

News release – 1st March 2007

SINGERS CONVERGE ON BRISTOL FOR ELGAR FEST

City of Bristol Choir launch their Elgar Festival 2007 with a performance of Elgar's oratorio 'The Apostles'. Members of City of Bristol Choir and Exultate Singers have been rehearsing the work for some time and will be joined on the day by singers from around the South West for a workshop day this Saturday, 3rd March, conducted by David Ogden, at Redland Park UR Church on Whiteladies Road, Bristol.

The concert will be staged in the evening, with professional soloists singing the roles of Jesus, Judas, Mary and Mary Magdalene, St John and St Peter and organist Richard Johnson accompanying. The soloists include Charlotte Newstead, Stephen Foulkes, Richard Rowntree and Martin Le Poidevin, all well-known to Bristol audiences. The contralto soloist is Emily Bauer-Jones, who has appeared with Welsh National Opera and has broadcast on Classic FM.

The music of 'The Apostles' is powerful and dramatic - some critics consider the work to contain finer music than the Elgar's more famous 'Dream of Gerontius', regarding 'The Apostles' as the pinnacle of Elgar's musical achievements. Few people can fail to be moved by the final ten minutes of the work, covering the resurrection, which must surely be one of the most moving finales in the whole of the classical repertoire.

The performance of this wonderful, rarely-heard work which begins at 7.30pm on Saturday – audience tickets are £5, available in advance or on the door. Singers can still sign up for the workshop day which begins at 10am. Singers' tickets, including the hire of a vocal score, are £10. Telephone 0117 968 4058 or visit the festival website, <http://www.elgar2007.com> to book tickets, or turn up on the day.

The Elgar Festival 2007 continues with Fringe events involving many Bristol-based ensembles and artists. The highlight of the Festival will be a lavish performance of 'Dream of Gerontius' in the Colston Hall on Saturday 9th June, with City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra making their first appearance in Bristol for nearly 12 years.

<http://www.elgar2007.com>

Notes to Editors:

- City of Bristol Choir's Elgar Festival 2007 features performances of the three main Elgar oratorios alongside fringe events given by local ensembles. Full details together with high resolution images (low resolution versions are attached to this email) are available on the Festival website: <http://www.elgar2007.com>. Click on 'media' for links high resolution images.
- Tickets for The Apostles are priced at £10 for the singers' workshop or £5 for the concert and can be obtained from City of Bristol Choir ticket manager, Jan Nott on 0117 968 4058. The workshop day begins at 10am on Saturday 3rd March 2007 at Redland Park United Reformed Church, Whiteladies Road, Redland, Bristol BS6 6SA and will end with a concert at 7.30pm.
- City of Bristol Choir is a well-established adult choir of around 80 singers who perform a varied repertoire at venues around the South West. It was founded in 1991 and David Ogden was appointed Music Director in 2000. More information about the choir is available at <http://www.cityofbristolchoir.org.uk>
- For further information or to arrange photography or an interview with David Ogden, please contact Judith Ogden, Publicity Manager, City of Bristol Choir on 01275 373981 or 07753 742553 or email publicity@cityofbristolchoir.org.uk.