



Seven Weeks A bridge across two worlds

It's less than two months to go to the first concert of the new season on Sunday, 18th September at 7:30pm.

Internationally acclaimed choral ensemble, The Sixteen will open the 70th season with an evening of medieval madrigals and polyphonic masterpieces led by Guest Director Eamonn Dougan.

This month the MCCS Box Office opens for business, and priority series bookings can be made by post.

Ticket applications must be made in writing by completing an MCCS booking form.

Discounts apply for customers booking for four or more concert events. (Please refer to full Terms and Conditions on the booking form.)

Mailing list subscribers should already have received a booking form by post, but if not, please contact the Box Office now, and we will mail you one.

Forms can also be downloaded from our website. Look for 'booking form' on the 'Tickets' webpage.

Write to:

MCCS Box Office,
The Henry Hony Centre,
Marlborough College, SN8 1PA

Phone:

01672 892566

Web:

www.marlboroughconcertseries.org

The 70th Season at a glance

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

Next January, Daniel Hope will present "East meets West," a musical collaboration with international musicians Gaurav Majumdar (sitar), Shahbaz Hussain (tabla), Gilda Sebastian (tanpura), and Sebastian Knauer (luthéal).



Daniel Hope

Photo © Harald Hoffmann /DG

[Photo courtesy of Deutsche Grammophon]

After graduating from the Royal Academy of Music under the tutelage of renowned Russian pedagogue Zakhar Bron, Daniel Hope has toured the world for more than 20 years. He performs as soloist with the world's major orchestras and conductors, directs many ensembles from the violin, and plays chamber music in venues both traditional and modern.

Recently characterised by the New York Times as "a violinist of probing intellect and commanding style," he is credited as a compelling performer with a body of work that includes standard repertoire, new music, raga, and jazz. "In a business that likes tidy boxes drawn around its commodities," the review continues, "British violinist Daniel Hope resists categorisation."

East meets West is described by Hope as "an examination of how we [as musicians] are influenced by faraway places. Whether it is Western composers whose eastward glances indulge their creative fantasies, or Eastern composers reaching out to what must seem like strange customs of the Western world, it is my hope to identify some of these influences and their effects, in all their similarities and differences."

Programme

- Manuel de Falla:
Popular Spanish Songs
- Toru Takemitsu:
Distance de Fée
- Maurice Ravel:
Tzigane
- Gaurav Majumdar:
"Homage to Ravi Shankar"
- Interval
- Maurice Ravel:
"Alborada del gracioso" aus
"Miroirs" op. 43
- Béla Bartók:
Roumanian Folk Dances
- Maurice Ravel:
Kaddish (arr. Hope for solo violin)
- Gaurav Majumdar:
"Homage to Yehudi Menuhin"

In a programme that includes works by Ravel, Manuel de Falla, and Bartók, we will also hear musical tributes to Ravi Shankar and Yehudi Menuhin. Accompanying Hope will be celebrated sitarist Gaurav Majumdar.

Widely acclaimed across parts of Asia, Australia, Europe, Africa and America, Majumdar is noted for his solo

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recitals and jugalbandis (duets) with many of the best known musicians from the Indian subcontinent.

Works by Ravel feature strongly in the programme for good reason, as Daniel Hope explains: "Maurice Ravel, with his unique sound world, enhanced by that astonishing invention, the luthéal, is represented here as the musical bridge connecting both worlds."

The Luthéal

Invented by the Belgian George Cloetens (1871-1949), the luthéal is essentially an adaptation of a grand piano.

In a patent granted in 1919, it is described as a device for changing the timbre of notes produced by string instruments activated by keyboard or by hand.

So the luthéal is not actually an instrument in its own right – merely an aid to altering the timbre of a piano.

Built in 1922, the luthéal we will see in Marlborough has been completely restored by Evert Snel. It is the only original instrument of its kind – and quite possibly one of the rarest piano instruments in existence!

Between concert appearances, which are something of a rarity, the luthéal is displayed in the Musical Instrument Museum in Brussels.

Musicians around the world regularly seek to rent the instrument for recitals, but the challenge of shipping it safely from place to place limit such occasions.

This visit to Marlborough is likely to be, for many of our audience, a once in a lifetime opportunity to hear the instrument at first hand, and we are grateful to Mr Snel for making the instrument available for our concert programme.

"Could there even be a direct link between violin, luthéal and sitar?" ask Hope. "I'll leave it to you to decide."

Join us for what promises to be a spectacular and sell-out collaboration of musical talent. ■

Chilingirian Quartet to join Marlborough College in double celebration

In their 40th anniversary season, this distinguished ensemble is set to join us at the midpoint of our own landmark series, performing works by Haydn, Schubert and Dvorak.

Forty years ago, violinist **Levon Chilingirian** and cellist **Philip De Groote** co-founded the Chilingirian Quartet.

Today, the ensemble is one of the most active and celebrated string quartets on the international stage and has toured more than fifty countries on six continents.

Levon was born in Cyprus to Armenian parents and was introduced to music from a very early age through his pianist mother and violinist great uncle. When the Chilingirian family emigrated to London in 1960, he studied violin at the Royal College of Music, where he is now a professor. In addition to his

Ronald Birks took up the violin at the age of ten. He studied the repertoire for quartet at Royal Manchester College of Music under the direction of Alexandre Moskovsky, formerly of the Hungarian String Quartet. After spending two years with the Northern Sinfonia Orchestra, he moved to the Lindsay String Quartet in 1971, with whom he remained until the quartet's retirement in 2005. Two years ago, he joined the Chilingirian String Quartet – making his public debut with the ensemble in Venezuela, in January 2010.

English born violist, **Susie Mészáros** is a professor at the Royal College of



appearances with the quartet, Levon also performs as a soloist with numerous orchestras and chamber music partners.

Philip was born in Johannesburg, into a family of professional musicians. He had his first cello lessons at six and won many prizes in his early years before entering the Royal College of Music in London. His musical first love is the string quartet, though he has also performed as a soloist and recitalist throughout Europe, in the USA, Russia, and his native South Africa.

Music. She studied at the Yehudi Menuhin School, and in 1977 made her Wigmore Hall debut in a duo with Menuhin himself, while also performing with Vladimir Spivakov and Arthur Grumiaux. She co-founded the Villiers Piano Quartet and was leader of Kent Opera for several years, as well as leader of several chamber groups including the Fitzwilliam Quartet.

We are delighted to welcome this prestigious ensemble to Marlborough during our own anniversary season. ■