

THE FRENCH CONNECTION

Durufié: Requiem Widor: Toccata Poulenc: Gloria
Dupré: Sept Pièces; Quatre Motets

Conductor: Jeremy Backhouse

Organ: Jeremy Filsell

Soloists from the Royal Academy of Music

Vivace
Chorus

Saturday
17th Nov 2007

7.30pm Guildford Cathedral

Tickets - £20, £15, £10, Students £5
Tourist Information 01483 444334
Michael Taylor 07958 519 741

Pre-concert Talk
6.30pm Chapter House

www.VivaceChorus.org

concert presents two of the cornerstones of the French choral repertoire: the exuberant **Gloria** by **Francis Poulenc** and the fully atmospheric **Requiem** by **Maurice Duruflé**.

In his **Gloria**, Poulenc combines to perfection his personal joie de vivre and his deep religious faith producing a work of mysticism and mischief (Poulenc was once described as both monk and street urchin!).

Duruflé based his **Requiem** on that of Fauré in terms of structure and Duruflé's work is very much a tribute to Fauré. Every movement is based on plainsong and the composer brilliantly weaves the chant into his own distinctive style to produce a work of ethereal beauty and power.

The concert opens dramatically with the **Quatre Motets** by **Marcel Dupré**, organist at the church of St Sulpice in Paris for almost four decades. Although Dupré is better known for his prolific organ output, in these early settings he already demonstrates prodigious expertise in both organ and choral writing.

Interpersed amongst the choral items are two stunning organ pieces played by the choir's resident accompanist, the internationally renowned recitalist **Jeremy Filsell**: a dazzling virtuoso piece by Dupré and the ever popular **Toccata** by **Widor**.



Jeremy Filsell has established a concert career as one of only a few virtuoso performers on both the piano and the organ, performing as a solo pianist in Russia, the USA and across the UK. After his performances for Vivace of Rachmaninov's Piano Concertos 2 and 3 in 2001 and 2004, we are delighted that he is playing the organ for us in this concert.

'...sets the standard for Dupré interpreters of the future and is a landmark in the history of organ recordings.' *Gramophone*

'Technically he is outstanding, but what impresses most is his uncanny musical insight and the sheer persuasive power of his performances.' *Gramophone*

Pre-concert suppers are available at the Cathedral Refectory from 5.30pm. Ring 01483 560471 to reserve your table or e-mail refectoryuk@talktalk.net

Interval drinks are available but please place your order before the start of the concert

There is ramped access into the Cathedral via the west door, and to the Refectory restaurant and toilet facilities from a clearly marked passage to the University beside the Cathedral Offices. A few wheelchairs are available within the Cathedral.

Information is correct on going to press, but please check our website (www.vivacechoral.org) for any last-minute changes.

Dates for your Diary

Sun 9th Dec '07
Carol Concert
6.30pm Holy Trinity Church

The concerts below are all at **7.30pm** at Guildford Cathedral

Wed 19th Dec '07
Christmas Concert
in Aid of GRACE

Sat 1st March '08
Viennese Masters - a candlelit concert

Sat 17th May '08
Classical Countdown
- a Gala concert to celebrate our 60th year of singing.

Pre-concert talk

All ticket holders are invited to a free pre-concert talk at 6.30 p.m. in The Chapter House, given by one of our favourite speakers: Martin Hall. Mr Hall, FRCO, has inside knowledge of the organ repertoire as a performer and is currently undertaking research into the Gallic influence on the early style of Vaughan Williams. Regular attendees can vouch that you will be entertained and enlightened!

You can reserve your concert seats prior to the talk.