

Soundbites

Christopher Benham

Wednesday 5th November Robert Bell - Piano

Robert has performed at Soundbites almost every year since the concerts began in 1996. He has a special affinity with the music of Chopin and today he returns to play the *B flat minor sonata*.

This is the second of only three sonatas Chopin wrote for the piano and dates from 1839. The famous 'funeral march' forms the third movement (which gives the sonata its nickname) and there is a remarkable finale, that is a whirlwind of entirely unison notes and looks forward to the impressionistic world of Debussy and Ravel.

The sonata confounded contemporary critics and Schumann suggested that Chopin had in this sonata "simply bound together four of his most unruly children."

Wednesday 12th November Alex Ashworth - Baritone Christopher Benham - Piano

Songs and Dances of Death -
Mussorgsky

Let us Garlands Bring - Finzi

Alex is no stranger to All Saints' and has appeared here both as soloist in choral performances and as a recitalist. He was a choral scholar at Tewkesbury Abbey and St John's College Cambridge, before winning an Entrance Scholarship to study at the Royal Academy of Music with Mark Wildman and Julius Drake.

Since completing the Opera Course there, he has sung with Scottish Opera, Welsh National Opera, and with the Glyndebourne Festival in David McVicar's highly acclaimed production of Julius Caesar.

He has recently spent six weeks travelling in China and Russia and the song cycle by Mussorgsky he will perform today, reflects his interest in Russian music and language.

Wednesday 19th November Richard Hale School Concert Band

The long association between All Saints' and Richard Hale continues today as the boys perform a selection of works from their repertoire including the ever popular '*Fantasia on British Sea Songs*' by Sir Henry Wood. Flag waving is optional!

Wednesday 26th November John Coulton - Trumpet David Dunnett - Organ

Music by Bach, Hakim Hovhaness and Verdi

John Coulton studied in Australia at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music. He has performed internationally with orchestras such as the Malaysian Philharmonic, the Queensland Orchestra, the London Gala Orchestra, the Australian Opera Company and the Philharmonia. John is currently Principal Trumpet with the Britten Pears Orchestra, as well as an active soloist and freelance musician throughout the United Kingdom, and Europe.

David Dunnett was Organ Scholar of Clare College, Cambridge and also studied at the Royal Academy of Music - his organ teachers included John Pryer and David Sanger. He became Organist and Master of the Music at Norwich Cathedral in 1996. He has played the organ in many countries in Europe, Russia, Scandanavia, Brazil, USA and Australia and features on numerous recordings as a soloist and accompanist.

