

ST JAMES CHURCH, 197 PICCADILLY, LONDON W1J 9LL

THURSDAY 7 JULY 2011 AT 7.30PM

MERRIE ENGLAND

AN
ECLECTIC EVENING OF ENGLISH MUSIC
SUNG BY THE

ENGLISH CHAMBER CHOIR

WITH SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST

RICK WAKEMAN

AT THE PIANO

GUY PROTHEROE

CONDUCTOR

IAN CURROR

ORGAN

FEATURING MUSIC BY

ELGAR, PARRY,

PERCY GRAINGER, EDWARD GERMAN, JOHN GARDNER,

PAUL READE AND, OF COURSE, RICK WAKEMAN

TICKETS: £25, £20, £17.50 (RESERVED), £15, £12 (UNRESERVED)
FROM ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS BOX OFFICE TEL: 020 7766 1100
OR ONLINE AT WWW.SMIF.ORG

PROGRAMME

HUBERT PARRY I WAS GLAD

PAUL READE SEASCAPES

RICK WAKEMAN NOAH

PERCY GRAINGER BRIGG FAIR

I'M SEVENTEEN COME SUNDAY

EDWARD ELGAR THERE IS SWEET MUSIC

JOHN GARDNER 5 PHILANDERS

EDWARD GERMAN EXCERPTS FROM MERRIE ENGLAND

AND A FEW SURPRISE ITEMS TOO!

THE ENGLISH CHAMBER CHOIR WILL BE CELEBRATING ITS FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY NEXT SEASON, AND IN ANTICIPATION THIS ANNUAL PROGRAMME OF ENGLISH MUSIC HAS A STRONG 'REVIVAL' ELEMENT – TWO WORKS ORIGINALLY COMMISSIONED BY THE CHOIR ARE JOINED BY A THIRD WHICH HAS ALSO NOT BEEN HEARD SINCE ITS FIRST PERFORMANCE IN 1975.



RICK (WITH HIS SONS ADAM AND OLIVER AND DAUGHTER GEMMA) AND MEMBERS OF THE ECC TAKE A BOW AT MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE

THE ECC AND GUY PROTHEROE HAVE WORKED WITH RICK WAKEMAN FOR OVER 30 YEARS. RICK COMPOSED *NOAH* FOR THE CHOIR'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY IN 1997: A GRUMPY OLD MAN'S DISTINCTLY MERRIE TAKE ON THE STORY OF THE FLOOD. *SEASCAPES* BY PAUL READE INCLUDES *ST BRENDAN AND THE FISHES*, ORIGINALLY WRITTEN FOR THE ECC. PAUL ACHIEVED CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS WITH HIS BALLET SCORES FOR DAVID BINTLEY AND THE BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET - NOTABLY *HOBSON'S CHOICE*, BUT HE WAS BETTER KNOWN FOR HIS MANY TELEVISION SCORES - INCLUDING THE SIGNATURE TUNE TO THE BBC'S *PLAY SCHOOL* PROGRAMME, WHICH ENTERTAINED CHILDREN FOR DECADES! WHEN PERFORMING WITH RICK AT HAMPTON COURT A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, THE CHOIR INCLUDED A SET OF A CAPPELLA PIECES WHICH INCLUDED A SMALL GEM CALLED *REJECTION* BY JOHN GARDNER. THIS WAS ONE OF A SET CALLED *5 PHILANDERS*, IT PROVED SO POPULAR THAT THE CHOIR SET ABOUT FINDING THE OTHER 4 NUMBERS. ALSO FEATURED IS THE MUSIC OF PERCY GRAINGER (HE OF *COUNTRY GARDENS* FAME), GRAINGER WAS KNOWN AS "THE JOGGING PIANIST" FOR HIS HABIT OF RACING THROUGH STREETS TO A CONCERT, WHERE HE WOULD BOUND ON STAGE AT THE LAST MINUTE - A BIT LIKE RICK REALLY! THESE NAUTICAL AND PASTORAL ASPECTS OF ENGLAND ARE COMPLEMENTED BY A MORE 'PATRIOTIC' STRAND, REPRESENTED BY ELGAR, PARRY AND, LAST BUT BY NO MEANS LEAST, EDWARD GERMAN, WHOSE ROBUST CHORUSES FROM HIS OPERETTA *MERRIE ENGLAND* BROUGHT THE HOUSE DOWN AT THE CONCLUSION OF LAST YEAR'S ST GEORGE'S DAY CONCERT AT ST JAMES'.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT

WWW.ENGLISHCHAMBERCHOIR.COM AND WWW.RWCC.COM