

# Soundbites

Christopher Benham

## Wednesday 1st October

**Shulah Oliver - Violin**

**Simon Marlow - Piano**

We welcome Shulah to Soundbites for the first time. She graduated from the Royal College of Music with a First Class Honours degree and completed a Masters Degree in Performance with Distinction at the Royal Academy of Music in September 2006, having studied violin with Howard Davis. As a soloist and ensemble member she has been invited to play in festivals such as the Paganini London Festival, Norfolk and Norwich, Worcester Live, Peter-Maxwell Davis and St. Endellion Festivals. This Summer Shulah was invited to take part and perform at the prestigious London Masterclasses with Gyorgy Pauk. Her programme will include Charles Stanford's *Violin Sonata No.1 in D Major*.

## Wednesday 8th October

**Angela Crispe - Clarinet**

**Alex Wells - Piano**

Stanford's music is on the menu again today, as Angela will include his *Three Intermezzi* in her programme along with Weber's *Grand Duo Concertante*, and music by Benny Goodman!

Angela is well known in the St Albans area as a musician and teacher of clarinet and saxophone. She studied Music at London University and then went on to take a two year postgraduate course at the Royal Academy of Music; whilst there she won several prizes for her Chamber Music performances. Professional engagements as a chamber musician have taken her further afield including concert tours in USA, Belgium and Denmark with the Regent Wind Quintet and the Arundo Clarinet Quartet.

## Wednesday 15th October

**Simon Smith - Violin**

In October 2007 Simon embarked on a two-year project to explore many of the great works for solo violin including all Bach's

major compositions. He continues today with the fourth of six recitals which includes Bach's *Partita in E major* and the *Solo Sonata No. 2* by Ysaye. The Ysaye Sonata is a late romantic work based very loosely on this Bach Partita. Also in the programme are Caprices by Paganini.

## Wednesday 22nd October

**Katy Bircher - Baroque Flute**

**James Johnstone - Harpsichord**

Both Katy Bircher and James Johnstone are established early music specialists. Katy has played concertos with the Kings Consort, La Serenissima, Fiori Musicali, Florilegium and the Hanover Band. In 2007 she took part in a world-wide tour of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos under the direction of Trevor Pinnock.

James was a principal keyboardist in the Gabrieli Consort and Players for some seventeen years and as such contributed as both soloist and continuo player to twenty-two of their award-winning recordings on Deutsche Gramophon. He now concentrates on recital work, chamber music and teaching. They will perform music by J.S.Bach, Handel and Johann Joachim Quantz.

## Wednesday 29th October

**John Upperton - Tenor**

**Joan Taylor - Piano**

John Upperton is a specialist in the Czech repertoire (including Janacek), having made a special study of the Czech language some years ago for this purpose. He will take time off his busy operatic schedule to come and sing Dvorak's *Love Songs* and *Gypsy Songs* (including of course, *Songs my mother taught me*). He has been a guest principal at the ROH and ENO for the last six years and October and November this year see performances of *Radamès* in Midsummer Opera's concert performance of *Aida* in London. Joan Taylor, with whom he made his Purcell Room debut, will be at the piano.