

Soundbites Summer 2008

Christopher Benham

As usual, Soundbites took a short break over Holy Week and Easter. Concerts resume on Wednesday 2nd April.

As ever we are most grateful to our sponsors, Waitrose, and the large team of willing helpers who do so much behind the scenes.

Wednesday 2nd April
Penelope Lynex - Cello
Christopher Roberts - Piano

Penelope and Christopher are no strangers to Soundbites and we look forward to their return. Penelope was described by the late Paul Tortelier as a 'brilliant colleague' and one of the most talented pupils he had ever taught. In this concert she has chosen to play Mendelssohn's Cello Sonata in B flat major.

Wednesday 9th April
Christine Petch - Mezzo Soprano
Brian Parsons - Tenor
Christopher Benham - Piano

Words by Shakespeare have been an inspiration to countless composers over the centuries. This programme will be a mixture of familiar and less well known musical settings of his words.

Wednesday 16th April
David Kirby - Clarinet
Allan Granville - Piano

Sonata for Clarinet and Piano - Poulenc
Five Bagatelles - Finzi

Having studied with Colin McGuire and Charles Hine, David Kirby was lucky as a young clarinettist to win a British Council Scholarship. As a result of this, he decided to study at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music. While there he was taught by Kálmán Berkes, András Mihály, and the eminent composer György Kurtág. On his return he has given many concerto performances, including at St John's Smith Square, and has been asked to play with various orchestras including *The City of London Sinfonia* and *Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra*.

Further details of the remaining programmes will be published in the near future. The artists are as follows:

- April 23rd **Simon Balle School Big Band**
 April 30th **Lada Valesova**
 May 7th **Dimitar Burov** Violin
Mark Smith Piano
 May 14th **Karin Backstrom** Soprano **Christopher Benham** Piano
 May 21st **All Saints Choral Scholars**
 May 28th **The Mamara Piano Trio**
 June 4th **Jesse Beaumont** Piano
 June 11th **The Ridley, Lynex, Roberts Piano Trio**
 June 18th **Christopher Roberts and Allan Granville** Piano Duo
 June 26th **Mary Pick** Soprano
Barbara Manning Piano
 July 2nd TBA
 July 9th **Simon Smith** Violin
 July 16th **Neil Crossland** Piano

Who was St George?

St George was no Englishman; he was an officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror, and was martyred at Lydda in Palestine about the year 300 AD - supposedly 23 April.

Over the years St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages, of whom remarkable deeds were reported.

The Crusaders had a vision of him helping them against the Saracens at Antioch, during the first Crusade, and so brought the story of St George back with them from Palestine. Presently England put herself under the protection of the Saint. His day was a declared a holiday in 1222.