

CIRENCESTER
CHORAL
SOCIETY

Conductor: Carleton Etherington



Edward Elgar

From the Bavarian Highlands

John Rutter

Requiem

and movements from

Suite Antique

Alison Shone *soprano*

Jenny Rees *piano*

Jane Groves *flute*

7.30 pm Saturday 5th May 2007
The Bingham Hall, Cirencester

REQUIEM

1	Requiem Aeternam	JOHN RUTTER (b1945)
2	Out of the Deep (Psalm 130)	Chorus
3	Pie Jesu	Chorus
4	Sanctus	Soprano Solo and Chorus
5	Agnus Dei	Chorus
6	The Lord is my Shepherd (Psalm 23)	Chorus
7	Lux Aeterna	Soprano Solo and Chorus

INTERVAL (20 minutes)

Wine and soft drinks available in the Bingham Suite to the right of the hall

SUITE ANTIQUE

(arranged for flute and piano)

JOHN RUTTER (b1945)

FROM THE BAVARIAN HIGHLANDS (Op 27)

EDWARD ELGAR (1857-1934)

I	The Dance (<i>Sonnenbichl</i>)	IV.	Aspiration (<i>Bei Sankt Anton</i>)
II	False Love (<i>Wamberg</i>)	V.	On the Alm (<i>Hoch Alp</i>)
III	Lullaby (<i>In Hammersbach</i>)	VI.	The Marksmen (<i>Bei Marnau</i>)

Alison Shone (*soprano*) has been developing her career as a soloist since leaving college in 2003. She has sung under the baton of some of the country's best-known conductors and features on a number of recordings of opera, oratorio and church music, on labels such as *Chandos, Hyperion and Priory Records*. Since making her solo debut on BBC Radio 3 in Bach's Christmas Oratorio in 2003, Alison has been seen and heard frequently on BBC Radio and TV and has sung with many of the leading choral societies and at music festivals throughout the country. Alison was awarded a scholarship to study as an undergraduate at the Royal Academy of Music at the age of 18. After graduating, she went on to gain a Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Performance, with distinction, at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, winning numerous singing prizes during the course of her studies.

Jenny Rees (*piano*) studied clarinet at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and graduated with a Performer's Diploma and an award for her contribution to chamber music. While at the Welsh College, Jenny

discovered her talent for accompanying others on piano, often performing in recitals with Jane Groves, her partner in *The Berkeley Duo* of piano and flute. After college, Jenny soon established herself as a freelance professional musician and teacher. Recently, she renewed her early interest in composition and has written works for the Bristol Brass Consort and the Cardiff Amateur Flute Ensemble. Her full choral setting of Psalm 148, *Praise the Lord*, was given its premiere performance by Cirencester Choral Society in December 2006. Jenny is accompanist to both Cirencester and Stroud Choral Societies and regularly performs with other soloists.

Jane Groves (*flute*) has developed a career in both performing and teaching the flute and in music publishing. As well as partnering Jenny Rees in *The Berkeley Duo*, Jane plays in the *Mwynion Mai Flute and Harp Duo* with Eluned Scourfield. She is a member of the Welsh Flute Trio and founded the Cardiff Amateur Flute Ensemble. After graduating in 1990, Jane freelanced with the BBC and the Welsh National Opera. She now plays regularly with the Welsh Sinfonia and the Bristol Philharmonic.

Requiem

JOHAN RUTTER'S REQUIEM, completed in 1985, includes some of his most exhilarating choral music. It combines the Latin liturgy of the Requiem Mass with English texts from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer and two psalms, including his much loved setting of The Lord is my Shepherd, originally written as a separate anthem in 1976. The work is a meditation on the themes of life and death and is set for soprano soloist, mixed choir and small orchestra. It was first performed as a complete work in 1985 at Lovers' Lane United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas by the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra, conducted by the composer. It quickly became one of Rutter's most loved compositions and is often regarded as his finest choral work. This evening's performance will be the first by the Society.

Suite Antique

THE SUITE ANTIQUE was written for the Cookham Festival in 1979. Rutter set the work for flute, harpsichord and strings, the same combination of instruments required for Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No 5, which had already been selected for the programme. It comprises six movements – Prelude, Ostinato, Aria, Waltz, Chanson and Rondo. A reduction for flute and piano has since been published and it is in this form that movements from the work are being performed this evening.

From the Bavarian Highlands

THE CHORAL SONGS that make up *From the Bavarian Highlands* are Elgar's musical settings of six poems written by his wife, Alice. These were inspired by the folk music

and dancing they had enjoyed during a succession of holidays spent in Bavaria during the early 1890s. Each song is subtitled by the name of one of the places they visited, although there is no obvious association between the songs and these locations. Completed in 1895 and set first for piano and then for orchestral accompaniment, the work had its premiere at the Worcester Festival in April 1896. The following year Elgar arranged the music from the first, third and sixth songs as an orchestral suite, entitled *Three Bavarian Dances*. This was first performed at the Crystal Palace in October 1897. From the Bavarian Highlands was chosen for this evening's programme to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Elgar's birth in 1857. Our concert records, which are almost complete back to 1945, show that the Society has not previously sung the work in the post-war period.

Carleton Etherington (*conductor*) was appointed Conductor of Cirencester Choral Society in January 2005. Since 1996 he has been Organist of Tewkesbury Abbey, also directing the Abbey Choir and accompanying the Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum. After London University, Carleton studied at the Royal Academy of Music where he was awarded the Recital Diploma. In 1992 he won first prize at the Paisley International Organ Competition and the following year won the Royal College of Organists' "Performer of the Year" competition in London. He is Chairman of the Gloucestershire Organists' Association and a Council Member of the Royal College of Organists. He has performed throughout Europe, Australia and the USA, broadcasts frequently on BBC Radio and has won considerable acclaim for his CD recordings. Carleton is also the Musical Director of Pershore Choral Society.

Future Choral Society Events at the Bingham Hall

Saturday 8 December 2007: Franz Joseph Haydn: *The Creation*

Haydn was inspired to write an oratorio on hearing Handel during his first visit to England at one of the great Handel festivals in Westminster Abbey. The Creation, completed in 1798, tells the story of the creation of the world based on a text adapted from Milton's Paradise Lost. It endures as the supreme choral masterpiece of Haydn's later years and has been second only to Handel's Messiah in popularity with choirs and audiences alike. It was, incidentally, the first major work ever performed by the Society, in May 1867.

Tuesday 18 December 2007: Carol Concert

A concert of Christmas music, including carols for choir and audience, in support of a local charity.

Saturday 2 February 2008: One-day Choral Workshop

Come and enjoy a day of choral singing under the direction of a guest conductor. Open to all singers. Details will be announced later in the year.

The Society's main concerts in 2008 will be held on Saturday 3 May and Saturday 13 December 2008 – programmes to be announced later this year.

Would you like to sing with us?

We are a friendly society and welcome new members in all voices, without audition. The ability to read music and previous experience of singing in parts is desirable but not essential. We commit to regular rehearsal and aim to be professional in our approach to the music we learn and perform. If you are interested in singing with us please telephone our membership Secretary, Anne Vickers, on 01285 659114, e-mail membership@cirencester-choral-soc.org.uk, or come and try us out at a rehearsal. These are held at St Peter's Hall, St Peter's Road, Cirencester on Tuesday evenings, 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Rehearsals for *The Creation* begin on 4 September 2007. You can find out more about the Society on our website at www.cirencester-choral-soc.org.uk.

Cirencester Choral Society is affiliated to Making Music (the National Federation of Music Societies) and is a Registered Charity No 276649.

The Society gratefully acknowledges the help of the Tourist Information Centre in providing box office facilities.

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