

## Music in March

### Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March: Oliver Ray – Cello Ian Ray - Piano

Oliver Ray started playing the cello at the age of nine, studying with Percy Crozier. He was awarded a degree in Music, with performance as his major option, from Colchester Institute, where he studied cello with Martin Thomas and also won several prizes including the Lay and Wheeler cup for Solo String Playing.

He gained the Postgraduate Diploma in solo and ensemble performance at the Royal College of Music and is now developing a career as a freelance cellist.

Chamber music, and in particular the repertoire for cello and piano is his special passion and today, he will be joined by his father Ian, for a programme that includes Beethoven's *Cello Sonata in F major*.

### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March: Colchester Institute Chamber Choir, Ian Ray - Director

*Byrd - Sing Joyfully*

*Mark Bellis - O sing unto the Lord a new song*

*Barber - Reincarnations*

*Ravel - Trois Chansons*

The members of the Colchester Institute Chamber Choir are all students following various programmes at the Institute's Centre for Music and the Performing Arts. The choir specialises in performing a-capella repertoire in a wide range of styles.

They perform regularly in Colchester and enjoy visiting and giving concerts in churches throughout East Anglia.

Ian Ray, their Musical Director, holds a full time lectureship in music at the Colchester Institute where he is Head of Vocal Studies and directs the Choir, Chamber Choir and Opera group

### Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 'Choro' Simon Balle School's Vocal Ensemble

This will be the third visit from 'Choro'. They have gained a reputation locally for lively and spirited performances and their programme will include a mixture of well

known choral pieces and vocal arrangements.

### Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March: Robert Bell - Piano

Schubert has been rather neglected by Sound bites and we rarely hear his works in our concerts. Robert has chosen to play Schubert's great B flat major Sonata Op 960 as the only work in his recital.

Schubert had known since he contracted syphilis in his early twenties that an early death was inevitable. In September 1828 just two months before his death aged thirty one he produced some of his finest works. All these late works are masterpieces of the highest order and in each, bright, lyrical passages are interrupted by disturbing, sinister moments overshadowing the whole texture. That the final word is usually given to joyous, life-affirming music is eloquent testament to Schubert's relentless optimism.

This four *movement* sonata has been a favourite of Robert's for many years and he first performed it in Fishmonger's Hall, London in 1962 having just won the Gold Medal at the Guildhall School of Music

Sound bites will take a short break at the start of April and will resume on April 18th.

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April 7.30 p.m. Maltings Sinfonia, Soloists and All Saints' Choir

*Vivaldi - 'Spring' (Four Seasons)*

*Handel - Messiah (From parts 2 & 3)*

*Beethoven - 'Emperor' Piano Concerto*

As we enter Holy Week, hear Handel's version of the Easter story along with great music by Vivaldi and Beethoven with local soloists Philippa Brown *Violin* and Barbara Manning *Piano*

### Good Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April 6.30 p.m Soloists, Orchestra di Camera and All Saints' Choir

*Bach – St. Matthew Passion*

Listen to the version of the Passion story as told in St Matthew's Gospel and set to music by J.S.Bach.