

A double Premiere for Rochester's Jubilation Concert

It is always an honour to be invited to take part in the first performance of a new work. For a choir of ninety singers to host the première of two works by well-known British composers as part of a concert celebrating this year of diamond jubilees and gold medals is a wonderful opportunity. What else could such a programme be called but, '*Jubilation*'?

Rochester Choral Society, one of the leading choral societies in the South East, is delighted to be performing the UK première of Patrick Hawes' *Te Deum* on Saturday 3rd November in Rochester Cathedral with Rochester Sinfonietta and Amadeus Orchestra, and conducted by the composer himself. Composed for the Lancaster Festival in Ohio and performed there in July 2011, the audience was enthralled by what was described as a 'phenomenal' work.

Patrick has become one of Britain's most well-known and inspiring composers in a period of less than ten years. His rapid rise to fame began when his first album *Blue in Blue* was made Classic FM's CD of the week in 2004, then nominated for a Classical Brit award and voted by Classic FM listeners as the fastest ever and highest new entry into the station's Hall of Fame.

From 2006-2007 Patrick was Composer in Residence at Classic FM. This involved writing twelve pieces for piano, each piece being performed over a twelve-month period. The resulting album *Towards the Light* was immediately voted by Classic FM listeners as the highest new entry in the 2007 Hall of Fame. In 2009 his album, *Song of Songs*, six choral pieces for voices and strings, performed by the English Chamber Orchestra, Patrick's own choir *Conventus* and the soprano Elin Manahan Thomas was released. Patrick joined forces again with Eli and the cellist Julian Lloyd Webber for his subsequent album *Fair Albion: Visions of England*.

In 2009, HRH the Prince of Wales commissioned Patrick to write the *Highgrove Suite*, a one-movement work for harp and strings that was performed at Covent Garden for the Prince's sixtieth birthday by the royal harpist Claire Jones and the Philharmonia orchestra.

As well as the *Te Deum*, Patrick has composed other large scale choral works the most well-known being his early cantata, *The Wedding at Cana* and his *Lazarus Requiem* which was first performed in 2008.

Roger Sayer, Director of Rochester Choral Society, commented, '*Having worked with Patrick Hawes I was delighted that he asked the RCS to give the UK premiere of his Te Deum. I know his music and feel that it will suit both our audience and the choir. His style is popular Classical. The work is scored for strings brass and organ and ends with a thrilling climax as a suitable end to the concert.*'

The programme will also feature the world première of *Mosaïque - Sonata for organ duet* by the internationally known British composer and organist, David

Briggs. It was commissioned for the organ duo, *Midas Touch*. Roger Sayer and Charles Andrews formed this duo in 2005 to bring new and imaginative music, including arrangements of from pop music and the *James Bond* films to this neglected part of the organ repertoire.

As well being well known for his original compositions, David has built a reputation for his exciting organ improvisations and performances of his transcriptions for organ of orchestral works ranging from '*Phantom of the Opera*' to symphonies by Mahler and Elgar.

In keeping with the theme of Jubilation, the programme also incorporates some well known music used on ceremonial occasions, including: Parry's anthems, *I was glad* and *Blest pair of Sirens*; Copland, *Fanfare for the Common Man* and Barber, *Adagio for Strings*.

Further information and tickets are available on the RCS website:
www.rochesterchoral.co.uk or

The concert administrator: T 01634 401049. E tickets@rochesterchoral.co.uk