

*St Albans
Chamber
choir*



**PETITE MESSE
SOLONNELLE**
Rossini

Gabriel Fauré	Cantique de Jean Racine
<i>Frederick Delius</i>	To be sung of a summer's night on the water
<i>Morten Lauridsen</i>	Nocturnes
<i>Eric Whitacre</i>	Sleep
<i>Gerald Finzi</i>	My spirit sang all day

John Gibbons *conductor*

St Peter's Church

Saturday 24 April 2010 at 7.30pm

Tickets £12.50 (*unreserved*)
(£1 for child/full-time student)

from the Ticket Secretary, tel 0845 658 8982 (*local rate*)
or order online at www.wegotickets.com/stalbanschamberchoir

www.stalbanschamberchoir.org.uk

“...a great evening of outstanding – and often rare – music sung by a fine choir and performed by outstanding musicians”

John Manning, Herts Advertiser, July 2009

Petite Messe Solonnelle

St Albans Chamber Choir welcomes the Spring with **Rossini's** *Petite Messe Solonnelle*, a piece that never fails to lift the spirits of all who hear it. Written in 1863 when Rossini was 71, the *Petite Messe* is neither small, solemn nor particularly liturgical in spirit, coming as it does from the pen of a composer whose considerable reputation was built upon his many grand comic operas. In his own comment on the work, Rossini acknowledged that it was one of his 'sins of old age', and said 'Delight must be the basis and aim of this art'.

The *Petite Messe*, with its beautiful melodies, rhythmic vitality and joyous choruses, is a delight throughout. Written initially for private salon performance, the work is scored for small chorus, a solo quartet and the unusual accompaniment of piano and harmonium. Four young award-winning soloists will join the Chamber Choir for this performance:

Anna Gorbachyova	<i>soprano</i>
Amanda O'Brien	<i>contralto</i>
Philip O'Brien	<i>tenor</i>
James Oldfield	<i>bass-baritone</i>



Anna Gorbachyova

Whilst Rossini was composing what was to be his last major work, the young **Fauré** was still a student. The much-loved *Cantique de Jean Racine* of 1865, a setting of words by the famous 17th century dramatist and poet, was his first significant composition and, with its lush harmonies, it has become one of his most popular works.

The Chamber Choir will also perform two very beautiful and uplifting unaccompanied part-songs, **Delius's** *To be sung of a summer night on the water*, and **Finzi's** *My Spirit Sang all Day*, and the programme will be completed with pieces by two award-winning contemporary American composers whose works have featured in the Chamber Choir's recent concerts, *Nocturnes* by **Morten Lauridsen** and *Sleep* by **Eric Whitacre**.

The concert is expected to finish by 9.30pm. Large print versions of the programme will be available. To receive publicity about our future concerts (either by regular mail or email) please telephone 01727 830871 or email friends@stalbanschamberchoir.org.uk.

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