



MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE

# CONCERT SERIES

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2011

## Final two concerts complete the 2010 /2011 season

**Sunday 6 February 2011**  
**Memorial Hall – 3.00 pm**

February marks the return of Southbank Sinfonia, one year on from their last appearance in Marlborough.

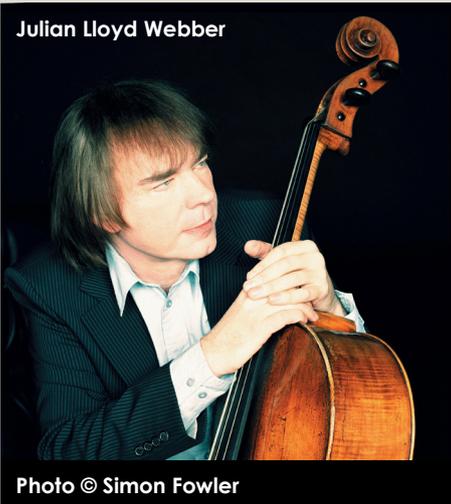
This year, under the direction of Simon Over, we can look forward to the stirring Trumpet Concerto by Haydn, the lyrical Brahms' Second Symphony, and works by Glinka and Shostakovich.

Read more about the concert programme over the page.

**Thursday 17 March 2011**  
**Memorial Hall – 7.30 pm**

Then, to conclude the current season, we welcome three virtuosi performers – Philip Dukes (viola), Julian Lloyd Webber (cello), and Piers Lane (piano), who will share with us works by Brahms, Berlioz, and the Sonata in E by Arthur Benjamin.

**Julian Lloyd Webber**



**Photo © Simon Fowler**

### Ticket Hotline

If you haven't yet booked for this performance, you can still purchase tickets from the MCCS Box Office. Simply call us now on 01672 892566.

## “Sixteen” to raise curtain on 2011 /12

**Internationally acclaimed choral ensemble The Sixteen will launch the 70th anniversary ‘celebration’ season of the Marlborough College Concert Series.**

Recognised as one of the world's greatest ensembles, The Sixteen have a distinguished reputation for performing early English polyphony, masterpieces of the Renaissance, and for bringing fresh insights to Baroque and early Classical music.

They will perform pieces from their Immortal Legacy programme, including madrigals and much loved classics from Tudor and Jacobean church music.

The venue will be the magnificent Marlborough College Chapel – a perfect setting for the presentation of sacred choral music.

The concert will be given on Sunday, 18 September 2011 at 7:30pm, under the direction of Principal Guest Conductor, Eamonn Dougan, who has received considerable public and critical acclaim for his work with the choir.

Eamonn, a member of The Sixteen since 2001, became the group's first Assistant Conductor and continues to sing with the choir.

He has conducted The Sixteen on numerous occasions, most recently in Uppingham, at the Abbaye de Lessay, France, at the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, and at the festival opening of new London venue, Kings Place.

The concert sets the scene for an extraordinary line-up that promises to be an immensely varied and exciting anniversary season.

**More details in the next issue.**

**Eamonn Dougan**



**Photo © Will Unwin**

### Dates and times for the 70th Season

#### **The Sixteen**

18 September 2011 at 7:30pm

#### **Jack Liebeck**

9 October 2011 at 7:30pm

#### **Chilingirian Quartet**

6 November 2011 at 7:30pm

#### **East Meets West**

15 January 2012 at 3:00pm

#### **BBC National Orchestra of Wales**

5 February 2012 at 3:00pm

## Concert series resumes with a fizz and a bang!

The first concert of 2011 (the fourth of six in the 2010 /11 series) was given by the virtuoso guitarists 'The Katona Twins' performing alongside the equally versatile percussionists 'O Duo'.

This was an excellent collaboration full of colour, spirit and charisma.

What made it so special was the huge range of possibilities available: solo guitars or solo percussion; guitars and percussion together; music by Scarlatti to music by de Falla and Philip Glass – all beautifully crafted and engagingly introduced by the performers.

Rhythm naturally plays a huge part in such a concert and not surprisingly this was expertly controlled and the balance between the guitars and percussion was superbly delivered. The energy generated throughout was infectious: a sort of no-nonsense bustle ensued when O Duo were in full swing, perfectly complemented by the facility and dexterity of the Katonas and the drama was further enhanced by the truly impressive, dynamic variation.

O Duo



Altogether thoroughly enjoyable and a break from the 'norm' without compromising on quality in any way whatsoever.

**Philip Dukes (Artistic Director)**



## Southbank Sinfonia returns this month

Following last year's successful visit by Simon Over and the Southbank Sinfonia, we welcome orchestra and conductor back to Marlborough for what promises to be a varied and engaging performance.

The programme begins with **Glinka's Overture to Ruslan and Ludmilla**.

Based on Pushkin's epic poem, it tells the story of how Ludmilla is abducted by an evil sorcerer from a party given for her three suitors.

Each suitor sets out to save her, encountering an assortment of witches, hermits, magic castles and enchanted gardens along the way.

Finally, the sorcerer is vanquished by Ruslan who revives Ludmilla from a trance and gains her hand in marriage.

Then to follow, we hear **Haydn's Trumpet Concerto in E flat major**, written in 1796 at the request of his long time friend, Anton Weidinger. For three years, Weidinger, a Viennese musician had been perfecting a series of improvements to the natural trumpet, eventually settling on a modification he called the '*organised trumpet*,' incorporating keys similar to those found on woodwind.

By the 1830s however, the keyed instrument had yielded to the more versatile valve trumpet we have today.

Crispian Steele-Perkins, one of the world's best known Trumpet soloists brings this concerto to life for us in the centre piece of the first half.

After the interval, we hear **Brahms' Second Symphony**.

Brahms was deeply critical of his own work, and tales abound of compositions written and destroyed. Indeed, he wrestled with his first symphony for nearly 15 years before completing it in his early forties.

"A *Symphony is no joke*," he once remarked – always it seems oppressed by what he perceived to be the overwhelming greatness of Beethoven.

But the second symphony was more easily accomplished – coming to fruition in the space of just a few months in the summer of 1877. The premiere was given in Vienna later that year, on December 30 under the direction of Hans Richter.

The symphony is a work of bucolic innocence and charm, and its cheerfulness has been likened to the pastoral mood of Beethoven's Sixth Symphony. Of all Brahms' symphonies, it is generally considered his most genial.

And to conclude, the Southbank Sinfonia will perform a short piece from "**The Gadfly**," Shostakovich's most popular and accessible film-score. In this performance, we will hear the sweet and lyrical "Romance."

### Don't miss out on news about the 70th anniversary 'celebration' season

If you received this newsletter directly from MCCS email – you are already registered. But if not, sign up to receive future editions and stay in touch. To join our mailing list, simply send your name, email and postal address to:

[enquiries@marlboroughconcertseries.org](mailto:enquiries@marlboroughconcertseries.org)