

SOMERSET CHAMBER CHOIR

SATURDAY 31 JULY 2010 at 7pm

WELLS CATHEDRAL



The dreamers of dreams

Inspirational English choral music

ELGAR

The Music Makers

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

Toward the Unknown Region

Flos Campi

PARRY

Blest Pair of Sirens

JUDITH BINGHAM

The darkness is no darkness

S. S. WESLEY

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace

Tickets: £25, £22, £18, £15, £12, £10
from MusicBox: 01275 349010

SOMERSET CHAMBER CHOIR

'firmly established as among the best'

SOUTHERN SINFONIA

'one of our leading professional orchestras'

mezzo-soprano **SARA FULGONI**

viola **ALAN GEORGE**

organ **OLIVER WALKER**

conductor **GRAHAM CALDBECK**

www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk

The dreamers of dreams

Borrowing a memorable phrase from Elgar's *The Music Makers* as its title, *The dreamers of dreams* creates an inspiring sequence of some of the most celebrated English late 19th/early 20th-century choral works by Parry, Vaughan Williams and Elgar. Taking Parry's uplifting setting of Milton's *Blest Pair of Sirens* (1887) as its starting point - one of the most influential works of the English musical renaissance - the programme traces the strong English choral revival that followed. Vaughan Williams' early, visionary setting of Walt Whitman in *Toward the Unknown Region* (1906), and *Flos Campi* (1925), the composer's distinctive work for solo viola, small orchestra and wordless chorus based on *The Song of Solomon*, lead to Elgar's *The Music Makers* (1912) - an outstanding and very personal work, in which the composer includes quotations from *Sea Pictures*, *The Dream of Gerontius*, the *Enigma Variations* and both symphonies. In addition to these works, we also include two short pieces outside this period - *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace* (1853) by Samuel Sebastian Wesley, whose style fed directly into Parry's and whose bicentenary of birth is marked this year, and a recent, related work by Judith Bingham, who was until the end of 2009 the BBC Singers' Associate Composer; *The darkness is no darkness* (1993) is a contemporary reflection upon Wesley's famous anthem and is designed to segue into a performance of the original.

Somerset Chamber Choir has established a fine reputation for first-class music-making over more than twenty-five years, consistently promoting wide-ranging and imaginatively programmed concerts in partnership with many of the UK's finest singers and instrumentalists and their conductor, **Graham Caldbeck**, who also directs Nonsuch Singers ('one of London's best chamber choirs' *The Times*). Performing alongside the choir will be the outstanding mezzo-soprano, **Sara Fulgoni**, the distinguished violist of the Fitzwilliam String Quartet, **Alan George**, and the talented Wells Cathedral organ scholar, **Oliver Walker**. We are delighted to welcome back **Southern Sinfonia**, who played so magnificently in our *Songs of War & Peace* concert in 2008.



We do hope that you will join us to celebrate this wonderful music from 'England's green and pleasant land' in the magnificent setting of one of England's finest cathedrals. We can't think of a better way to spend a summer's evening!

Reserve your tickets today!

Wells Cathedral Concert Seating Plan - East Facing

Gold - £25	Blue - £15
Green - £22	Brown - £12
Red - £18	White - £10

Tickets and information from MusicBox: 01275 349010

**TICKETS £25, £22, £18, £15 (reserved)
£12, £10 (side aisles unreserved)**

**Group discounts available
Children & students half-price**

All major credit/debit cards accepted

**Tickets also available from
Wells Tourist Information Centre & Cathedral Shop**

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.
SOMERSET CHAMBER CHOIR - registered charity 1003687

Border text from Arthur O'Shaughnessy's poem