

FROME SYMPHONY

Mark Gateshill conductor

Ursula Voigt leader

Adam Khan guitar

Julian Rowlands bandoneon

Monday 11 July 2011

7.30pm

St John's Church, Frome



Verdi Overture - La Forza del Destino

Copland Down a Country Lane

Piazzolla Concerto for Bandoneon, Guitar & String Orchestra

Interval

Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 5 in E Minor

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Welcome

Frome Symphony would like to thank you for coming to our summer concert, and we are delighted to be part of Frome Festival once again. We would like to thank 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. We would also like to thank Frome Festival's volunteers who have assisted with organisation and front of house. Music is kindly supplied by Somerset County Music and Drama Library.

Performing Tonight

First Violins

Ursula Voigt (leader)
Maria Beaven
Joy Crouch
Sarah Johnston
Christine Gladwin
Ellie Hannay

Second Violins

Peter Burgess
Sam Chilvers
Michael Fletcher
Margaret Pritchard
Stephen Smith
Nola Pavey
David Ball

Violas

Juliet Knollys
Claire Yeates
David Wright
Esther Mallett
Jade Whymark
Maria Parfitt

Cellos

Chris Hurn
Fiona Blissett
Barry Fogden
Tom Hockaday
Liam Megill
Julia Thomson
Damian Knollys
Roger Levett

Double Basses

Frances Tyson
Jo Bell

Flutes

Suzanne Moore
Linda Allen
Natalie Froud

Oboes

Lydia Richards
Rachel Brotherton

Clarinets

Gemma Mounty
Guy Hobley
Rhiannon Amsdon

Bassoons

Becky Roberts
Janet Whitteridge

Horns

Jonathan Benger
Mary Brown
Andrew Fowler
Peter Pearson
Sue Tyley

Trumpets

Laura Carvell
Rob Tyley

Trombones

Tracey Edis
Andy Pryor
Peter Middleton

Tuba

Simon Derrick

Timpani

Jeremy Little

Programme Notes

Giuseppe Verdi (1813 - 1901)

Overture - La Forza del Destino

This overture of Verdi's is perhaps the only one of his to have become a frequently performed piece in the concert hall. It opens with dramatic unison brass, representing the fateful oath taken in the opera - "The Force of Destiny". The music is typical of Verdi, with dramatic strings, flamboyant brass and woodwind, beautiful and tranquil sections and memorable tunes.

Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

Down a Country Lane

In the United States, Copland's works are considered by many to be "the sound of American music", although he developed many varied styles of composition over his long career. This tranquil country idyll was written in 1962, and is not what you might expect from the composer of "Fanfare for the Common Man". This is a beautifully observed miniature, evocative of the open fields and woods of Copland's homeland.

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)

Concerto for Guitar, Bandoneon and String Orchestra

Adam Khan Guitar, **Julian Rowlands** Bandoneon

Astor Piazzolla was an Argentinian of Italian parentage, an accomplished, classically trained musician who was set on a conventional music career. In 1953 he won a prize which enabled him to travel to Paris and study under Nadia Boulanger. She was unimpressed by his conventional compositions, and having discovered that he played bandoneon in night clubs and tango bands, she determined that his talent lay just there. He then developed a musical style known as "nuevo tango", creating a fusion with other western musical characteristics such as jazz and counterpoint. This concerto, written in 1985, is in three movements. The opening movement (Introduction *Lentamente*) is improvisatory in style and is written for the solo instruments only. The second movement is a 'Milonga', a lyrical form with a similar rhythm to the Tango. The final movement is an energetic adaptation of the tango and features percussive effects.

Interval (20 minutes)

Programme Notes

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1993)

Symphony No. 5 in E Minor Op. 64

1. Andante - Allegro con anima
2. Andante cantabile con alcuna licenza - Moderato con anima
3. Valse: Allegro moderato
4. Finale: Andante maestoso - Allegro vivace

It has been said with reference to his sixth symphony, the 'Pathétique' that Tchaikovsky was 'happiest when he was sad'. Certainly this sadness produced the most despairing work in the repertoire in the last movement of that work. The fifth symphony does not plumb such depths in spite of its quiet, solemn, opening theme which manifests itself throughout the symphony in various guises, turning from despair to triumph.

The fifth symphony dates from 1888, and the work was written on Tchaikovsky's return to Russia following his first concert tour of the major cities of Western Europe which included Berlin, Paris, and London, bringing him the international renown he deserved which had eluded him for so long. The mood of optimism which this generated is certainly reflected in this work, although there is also a measure of introspection therein, especially in the beautiful, long yearning melody played on the horn at the opening of the second movement.

The first movement opens with a slow, ominous introduction on clarinets, introducing a theme which recurs in all four movements. The movement builds up across several musical themes to a fortissimo climax which then falls back into a dark, virtually silent finish. The slow second movement is built around two main themes, again with a building sense of drama and a calm finish. Instead of a scherzo, the third movement is a graceful waltz, concluding with an ominous restatement of the symphony's main theme. This leads straight into the final movement, which builds up enormous tension between the keys of E minor and E major (with the main theme triumphantly restated in E major), and concluding with a rousing Presto finale.

This is an outstanding work in the best Romantic tradition, and its perfectly crafted musicality has earned it its rightful place in the concert repertoire.

Programme notes by Tony Fortune and Tracey Edis

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.



Leader



Ursula Voigt is a former leader of Innsbruck Symphony Orchestra, during a career as a professional solo violinist, ensemble player and music teacher. Ursula has been a member of Frome Symphony since it was founded in 2001, and gave a memorable performance of the Bruch Violin concerto No. 1 at our Frome Festival concert in 2009. Ursula is retiring as leader after tonight's concert, and we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for her enormous contribution to the orchestra over the last ten years.

Soloists

Adam Khan was born in South Wales and started to play the guitar aged 12. He has studied with Raymond Burley, John W Duarte, Leo Brouwer and Roberto Aussel. He has been a prize winner and finalist in several international guitar competitions and has given recitals and



master classes at leading venues and festivals through out the world. Adam has also given solo recitals across Europe, Asia and America and works on a range of diverse musical projects with other musicians. He has released several recordings, of which the most recent, 'For the Delight of Shiva' includes works by Carey Blyton and John Duarte and a world premier recording of 'Music for a Languishing Prince' by Ottavio Negro.

Julian Rowlands is a bandoneonist specialising in tango, classical and contemporary music. The bandoneon is a free reed instrument that is renowned for the beauty of its sound, and for its remarkable expressive range and flexibility. Its playing techniques and repertoire were developed in Argentina where it is the essential voice of the tango. Julian studied bandoneon with the leading Argentinean player Victor Villena. He is a member of the highly acclaimed tango ensemble Tango Siempre and has performed with them at major arts venues in the UK and Europe. Julian's repertoire includes the major works of Astor Piazzolla, solo classical pieces, tango arrangements, chamber music, concertos and his own compositions. As a composer and arranger his credits include the shows "Midnight Tango" and "Tangomotion".

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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. We aim to provide a friendly, supportive environment in which members can learn and grow as musicians. 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@fromesympphony.org.uk.

Next Concert

Tenth Anniversary

Saturday 3rd December 2011, St John's Church

Frome Symphony is delighted to be joined by the brilliant young violinist Lukas Hank, who is currently studying at the Royal Academy of Music and building a successful career as a solo and ensemble musician. Lukas will perform the Tchaikovsky violin concerto, one of the most popular in the repertoire, and a great showcase for the instrument. The concert will open with orchestral excerpts from Tchaikovsky's opera, Eugene Onegin, and the second half is devoted to the dramatic and grandiose second symphony by Sibelius. Tickets from www.fromesympphony.org.uk. We hope to see you there!

Programme design and illustration by Tracey Edis

www.traceyedis.net