

Requiem performance to mark world war milestone

FOR the first concert of the 2018-2019 season, Tonbridge Philharmonic Society will be marking the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War with a musical contribution to the memorial activities planned by different organisations here in Tonbridge - a performance of Benjamin Britten's masterwork War Requiem on Saturday, November 24.

Britten was a lifelong pacifist who explored the themes of conflict and resolution in this music. He chose to use the searing words of the poet Wilfred Owen, who died just one week before the Armistice on 4th November 1918, interspersing nine of his poems with the traditional Latin Mass for the Dead.

War Requiem will be a very special moment in the society's history for many reasons. We will be involving young people from the Tonbridge Grammar School's Motet Choir and from the cadet groups in the area. We will also be taking a collection for the Royal British Legion, which does so much for the armed forces once their service is over. The concert will also be a poignant farewell to our Music Director of four years,

Matthew Willis, who will be taking up a new post in Europe in 2019.

Following the ever popular Family Carols event on December 15, our first two concerts of 2019 will be directed by guest conductor Michael Waldron, founder-director



Tonbridge Philharmonic Society

of the London Choral Society, and current Music Director of the Islington Choral Society. The programme for the orchestral concert in February features a great 20th century English favourite, Elgar's Cello Concerto. Written one hundred years ago, in the aftermath of the First World War it is an impassioned work, evocative of the spirit of the time. Performed by cellist Pavius Carvalho, the concerto will be followed by a grand scale late Romantic masterpiece from 1908 Rachmaninov's Symphony No. 2. In March 2019, we will join with our

friends from Kantoral Heusenstamm to perform Ein Deutsches Requiem by Brahms. Our second Requiem of the season, the work was written after the death of the composer's mother in 1865, and was later described by him as a 'human requiem'.

In May 2019, we welcome our Music Director Designate, Mark Biggins. He is an academic musician as well as a singer, pianist and conductor, and has a passion for teaching and education. He has studied at Cambridge and Yale, and is currently is chorusmaster for the ENO, working on a spread of works

from Gilbert and Sullivan to Philip Glass. The programme will see the orchestra return to Russian Romanticism and will include Rimsky-Korsakov's Symphonic Poem Sadko, based on a Russian epic folk poem. This will pave the way for a performance of our second big Russian Romantic symphony of the season, Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5.

The season will come to a stirring end in July with a Proms style summer concert featuring a delightful menu of works by Walton, Holst, Parry, Vaughan Williams and Finzi.

email
for news to
community
@courier
.co.uk

YOUR NEWS

We compile Your Community News pages two weeks in advance of publication. If you want to include a future event please make sure you tell us in plenty of time so our readers can come along

on Tuesday, November 6, 9.30-11am.

■ **WI MEETING:** Taking place on Wednesday, November 7, at Matfield Village Hall at 7.30pm. It is a talk titled "The Mystical Medieval garden" by Lin Saines. Visitors welcome.

■ **POND CLEARANCE:** This year Matfield pond clearance is being organized by Chantal Brooks and she is looking for some fit volunteers to help. The more people there are, the

matfieldvillagehall@gmail.com

Cranbrook

Christine Newman: christine902@hotmail.co.uk, 01580 715837

■ **OPERATICS SHOW:** Guys and Dolls by Cranbrook Operatic and Dramatic Society will run at the Queen's Hall Theatre, Cranbrook, on