

# FROME SYMPHONY

**Mark Gateshill** conductor  
**Ursula Voigt** leader

**Saturday 5 December 2009**  
**7.30pm**  
**Holy Trinity Church, Frome**

**Humperdinck** Overture: “Hansel and Gretel”  
**Glinka** Kamarinskaya  
**Sibelius** Karelia Suite

*Interval*

**Schubert** Symphony no. 8 “Unfinished”

# Welcome

Frome Symphony would like to thank you for coming to our first concert of the 2009-10 season. We are particularly pleased to introduce this evening's conductor, Mark Gateshill, who joined us as Music Director in September.

Tonight's concert starts with a nod towards Christmas, with the overture to the fairy tale opera "Hansel and Gretel". We then turn to two romantic works based on the traditional music of Russia and Finland respectively.

The second half of the concert is devoted to Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony with its turbulent first movement and unsettled finale. Frome Symphony last performed this work during the 2004 Frome Festival, so it's definitely time it was given another airing!

Frome Symphony would like to thank Holy Trinity Church, our guest musicians, all the volunteers who have helped with organisation and front of house, Tony Fortune for programme notes, our sponsors and the Friends of Frome Symphony for their continued support. Music is kindly supplied by Somerset County Music and Drama Library.

Frome Symphony are pleased to be associated with the Positive Action on Cancer "Listening Ear" appeal. A collection will take place on behalf of the charity at the end of tonight's concert.

# Programme Notes

## **Engelbert Humperdinck (1858-1921)**

Overture: “Hansel and Gretel”

Surely we have all heard the fairy tale by the brothers Grimm? In the 1890s, Humperdinck’s sister, Adelheid wrote a libretto based on the story and asked her brother to set it as a Christmas entertainment for her children. This modest project was later to become a full scale opera, the overture of which is to be performed today.

It opens quietly with the children’s prayer as they fall asleep in the forest. The witch makes her presence felt with a motif on the trumpet followed by a short, whirling ride on her broomstick. Other tunes from the opera follow, culminating in the triumphal march of all the liberated children following the witch’s demise at Gretel’s hands when she thrusts her into her evil oven. The overture ends quietly as Hansel and Gretel, now reunited with their overjoyed parents, return to their home.

## **Mikhail Glinka (1804-1857)**

Symphonic Poem: “Kamarinskaya”

The title “Kamarinskaya” is derived from the second of two folk tunes used by Glinka in this work. This “Orchestral Fantasy” dating from 1848 was to have a profound influence on the young Tchaikovsky who wrote: “The present Russian school is all in ‘Kamarinskaya’ just as the whole oak is present in the acorn.”

Glinka had indeed given Russian music its outstanding national characteristic in his operas when turning from Germanic music to the songs of the peasant classes and making these people the leading characters therein rather than the nobility. He certainly prepared the foundations to be built upon by the great Russian composers who were to follow, and rightly earned the title: “The father of Russian music”.

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## **Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)**

### **Karelia Suite. Op.11.**

1. Intermezzo
2. Ballade
3. Alla Marcia

Karelia is an area of Finland of which Sibelius was particularly fond and is situated in the East of the country. The inhabitants of that part of Finland are reputed to be of a less dour temperament than their fellow countrymen, and this is reflected in their folk music which appealed greatly to the young Sibelius and is evident in his compositional style. The suite is taken from a much larger work originally written for a patriotic pageant when Sibelius was but twenty-three years of age, and remains one of his most popular and most frequently performed works.

*Interval (20 minutes)*

## **Franz Schubert (1797-1828)**

### **Symphony no. 8 in B Minor, D759 (“Unfinished”)**

1. Allegro moderato
2. Andante con moto

It is not known why this symphony, composed during October 1822, remained unfinished. It has been suggested that it was intended to be a two-movement work, but this notion can be dismissed as a substantial part of a third movement, a Scherzo, is known to exist. It could be that as he became desperately ill in the Spring of 1823, curtailing progress on the work, he was simply reluctant to take it up again. The unfinished score was given as a gift by Schubert to his friend and fellow composer Anselm Huttenbrenner. Its first performance was given in Vienna in December 1865, and was at last published in 1867, forty-five years after its creation.

However, this was not to be his final symphony. He went on to create his masterwork, his ninth symphony, the Great C Major during 1825-1828, the year of his premature death. The familiar and popular “Unfinished” needs little introduction. The music, which conjures such a wide range of very human emotions can be left to speak for itself.

**Programme notes by Tony Fortune**

# Conductor

Mark Gateshill was born in London and studied Music at the University of Exeter where he led the Symphony and Chamber Orchestras. He moved to Somerset to work as a Graduate Music Assistant at Wells Cathedral School. He now teaches violin, coaches the string quartet and conducts the youth orchestra of North Somerset Music Service. Mark is a member of “Ensemble3”, a funky violin/oboe/horn trio specialising in outreach and community projects. He also conducts the Winscombe Orchestra and plays regularly throughout the region as a freelance guitarist and violinist.

## Performing Tonight

### **First Violins**

Ursula Voigt (leader)  
David Ball  
Maria Beaven  
Joy Crouch  
Sarah Johnston  
Robert Baker  
Lukas Hank  
Edie Crosse

### **Second Violins**

Sam Chilvers  
Estelle Earle  
Michael Fletcher  
Margaret Pritchard  
John Rootes  
Ellie Hannay  
Maria Parfitt  
Richard Jenkins

### **Violas**

Patrick Dunn  
Juliet Knollys  
Cherry Wong  
Jade Whymark  
Chris Hutchings

### **Cellos**

Chris Hurn  
Fiona Blissett  
Kit Denison  
Tom Hockaday  
Bethany Short  
Julia Thomson  
Francis Tyson

### **Double Basses**

Jo Bell  
Sean O'Connor

### **Flutes**

Emma Ball  
Suzanne Moore  
Linda Allen  
Rosie Ray

### **Oboes**

Alison Penn  
Lydia Richards

### **Clarinets**

Gemma Mounty  
Guy Hobley

### **Bassoons**

Helen McCombie  
Tamsin Mains

### **Horns**

Jon Bengier  
Andrew Fowler  
Sally Gough  
David Hynds

### **Trumpet**

Laura Carvell  
Sophie Meehan

### **Trombones**

Tracey Edis  
Garfield Austin  
Chris Gough

### **Timpani**

David Dixon

### **Percussion**

Jen Culliford  
Jim Culliford  
Iris Fletcher

# Positive Action on Cancer



**The Listening Ear Appeal needs to raise  
£200,000 over two years**

**Help us to support families  
through cancer and other life  
threatening illnesses.**

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[www.positiveactiononcancer.co.uk](http://www.positiveactiononcancer.co.uk)**



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# Frome Symphony

Frome Symphony is an exciting amateur orchestra for Frome and the surrounding area, founded by Stephen Marquiss in 2001. We have promoted a wide range of events for the community, including traditional classical programmes, family concerts, children's workshops, open rehearsals and even a Valentine Ball.

We welcome new members, and currently have vacancies for string players, horns, trumpet, bassoon and percussion. There are no auditions, so if you are keen to play in a symphony orchestra and have reached an appropriate standard on your instrument, or are re-starting after a break, do give it a try. If you are interested in joining, please contact Jon Benger on 07760 393514, or email [enquiries@fromesymphony.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@fromesymphony.org.uk).

## Next Event

**Saturday 20 March 2010**

Frome Symphony presents an exciting introduction to orchestral music, aimed particularly at children of primary/middle school age and their families. The theme is a fast-moving musical tour of the world, including classical favourites and excerpts from film music. The event will be hosted by Julie Payne, a specialist in community music and outreach projects. Further information will be available through local schools and at [www.fromesymphony.org.uk](http://www.fromesymphony.org.uk).

Programme design and illustration by Tracey Edis  
[www.traceyedis.net](http://www.traceyedis.net)