

SATURDAY 30 DECEMBER 2000 7.00 PM

KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL, TAUNTON



MIRACLES & MYSTERIES

Music from four centuries for Advent, Christmas and New Year

Tallis Videte miraculum

Arvo Pärt 7 Magnificat antiphons

Monteverdi Missa a quattro voci da cappella

Finzi Magnificat

and works by

Bach, Holst, Hadley, Britten, John Tavener
and John Rutter

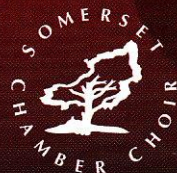
Richard Pearce - Organ

Graham Caldbeck - Conductor

SOMERSET CHAMBER CHOIR

"...has a deserved reputation for excellence"

Somerset County Gazette



Tickets - £12 and £10

(price includes a programme and mulled wine)

Box Office 01275 349010

The **MIRACLES** of the Annunciation, Jesus's Incarnation and birth 2000 years ago, together with the **MYSTERIES** of the Virgin Mary and of the Mass are all explored and celebrated in an eclectic tapestry of magnificent seasonal music from the 16th, 17th, 18th and 20th centuries.

The first half of the programme contrasts Tallis's glorious motet **Videte miraculum** with Arvo Pärt's 7 **Magnificat antiphons** - a remarkable setting by the leading contemporary Estonian composer of the 'O' antiphons appointed to be sung before the Magnificat on the seven evenings preceding Christmas Eve. Chorale Preludes for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day from J.S.Bach's **Orgelbüchlein** lead to Holst's beautiful setting of the Latin hymn **Ave Maria** for unaccompanied female voices and Finzi's substantial setting, for choir and organ, of the **Magnificat**.

A masterpiece from 17th-century Venice, Monteverdi's **Missa a quattro voci da cappella**, forms the centrepiece of a programme which encompasses a stimulating and wide range of choral styles. Music by four British composers: Patrick Hadley, John Tavener, Benjamin Britten and John Rutter completes the concert. Hadley's moving setting of the famous 15th-century poem **I sing of a maiden**, Tavener's passionate **Hymn to the Mother of God**, composed in memory of his own mother, and his lively, folk-like carol **Today the Virgin** are followed by Britten's hauntingly simple **A New Year Carol**. An engaging arrangement of the traditional English carol, **Here we come a-wassailing** by John Rutter rounds off the concert in a suitably convivial fashion.

Join us for this evening of miraculous, mysterious and magnificent music - what better way could there be to complete your Christmas celebrations and to enter 2001 in good cheer?

MIRACLES & MYSTERIES

Box Office 01275 349010 or at the door

The Box Office is open for bookings now, but seats will not be allocated until the Friends priority booking period ends on 30 October. More details about the Friends Scheme are available from the Box Office.

The **SOMERSET CHAMBER CHOIR** is one of the South West's leading young choirs.

"Music making as it should be - as fine a performance as could be wished for"
(Somerset County Gazette)

"One of the finest examples of mixed professional and amateur performers in the country" (Taunton Times)



The right is reserved, without incurring liability, to substitute artists and to vary the programme for reasons beyond our control, although these details are correct at the time of going to press.