



Season 71 Preview:

Looking forward to more great performances in Marlborough by world class musicians.



King's Singers [Photo © Alex MacNaughton]

The 2012 /13 Marlborough College Concert Series will open in Chapel on Sunday, 16th September at 7:30pm in what is sure to be a thrilling curtain raiser to the 71st season.

Fresh from their world tour this Winter and Spring, with performances in Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and Europe, the **King's Singers** will share with us a rich and varied programme including works from Tudor times to the 20th century.

Then for the second concert of our series, **Red Priest** will make a welcome return to the Memorial Hall. This is baroque with a difference (see main feature).

Drawing the year to a mighty close, we will receive the renowned **London Mozart Players** with narration by actor **Robert Powell**.

The series resumes in January with an afternoon recital given by the versatile classical, jazz and contemporary pianist **Joanna MacGregor**. The programme will include works by Beethoven, Bartok and Brahms.

Rounding off another spectacular season will be a visit from our *Orchestra in Partnership*, the **Southbank Sinfonia**. They will open with a Russian overture, follow with Mozart's Clarinet Concerto (soloist Julian Bliss), and conclude with a Tchaikovsky symphony (to confirm).

More details about all of these events will be published in future editions of the newsletter. ■

Red Priest to return in 2013

Two years ago Red Priest tantalised us with their tongue in cheek approach to music from the baroque era. Next year, they're back, and sure to be a hit!

Playing completely from memory, their performance was described at the time by Philip Dukes, Artistic Director as "nothing short of breathtaking."

Combining wit, originality and masterful musicianship, they delivered a concert of incredible imagination, panache and humour.

Add to this, elegant costume, dramatic gestures, special effects lighting and clever use of space, without detriment to the quality of music making, and Red Priest are the genuine article when it comes to thrilling audiences of all ages.

Founded in 1997 and named after the flame-haired priest, Antonio Vivaldi, Red Priest comprises recorder player Piers Adams, violinist Julia Bishop, cellist Angela East and harpsichordist David Wright.

Julia is one of the outstanding baroque violin specialists of her generation, with a virtuoso style described in the BBC Music Magazine as 'psychedelic'. She has toured the world with most of the UK's leading period instrument orchestras.

Angela is widely regarded as one of the most dynamic performers in the period instrument world. She has appeared as soloist and continuo cellist with many of Europe's leading baroque orchestras.

Since graduating with distinction from the Royal College of Music, David has established himself as a prominent figure in the early music world. Much of his time recently has been devoted to touring and performing the Goldberg Variations, which he recorded in 2007.



Photo © Graham Flack

Piers was recently heralded in the Washington Post as "the reigning recorder virtuoso in the world today." He has performed as concerto soloist with the Philharmonia, the English Sinfonia, and the BBC Symphony orchestras, as well as numerous chamber music ensembles.

Their repertoire ranges from obscure 17th century sonatas to the most famous works of Bach and Vivaldi presented alongside imaginative filmic titles, such as "Priest on the Run," and "Nightmare in Venice."

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With their *heart-on-sleeve* emotion, compelling stagecraft and *rock-chamber concert* approach to early music, the ensemble has redefined the art of period performance.



Photo © Graham Flack

For their visit to Marlborough, Red Priest will present "**Pirates of the baroque.**" their hugely popular programme of *stolen masterworks* and *forgotten jewels* from the baroque era, all performed with swash buckling virtuosity!

In addition to the 'Albinoni' Adagio, we will hear works by Tartini, Simonetti and Leclair.

Giuseppe Tartini was an 18th century Italian baroque composer-violinist.

Legend has it that in 1716, he heard Francesco Maria Veracini playing violin and was so impressed he locked himself away to perfect his own skill.

Five years on, his talent had developed sufficiently to merit the appointment of Maestro di Cappella at the Basilica di Sant'Antonio in Padua.

Reputedly, Tartini was the first known owner of a violin made by Antonio Stradivari.

Jean-Marie Leclair, also an 18th century baroque composer-violinist is credited as having founded the French violin school.

Claudio Simonetti is a Brazilian-born, Italian composer noted for writing film music. Best known for his electronic score to the film *Dawn of the Dead*, he is predominantly recognised for his contribution to the Italian horror genre.

Also featured in the programme will be Vivaldi's *Tempesta di Mare* Concerto, (translated as "The Storm at Sea"), the *Pirate Suite* (after Couperin), and pieces by Bach, Vitali and Handel.

For a taste of what's in store this Autumn, visit Amazon.co.uk and search for 'Pirates of the baroque.' You will find short music clips for many of the featured pieces.

After you have heard Red Priest, baroque will never sound the same again. They will change your perceptions forever. Don't miss them! ■

Reviews

'Chilis' still hot at 40!

The final concert of the MCCA 2011 calendar year welcomed the legendary Chilingirian String Quartet to the Memorial Hall in a traditional programme of Haydn, Schubert and Dvorak.

The 'Chilis' have graced concert halls worldwide for over four decades and it's easy to see why: they produce a beautifully crafted, superbly matched sound both in articulation and expressive lyricism, and there is a remarkable freshness in performance despite their longevity.

Following the opening Haydn String Quartet, they were joined by the first of two musical guests, the Armenian cellist, Alexander Chaushian. Chaushian's tone and charisma further bolstered the previously established rich quartet sound, and we were treated to a truly sincere and absorbing performance of Schubert's masterpiece, the Double Cello Quintet in C major.

Following the interval, the quartet was joined by a second guest artist, Ashley Wass, the acclaimed British pianist.



Ashley Wass

Photo © Sussie Ahlberg

Arguably one of the greatest piano quintets ever written is that of Dvorak, and this performance was the perfect contrast to the delicate Schubert that finished the first half.

Wass was in fine form as he lavished his glorious rubato and tonal colours on proceedings, matched by some vibrant, spirited playing from the Chilis. What a treat and the perfect way to conclude the 2011 MCCA year.

Philip Dukes (Artistic Director)

Music crossing continents

Just occasionally the MCCA presents something out of the ordinary and in the concert entitled 'East meets West,' we heard not only something very different but incredibly special.

The mastermind behind the East meets West production is the magnificent British violinist Daniel Hope - a musician of immense talent and vision. This performance is a journey of cultural exploration, a meeting of musical minds and emotional ideas juxtaposed to make one coherent and fascinating presentation.

The novelty item is the use of the Luthéal piano (played by the excellent Sebastian Knauer), which offers an extraordinary plethora of sounds from a contraption fitted into the heart of a conventional piano.



Sebastian Knauer

Further interest is provided by the introduction of music from India led by Gaurav Majumdar on sitar in a homage to the collaboration between Ravi Shankar and Yehudi Menuhin in the 1960s.

In this journey we visit the music of Spain, France (Basque), Japan, Hungary /Romania, India and Jewish influences. A mesmerising journey of immense beauty and sincerity performed by world class musicians.

Philip Dukes (Artistic Director)

Season 71 at a glance

The King's Singers 16-Sept-12
Red Priest 07-Oct-12
London Mozart Players 04-Nov-12
Joanna MacGregor 13-Jan-13
Southbank Sinfonia 03-Feb-13