

Sunday 3 January ⁹⁹

7.00pm King's College Chapel, Taunton

SOMERSET CHAMBER CHOIR

"not simply a good choir but a great one"

Somerset County Gazette (Aug 97)

B **Musica** *Britannica*

PARRY I was glad

WALTON Antiphon: Let all the world

TAVENER Song for Athene

HOWELLS Requiem

BRITTEN Rejoice in the lamb

STANFORD Three motets:

Beati quorum via

Justorum animae

Caelos ascendit

BYRD Haec dies

TOMKINS When David heard

PURCELL I was glad

and pieces for Organ by **STANLEY & ELGAR**

Richard Pearce Organ

Graham Caldbeck Conductor



Admission £10

To include glass of mulled wine and programme

Ticket Enquiries: 01275 349010



*Here will we sit, and let
the sounds of music
Creep in our ears: soft
stillness and the night
Become the touches of
sweet harmony.*

Shakespeare : The Merchant of Venice

Join us on an exciting nocturnal musical journey through four centuries of great British choral music, beginning at the time of Shakespeare and ending in the present decade. Two twentieth century masterpieces: Britten's colourful cantata, *Rejoice in the lamb*, for choir, soloists and organ, and Howells's deeply-felt *Requiem*, scored for soloists and double choir, are approached via a route which begins in 1591 with William Byrd's exultant motet, *Haec dies* and ends in 1994 with John Tavener's moving *Song for Athene*. Tavener's work, which sets texts drawn from Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and the Orthodox Funeral Service, formed the unforgettable conclusion of the funeral of Princess Diana held in Westminster Abbey last year. Along the way our itinerary takes in *When David heard*, a powerful seventeenth-century lament by Tomkins, Stanford's beautiful *Three motets*, written for Trinity College, Cambridge in the late nineteenth century and two strikingly different settings of *I was glad*, by Purcell and Parry, composed respectively for the Coronation of James II in 1685 and that of Edward VII in 1902. Walton's brilliant contemporary setting of George Herbert's famous hymn text, *Let all the world in every corner sing* is included too, and instrumental refreshment is provided in organ works by Stanley and Elgar performed by Richard Pearce. Post-concert non-musical refreshment for choir and audience, will take the more usual form of mulled wine and mince pies....

Musica Britannica is a programme of 'sweet harmony' selected from four centuries of our country's history. Here will you sit? - we hope so - for what promises to be an unmissable concert!

B Musica Britannica

After the concert you are welcome to join the choir for a festive glass of mulled wine, the traditional end to our New Year concerts.

There is limited seating at this venue. Members of our **Friends Scheme** receive priority booking after which seats are allocated on a first come first served basis.

Ticket Enquiries: 01275 349010