principal Double Bass: Damon Burrows

Oboes: Sue Busby, Juliet Lewis

Bassoon: Dieter Hester

Trumpets: Dave Shead, David Price

Timpani: Liz Barker

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We support adult patients and families across the whole of West Surrey and part of North East Hampshire. 85% of our care is provided away from the In-patient Unit, through outpatient appointments, Hospice Care at Home, and Community Services.

Our care is tailored to the needs of each individual patient, and is provided free of charge for all patients, their carers and families.

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We spend £6.2 million a year on patient and family care. Only 20% is covered by the NHS/Government; the majority of our funds come from donations, wills, fundraising events and our shops. For every £1 we spend/invest on fundraising, we raise £3.

OUR FUTURE CONCERTS

Verdi Requiem 7.30 pm Saturday

11th November in Romsey Abbey, with the Romsey Choral Society, *Conductor* Jamie Hall.

Christmas Concert 7.30 pm Saturday

16th December, in St Andrew's Farnham.

Organ Philip Scriven; *Conductor* Richard Pearce

Verdi Requiem 7.30 pm Saturday 27th January 2018, in

Guildford Cathedral, with the Romsey Choral Society; Brandenburg Sinfonia; *Conductor* Richard Pearce

If you have enjoyed singing Handel's *Messiah* with us, why not come and join the Waverley Singers as a regular member? We welcome new members at any time of the year. Please come along for one or more rehearsals, free of charge, to see if this is for you. We normally rehearse at South Farnham School, Menin Way, Farnham, on Thursdays between 7.30 and approximately 9.45 pm.

For more information, please visit our website www.waverleysingers.com or telephone our membership secretary, Carolyn Heathcote, on 01420 475418.

We look forward to seeing you soon.


**Waverley
Singers**



Treloar School, Alton



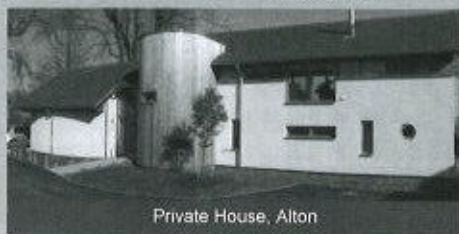
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