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Stephen Marquiss conductor

Ursula Voigt leader and violin solo

Monday 6 July 2009 7.30pm
St John's Church, Frome

Schubert Fierabras Overture

Bruch Violin Concerto No. 1

Interval

Borodin Symphony No. 2

Frome Symphony would like to thank Tony Fortune and Tracey Edis for programme notes, our guest musicians, the volunteers who have helped with organisation and front of house, our sponsors and the Friends of Frome Symphony for their continued support.

Music is kindly supplied by Somerset County Music and Drama Library.

Programme design by Tracey Edis
www.traceyedis.net

Programme Notes

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Fierabras Overture

Fierabras is a romantic opera in three acts, with a libretto by Joseph Kupelweiser. The overture, which was finished in October 1823, is a wonderful miniature. It opens with a tense introduction in the strings which is followed by a more romantic allegro. The writing for the low brass is very dramatic and there is a typically Schubertian oboe melody in the allegro. Even though such a small work, it is full of drama, and looks forward to Schumann and Berlioz. The opera's name seems to come from a twelfth century French epic poem, whose main characters are a Saracen prince, Fierabras, and the knight Olivier. Fierabras, (Fier-à-bras), means iron arm. He is a man of gigantic stature and a "bad guy turned good". There is also a 16th century German novel which belongs to the Charlemagne sagas, which is based on this earlier French epic.

Max Bruch (1838-1920)

Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor

Ursula Voigt violin

1. Vorspiel: Allegro moderato
2. Adagio
3. Allegro energico

This work, dating from 1868, will score high marks on anyone's list of favourite violin concertos, along with those of Brahms, Mendelssohn, Sibelius and Tchaikovsky. This is a relatively early work of Bruch's which was written at the age of thirty, and was to be followed by two further violin concertos. The latter did not achieve the popularity of the first, whereas his Scottish Fantasia for violin and orchestra and Kol Nidrei for cello and orchestra (performed by Frome Symphony at this year's spring concert) are still very favourably received and frequently performed. Bruch's works are generally in a conservative Classical/Romantic form. He carefully avoids the "fireworks" in vogue at the time, such as those being offered by Wagner and Liszt, and gives us an outstanding masterwork of its kind.

Alexander Borodin (1833-1887)

Symphony no. 2 in B minor

1. Allegro
2. Prestissimo
3. Andante
4. Allegro

Borodin was born the illegitimate son of a Georgian prince. He was given the name of Borodin, one of the prince's serfs, as was a common practice in such elevated circles of the time. He was fortunate in that his mother later married a retired military doctor and was then brought up in a privileged and cultured environment. At the early age of seventeen he won a place at the Medico-Surgical Academy of St Petersburg which prepared him for what was to become an outstanding career in teaching and research. Music was to him a secondary interest, but a subject in which he excelled. He joined forces with other outstanding musical contemporaries including Balakirev, Cui, Mussorgsky and Rimsky-Korsakov which were to become collectively known as "The Mighty Handful" and were to give to Russian music the distinctive characteristics by which we recognise it today. Borodin's second symphony was seven years in the making, being composed concurrently with his great opera, "Prince Igor". The first movement opens with a most sinister and menacing statement, said by Borodin to depict a gathering of Russian warriors. The symphony moves through its two inner movements, both rich with Borodin's melodiousness, to the final allegro which, in contrast to the menace of the first movement, is most exuberant and joyous.

Conductor

Stephen Marquiss was born in Bath and educated at Wells Cathedral School and Christ's College, Cambridge. He works as a freelance musician and a piano and pre-prep music teacher at Hazlegrove Preparatory School. He has held posts conducting the Christ's College Music Society Orchestra, The Westfield Ladies Choir and Assistant Musical Director of Frome Choral Society. Stephen's main musical interests are in piano and early years pedagogy, and in the therapeutic value of music. Stephen is the founder and Musical Director of Frome Symphony.



Soloist



Ursula Voigt began playing the violin at the age of four under the tuition of her father, one of the leaders of the Innsbruck Symphony Orchestra, one of Austria's leading professional orchestras. After gaining her concert and teaching diplomas, studying under some of Austria's leading teachers, she took over her father's position, which she held for some 15 years. She had always enjoyed working with children, and moved to the Innsbruck Musikschule where she became head of the string section. She also continued to give concerts and recitals as a member of several chamber orchestras and as a soloist, performing in Austria, Italy, Germany, France and England. After retiring, she now lives in Frome with her English partner, and was a founder member of Frome Symphony.

Frome Symphony

First Violins

Ursula Voigt (leader)
Maria Beaven
Joy Crouch
Sarah Johnston
David Ball
James Hobley

Second Violins

Estelle Earle
Sam Chilvers
Michael Fletcher
Margaret Pritchard

Violas

Patrick Dunn
Juliet Knollys
David Wright

Cellos

Chris Hurn
Fiona Blissett
Bethany Short
Julia Thomson
Francis Tyson

Double Basses

Jo Bell
Charles Roberts

Flutes

Emma Ball
Suzanne Moore
Linda Allen
Rosie Ray

Oboes

Alison Penn
Lydia Richards

Cor Anglais

Rachel Brotherton

Clarinets

Gemma Mounty
Guy Hobley

Bassoons

Tamsin Mains
Luke Tucker

Horns

Jon Benger
Andrew Fowler
Lydia Hoare
Martin Lovell

Trumpets

Laura Carvell
Huw Carrick

Trombones

Tony Duffin
Tracey Edis

Bass Trombone

Ray McKillen

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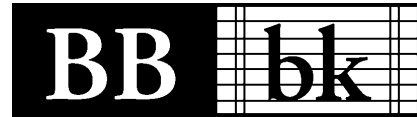
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