

THE Exon SINGERS

FESTIVAL 2006 23 – 30 July

President: **David Hill**
Artistic Director and Conductor: **Matthew Owens**
Festival Organists: **David Briggs & Jeffrey Makinson**
Composer-in-Residence: **David Briggs**

THE EXON SINGERS, founded in 1966, is recognised as one of the UK's leading chamber choirs. Recent reviews hail the choir as "wonderfully full-bodied, youthful... exciting and beautiful" (*Early Music America*) with a "brilliant soprano sound" (*The Daily Telegraph*) where "one is just swept along by the unabashed exuberance of the singing" (*International Record Review*).

The choir can often be heard on BBC Radios 3 and 4 and on CD, including a first recording of a reconstruction of Vespers by Tomás Luis de Victoria, launched to critical acclaim during 2004. Under the direction of Matthew Owens, the choir has also received recognition through commissioning new works from some of the UK's most exciting composers – Richard Allain, Grayston Ives, Francis Jackson, Gabriel Jackson and George Lloyd.

Since 1973, the annual Exon Singers' Festival has been based in the market town of Tavistock on the edge of Dartmoor, and now includes the venues of Tavistock Parish Church, Buckfast Abbey, Exeter Cathedral and St David's Church, Exeter. This year's Festival features one of the UK's most exciting composing talents, David Briggs. Other highlights of Festival 2006 will include the launch of a CD of previously unrecorded works by Francis Jackson; Choral Vespers broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 from Buckfast Abbey; a celebrity organ recital by one of the UK's finest organists, Gordon Stewart; Choral Evensong in Exeter Cathedral; concerts in Exeter and Tavistock; a song recital and Festival Services at Tavistock Parish Church. As a complete contrast, the light-hearted family concert will include the comical and highly entertaining *Wind in the Willows* by John Rutter.

Festival Programme 2006

The Festival Programme, containing details of all concerts and services, programme notes and biographical information about the performers will be on sale during the Festival.

Admission to each concert will be by ticket, available at the door or in advance from The Box Office, The Wharf, Canal Rd, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 8AT. Tel: **01822 611166**

For further information on the Exon Singers, Festival 2006 (including accommodation) please visit www.exonsingers.org.uk

Festival Season Ticket

A Festival Season Ticket, which admits holders to all events, is available in advance via the website www.exonsingers.org.uk, at the price of £23.00 and includes a complimentary programme.

FESTIVAL DIARY

Sunday 23 July, 6.00pm, Tavistock Parish Church
Festival Evensong

Monday 24 July, 6.30pm, Bedford Arms Hotel, Tavistock
Reception for Friends and Benefactors of The Exon Singers

Monday 24 July, 7.30pm, Tavistock Parish Church
Sequence of Music and Readings followed by Candlelit Compline

Tuesday 25 July, 1.10pm, Tavistock Parish Church
Celebrity Organ Recital (Gordon Stewart)

Tuesday 25 July, 7.30pm, Tavistock Parish Church
Song Recital

Wednesday 26 July, 4.00pm, Buckfast Abbey
Choral Vespers (BBC Radio 3)

Thursday 27 July, 7.30pm, The Wharf, Tavistock
Family Concert

Friday 28 July, 5.30pm, Exeter Cathedral
Choral Evensong

Friday 28 July, 7.45pm, St David's Church, Exeter
Festival Concert

Saturday 29 July, 7.30pm, Tavistock Parish Church
Festival Concert

Sunday 30 July, 9.45am, Tavistock Parish Church
Festival Eucharist

THE *Exon* SINGERS

FESTIVAL 2006

23 - 30 JULY

TAVISTOCK PARISH CHURCH

Sunday 23 July, 6.00pm

FESTIVAL EVENSONG

with the combined choirs of Tavistock Parish Church and The Exon Singers. Music by Stanford, Mozart and Mendelssohn

Monday 24 July, 7.30pm

SEQUENCE OF MUSIC AND READINGS:

THE SONG OF SONGS

with music from the Renaissance to the present day followed by

COMPLINE BY CANDLELIGHT

including Arvo Pärt's *Nunc dimittis*

Admission free, retiring collection

Tuesday 25 July, 1.10pm

CELEBRITY ORGAN RECITAL

Gordon Stewart, International Recitalist, Organist of Huddersfield Town Hall and Conductor on the BBC's *Songs of Praise* presents a programme of popular organ music

Tickets **£3.00**

Tuesday 25 July, 7.30pm

SONG RECITAL

An opportunity to hear professional singers from around the country in a song recital setting. Featuring solo and duet performances of music by Bach, Vivaldi, Purcell, Finzi and Vaughan Williams

Tickets **£5.00**

Saturday 29 July, 7.30pm

FESTIVAL CONCERT

Celebrating the music of Mozart, Finzi, Barber, Francis Jackson and Composer-in-Residence, David Briggs

Tickets **£6.00, students & under 18s £4.00**

children under 10 free

Sunday 30 July, 9.45am

FESTIVAL EUCHARIST

Featuring the compositions and improvisations of David Briggs (Organist Emeritus, Gloucester Cathedral and Composer-in-Residence)

including *Truro Eucharist* and *Ave verum corpus*

Preacher: Revd John Pedlar

THE WHARF, TAVISTOCK

Thursday 27 July, 7.30pm

FAMILY CONCERT

The Exon Singers perform popular music for all the family including John Rutter's *Wind in the Willows* together with folk songs, barbershop and music by Pearsall

Tickets **£7.50, students & under 18s £4.00**

BUCKFAST ABBEY

Wednesday 26 July, 4.00pm

CHORAL VESPERS (BBC RADIO 3)

A live broadcast on BBC Radio 3 featuring a new work by David Briggs, who will also improvise on the organ during the service. The doors will close at 3.45pm

Admission free, retiring collection

EXETER CATHEDRAL

Friday 28 July, 5.30pm

CHORAL EVENSONG

Featuring the music of David Briggs, Composer-in-Residence, including *Magnificat* & *Nunc dimittis* and *Jubilate Deo*

ST DAVID'S CHURCH, EXETER

Friday 28 July, 7.45pm

FESTIVAL CONCERT

Celebrating the music of Finzi, Barber, Mozart, Francis Jackson and Composer-in-Residence, David Briggs

Tickets **£6.00, students & under 18s £4.00**

children under 10 free

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