

# FROME SYMPHONY

**Mark Gateshill** conductor  
**Hannah Lawes** leader

**Lukas Hank** violin

**Saturday 3rd December 2011**  
**7.30pm**  
**St John's Church, Frome**

**Tchaikovsky** Waltz and Polonaise from *Eugene Onegin*  
**Tchaikovsky** Violin Concerto

*Interval*

**Sibelius** Symphony No. 2

[www.fromesymphony.org.uk](http://www.fromesymphony.org.uk)  
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# Welcome

Frome Symphony would like to thank you for coming to our tenth anniversary concert. We would also like to thank the vicar and churchwardens of St John's Church, Jonathan James for the pre-concert talk, our soloists and guest musicians, the volunteers who have helped with organisation, our sponsors and the Friends of Frome Symphony for their continued support.

Music is kindly supplied by Somerset County Music and Drama Library, and programme notes are provided courtesy of Making Music.

## Performing Tonight

### **First Violins**

Hannah Lawes (leader)  
Christopher Evans  
Sarah Johnston  
Tom Mains  
Ursula Voigt  
Andrew Wall  
Lydia Emm  
Christine Gladwin  
Nola Pavey

### **Second Violins**

Maria Beaven  
Michael Fletcher  
Margaret Pritchard  
John Rootes  
Stephen Smith  
Caroline Stickler  
Leksi Patterson  
Ellie Hannay

### **Violas**

Juliet Knollys  
Rachel Thornton  
David Wright  
Patrick Dunn

### **Cellos**

Chris Hurn  
Chris Baker  
Fiona Blissett  
Barry Fogden  
Tom Hockaday  
Liam Megill  
Julia Thomson

### **Double Basses**

Frances Tyson  
Jo Bell

### **Flutes**

Emma Ball  
Suzanne Moore  
Linda Allen

### **Oboes**

Lydia Richards  
Rachel Brotherton

### **Clarinets**

Gemma Mounty  
Guy Hobley  
Rhiannon Amsdon

### **Bassoons**

Becky Roberts  
Janet Whitteridge

### **Horns**

Andrew Fowler  
Mary Brown  
Peter Pearson  
Jonathan Bengier

### **Trumpets**

Laura Carvell  
Matt Elson  
Liam Oates

### **Trombones**

Tracey Edis  
Andy Pryor  
Peter Middleton

### **Tuba**

Neil McMullan

### **Timpani**

Nick Baron

# Programme Notes

**Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky** (1840-1993)

Waltz and Polonaise from *Eugene Onegin* Op 24

Few men had such a genius for writing tunes as Tchaikovsky, and it is this stream of melodies that has made him, and kept him, one of the world's most popular composers. In 1879 he finished his opera *Eugene Onegin*, based on a long narrative poem by Pushkin. The libretto calls for two ball scenes; the *Waltz* from Act 2 and the lively *Polonaise* comes from Act 3. *David Elliott*

**Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky** (1840-1993)

Violin Concerto in D major Op 35

Allegro moderato

Canzonetta: Andante

Finale: Allegro vivacissimo

Tchaikovsky composed his only Violin Concerto in the spring of 1878 in Switzerland, during a visit to his composition student, Yosif Yosifovich Kotek, who was seeking a cure for tuberculosis. It was through Kotek that Tchaikovsky met his wealthy patron Nadezhda von Meck. When Kotek expressed dissatisfaction with the original second movement of the concerto, Tchaikovsky obligingly replaced it with an entirely different one.

Mme. von Meck was not entirely pleased with the concerto either. But the biggest disappointment was its rejection by the celebrated virtuoso and teacher Leopold Auer, to whom the work was first dedicated. Auer pronounced it unplayable. Another four years passed before it found a performer in Adolf Brodsky, who gave the works première not in Russia but in Vienna. Brodsky, undaunted by its technical difficulties and a hostile critical reception, went on to perform the concerto in London and Moscow, where it eventually won public support. The grateful composer rededicated it to Brodsky.

Full of bravura passage work, the concerto also contains a wealth of the romantic lyricism so typical of Tchaikovsky, as well as being infused with the contrasting moods of Russian folk music, of which the finale (a Trepak) provides a lively example. *Thomas Radice*

***Interval*** (20 minutes)

# Programme Notes

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

### Symphony No. 2 in D major Op 43

Allegretto

Tempo Andante ma rubato

Vivacissimo

Finale: Allegro moderato

This, the most overtly nationalistic, or Finnish, of Sibelius's symphonies, was largely written in Italy during a stay at Rapallo in the early months of 1902. It was a time of great tranquillity for the composer. His works were increasingly being played, his reputation was growing in Finland and abroad and he was not yet disturbed by the mounting debts and recurring drinking bouts which would cause such turbulence in the years to come. This happiness is reflected in the generally optimistic mood of the symphony, which has remained one of the most popular of all Sibelius's works.

The first movement is pastoral in tone. It has sometimes been compared to the opening movement of Brahms's symphony in the same key. Both composers, after a first symphony of high romance and tragedy, chose to open their second in a more spacious, easy-going vein. Of course, their musical language and methods of developing their themes could hardly be more different. The second movement was, in part at least, conceived earlier than the rest of the symphony. In 1901 Sibelius began writing music for an orchestral work based on Don Juan. For this abandoned project he sketched out the opening themes of this Andante. The lugubrious, sinister theme on the bassoons, against a spectral pizzicato, suggests that it was not the romantic or comic aspects of the legend that he had in mind. This is the most complex and dramatic movement of the four, and it ends in a mood of tragedy.

The scherzo is a breathless *moto perpetuo*. Here Sibelius employs a favourite device: against rapid, whirling, string passages he sets slower-moving wind themes. The slower Trio section is led off by the oboe with a plaintive lyrical melody. After the reprise of the scherzo this Trio unexpectedly reappears but soon metamorphoses, amid mounting excitement, into a transition to the triumphant, broad theme which will dominate the finale. This last is an epic conclusion to a great work. In the modern age few composers could, without self-consciousness, have ended a symphony in such a blaze of light. *John Kane.*

# 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. Mark is now Head of Strings at Bristol Cathedral Choir School where he teaches violin and coaches and conducts a wide variety of chamber music. He also 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 performs regularly as a freelance violinist.



# Soloist

**Lukas Hank** took his A levels at Nailsea School, and is now studying at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Lukas has always enjoyed performing, and has given regular solo concerts since the age of 13 in the South West, including a concerto and recital performance at the Colston Hall, Bristol. In 2007, at the age of 14, Lukas won a place in the National Youth Chamber Orchestra of Great Britain and has played in London, Birmingham and Cheltenham in this Orchestra. For four years he was principal violinist of the North Somerset Youth Orchestra, and gave two well received performances of the Bruch Violin Concerto with this Orchestra. Lukas also led the Sinfonia Quartet, and with this ensemble performed for Her Majesty the Queen in 2007. He also plays in various other ensembles, who perform regularly at events and concerts.



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## Friends of Frome Symphony

Thank you for coming to our concert, we hope that you have enjoyed it. As a self-funding orchestra operating without subsidy, we are most grateful for the patronage of individuals through the Friends of Frome Symphony scheme. Your support allows us to invest in booking fine soloists for our concerts, and to purchase instruments and other pieces of equipment.

Being a Friend of the orchestra also provides the following benefits:

- Priority booking for all concerts
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- The opportunity to meet the players
- A newsletter featuring interesting articles and information about the orchestra

For more information about the Friends of Frome Symphony, please speak to Tracey Edis (trombonist) after the concert, email [tracey@fromesympphony.org.uk](mailto:tracey@fromesympphony.org.uk), or call 01373 302753.

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# Frome Symphony

Frome Symphony is an exciting amateur orchestra for Frome and the surrounding area, which was founded in 2001. We perform four concerts a year, including full scale symphonic programmes and our popular annual family concert. We aim to perform a mix of classical favourites and more unusual works, and work with some of the regions best soloists.

Frome Symphony welcomes new members and would particularly like to grow our string section as we enter our second decade. Our members are of all ages and include professional musicians, experienced amateurs and players who are new to orchestral playing. If you are keen to play in a symphony orchestra and take part in our exciting programme of concerts for next year then do get in contact for more details. Call Jon Benger on 07760 393514, or email [enquiries@fromesymphony.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@fromesymphony.org.uk).

## Next Concert

**Saturday 17th March 2012, St John's Church**

We continue the season with a programme which explores the nationalist music of Finland and Denmark respectively, with Sibelius's popular tone poem "Finlandia", and a rare chance to hear a performance of the first symphony by Carl Nielsen. Claire Hawkes and Iona Hassan will join Frome Symphony to perform Bruch's Double Concerto for Clarinet and Viola. The programme will also feature Mendelssohn's famous Overture "The Hebrides". Tickets from [www.fromesymphony.org.uk](http://www.fromesymphony.org.uk). We hope to see you there!

## Other Events

**9th & 10th December** Winscombe Orchestra performs Weber, Castelnuovo-Tedesco and Dvořák in Sidcot and Weston super Mare. [www.winscombeorchestra.org.uk](http://www.winscombeorchestra.org.uk)

**28th January** Mid Somerset Orchestra performs Boyce, Bach and Mozart in Street. [www.midsomersetorchestra.co.uk](http://www.midsomersetorchestra.co.uk)