



RACHMANINOV

Piano Concerto No 2 Vespers (extracts) The Bells

Piano: Francis Pott
The Brandenburg Sinfonia
Conductor: Jeremy Backhouse

Vivace
Chorus

Tickets £11, £16 and £22
Tourist Information 01483 444334
Michael Taylor 07958 519 741
or purchase on our website

vivacechorus.org

Saturday
19th May 2012

7.30 pm Guildford Cathedral
6.30 pm Pre-concert talk

Registered Charity No. 1026337

Rachmaninov

Piano Concerto No. 2, The Bells, Vespers

Rachmaninov was himself a fine pianist and his works for piano reflect his passion for the instrument as well as his extraordinary talent for expansive and romantic composition. Exemplifying this romanticism, his *Piano Concerto No. 2* was an inspired choice for the theme music for the film *Brief Encounter* and has proved enduringly popular, reclaiming the number 1 spot in Classic FM's Hall of Fame in 2011. Rachmaninov's writing for voice is equally impressive. This concert also features a selection of his *Vespers* and *The Bells* - a work for soloists, chorus and a large orchestra, which explores in turn the contrasting emotions linked to the sounds of various bells: sleigh bells, wedding bells, alarm bells and funeral bells.



Our soloist for the concerto is Francis Pott. Himself a composer of international reputation, Francis belongs to the same long line as Rachmaninov in viewing the piano as a means to a further creative end, and mastery of the instrument as merely one facet of being a musician. Nonetheless he has been heard on BBC Radio Three a number of times, has participated in three commercial CD releases (including one of his own music) and has appeared at such prestigious venues as London's Wigmore Hall. A former private pupil of the distinguished British pianist Hamish Milne, he is in regular demand as a soloist and accompanist. Francis Pott also shares with his former teacher a particular interest in the music of Nikolai Medtner, Rachmaninov's contemporary and close friend, whose output forms the basis of his academic research as Professor of Composition at London College of Music, University of West London.

A free pre-concert talk
given by our soloist, Francis Pott, in The Chapter House at 6.30 pm

If you do not have a reserved concert seat, you will be able to save a seat in the unreserved area prior to the talk.

Benjamin Britten War Requiem

November 17 - Guildford Cathedral

Composed and first performed 50 years ago for the consecration of the new Coventry Cathedral, the *War Requiem* has become one of the defining masterpieces of the 20th century – a devastating meditation on the pity of war that is every bit as relevant today.

This is a large-scale but poignant work, interspersing the war poetry of Wilfred Owen, killed just one week before the end of World War 1, with the text of the Requiem Mass. It now speaks to everyone world-wide. There will be a retiring collection in aid of 'Help for Heroes'.

