

Brahms Requiem in St Albans Abbey



**Saturday 26th October 2013 at 7.30pm
St Albans Abbey**

Biennial Concert of the St Cecilia Festival Society

The Hardyng Choir, Radlett Choral Society and St Albans Chamber Choir join St Albans Symphony Orchestra

Brahms A German Requiem
Messiaen The Ascension

Geraldine McGreevy *soprano*
David Stout *baritone*
Bjorn Bantock *conductor*

A *German Requiem* was conceived during one of the most tragic periods of Brahms's life. After months grappling with ideas for a memorial to his mother and to his friend Robert Schumann, the Requiem was completed in 1868.

The Ascension was composed by Messiaen in 1933, inspired by texts from the liturgy for the Feast of the Ascension.

Tickets £25, £20, £15 reserved
£8 unreserved (restricted view)
£1 accompanied child
Box Office 0845 475 1664

Music from the Movies in St Albans Abbey



**Wednesday 1st January 2014 at 7.00pm
St Albans Abbey**

Music to include

<i>Superman</i>	<i>Rocky</i>
<i>Jaws</i>	<i>Schindler's List</i>
<i>E.T.</i>	<i>Jurassic Park</i>
<i>Star Wars</i>	<i>Spiderman</i>
<i>James Bond</i>	<i>Pirates of the Caribbean</i>

Welcome the New Year with a concert for all the family in the glorious surroundings of St Albans Abbey and hear some of the most exciting music ever written.

Tickets £20, £16, £12 reserved
£8 unreserved (restricted view)
£1 accompanied child
£5 students

Mendelssohn and Strauss in St Albans Abbey



**Saturday 8th March 2014 at 7.30pm
St Albans Abbey**

Mendelssohn Violin Concerto
Magnus Johnston, violin
R. Strauss Alpine Symphony
Liadov From the Apocalypse

Magnus Johnston was born and brought up in Harpenden. He plays with the Navarra Quartet and is the founder and leader of the Aronowitz Ensemble.

Mendelssohn's *Concerto* is possibly the most popular work ever written for violin, with glorious melodies displaying the soloist's virtuoso technique.

Richard Strauss's vast *Alpine Symphony*, calling for extra battalions of brass and percussion, describes an ascent of an Alpine mountain from dawn to dusk, traversing flower meadows and forests to reach the icy peak, descending through a mighty thunderstorm and concluding with the peace and calm of sunset.

Tickets £20, £16, £12 reserved
£8 unreserved (restricted view)
£1 accompanied child
£5 students

Orchestral Colours



**Saturday 10th May 2014 at 7.30pm
St Saviour's Church, St Albans**

Wagner Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral (Lohengrin)
Wien Serenade for Strings
R. Strauss Serenade for Wind
Rimsky-Korsakov Scheherazade

The wide range of musical colours available in the modern symphony orchestra is displayed in this concert of diverse music highlighting the major sections of the Orchestra and concluding with *Scheherazade*, a spectacular showpiece for the entire Orchestra.

Tickets £14 (nave), £10 (aisle) unreserved
£1 accompanied child
£5 students

Beethoven's Eighth



**Saturday 28th June 2014 at 7.30pm
St Saviour's Church, St Albans**

Beethoven Symphony No.8
Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No.3
Alissa Firsova, piano
Janacek Taras Bulba

Alissa Firsova was born in Moscow into a family of composers. In 1991 her family moved to England where she studied piano at the Purcell School and Royal Academy of Music. Alissa lives and works in St Albans.

The *Eighth Symphony* is full of joviality, good humour and lightness of texture and mood despite the fact that at the time Beethoven was immersed in emotional turmoil emanating from a family feud.

Rachmaninov left his native Russia in 1917 after training at the Conservatories of Moscow and St Petersburg and establishing himself as a composer, pianist and conductor. He toured the world in the latter two roles and made his mark with his very skilfully written works. Concerto No.3 is regarded by many as the epitome of the piano concerto.

Tickets £14 (nave), £10 (aisle) unreserved
£1 accompanied child
£5 students

Concerto Evening and End of Season Friends Night



**Wednesday 9th July 2014 at 7.30pm
Homewood Road Church, St Albans**

Join us and hear leading players from the Orchestra play their favourite concertos accompanied by the Orchestra.

Free Admission!

Little Monsters! Concerts for Children



**Sunday 17th November 2013
at 2.00pm and 3.30pm (two concerts)
St Saviour's Church, St Albans**

Hear a full-scale symphony orchestra close up playing an exciting selection of music! Try out the instruments! Come dressed as your favourite monster or superhero!

Tickets: CHILDREN only £1 Grown ups £5

Tickets

All tickets, except 26th October, are available from SASO Ticket Secretary:

Frances Rotchell

53 Abbey Avenue, St Albans AL3 4BA

Enquiries: 01727 857422

email: tickets@saso.org.uk

online: www.saso.org.uk (booking fee applies)

Tickets for 26th October available from St Cecilia Box

Office 0845 475 1664

or online: www.allaboutstalbens.com (booking fee applies)



Season Tickets

Season tickets are available from the SASO Ticket Secretary with a choice of Abbey seat pricing.

Top price seats in all venues:

£65 6 Concerts, £58.50 Friends of SASO

Second price seats in Abbey, top price elsewhere:

£55 6 Concerts, £49.50 Friends of SASO



Become a Friend

Become a Friend of SASO for a minimum donation of £25 single, £30 double, and receive extra benefits:

- 10% discount on all tickets and season tickets
- Priority booking
- Reserved seats in the front rows of the Abbey for the New Year's Concert
- Social events and After Concert Parties
- Invitation to AGM and open rehearsals
- Listed by name in the concert programmes

Further details from Christine Drury: 01727 858963

email: friends@saso.org.uk



Join the Orchestra

SASO has occasional vacancies for high-standard musicians, especially strings, and opportunities to deputise or play as an extra.

Information from Kieran McGuirk 01727 834326, email: chairman@saso.org.uk

St Albans Symphony Orchestra

was founded in 1932 and comprises high-standard musicians of all ages from throughout Hertfordshire and beyond.

Its members include leading amateurs, professionally-trained musicians, teachers and music college students. The Orchestra is developing into one of the UK's leading non-professional ensembles.

For news and up-to-date information, visit us on the web at www.saso.org.uk



Bjorn Bantock

Bjorn Bantock was appointed Principal Conductor of St Albans Symphony Orchestra in 2010. He has an extensive performance schedule conducting numerous ensembles and orchestras internationally. He has performed in Chile, Argentina, Brazil, China, South Africa, Denmark, Germany,

Italy, Russia, Malta, Ireland and the UK. He has conducted the Northern Sinfonia, Watford Philharmonic Orchestra, Hertfordshire Philharmonia, Philharmonisches Kammerorchester Berlin, Orchestra of the Royal Conservatoire of Music in Copenhagen and the Moscow Philharmonic. He is also principal conductor for the London Chamber Strings, the Europa Ensemble and the Film Score Spectacular Orchestra.

After training as a professional 'cellist, Bjorn studied conducting with Colin Metters, Head of Conducting at the Royal Academy of Music. His musical leadership and ambitious programming are enabling the Orchestra to build further on its established strong reputation.

Bjorn is musical executive for the Sir Granville Bantock Society and has recorded and produced CDs for the Kingsway and EM Record labels.

www.bjornbantock.com

St Albans Symphony Orchestra is a registered charity number 1038283 and is affiliated to Making Music.



Brochure details are subject to change.
Please check concert details in advance.

St Albans Symphony Orchestra



Leader

Jennifer Wigram

Principal Conductor

Bjorn Bantock

Concert Season 2013-14

www.saso.org.uk