



Bach & Handel with a Twist - Festival Chamber Orchestra with David Rees-Williams

Saturday 11th October 2014, 7.30pm

St Peters Methodist Church, Canterbury CT1 2BE

Corelli Concerto Grosso, Op. 6, No. 1

Handel Concerto Grosso, Op 6, No. 12 in Bb

Bach Adagio (Oboe & Piano)

Bach Jesu Joy (Oboe & Piano)

Mozart Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

Albinoni Oboe Concerto in D major, Op. 7, No.6

Festival Chamber Orchestra

David Rees-Williams, piano

Anthony Halstead, conductor

"David is an extraordinary dextrous pianist who takes works by Bach and Handel off into amazing and unbelievable directions with stunning results" *Kentish Gazette*

Pianist David Rees-Williams joins the Festival Chamber Orchestra as part of their Autumn Season for a concert at St Peters Methodist Church, Canterbury on Saturday 11th October. The concert will feature Rees-Williams' brilliant improvisatory skills as he bridges the gap over musical styles and provides a new dimension to the Baroque repertoire being performed.

This concert focussing on improvisation in classical music will present key works of the Baroque repertoire reimagined by Rees-Williams' skilful improvisation, bringing a totally different perspective to the music. Oboist Ian Crowther will join Rees-Williams for a selection of pieces for oboe and piano by J.S. Bach. Bach put improvisation skills at the centre of his teaching and was renowned as the greatest improviser on the organ in Europe.

The concert will also feature the compelling *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* by Mozart and Concerto Grossi by Corelli and Handel. Fittingly, Mozart and Handel were both also renowned as improvisers. The Festival Chamber Orchestra with David Rees-Williams will perform the composer's compositions in a way that they themselves might have written and taught them, giving a fresh new approach to the way that these pieces have been performed.

The pieces will be interspersed with excerpts of solo improvisation based on autumnal colours by David Rees-Williams, highlighting the beauty of this wonderful season and unifying the concert as a whole.

David Rees-Williams began his musical career as a chorister at New College Oxford and then the Royal College of Music, where the rich variety of musical styles were to make strong and lasting impressions. David's arrangement of Purcell's *When I am Laid in Earth*, was played by Sean Rafferty on BBC Radio 3's In Tune. The response was extraordinary ("*David Rees-Williams' rendition of Purcell's 'When I am laid in earth' literally stole my breath...I have been reduced to a groupie*" Jon Snow, Evening Standard) and resulted in the BBC being inundated with enquiries, and subsequently inviting the David Rees-Williams Trio to record a commercial disc.

The Festival Chamber Orchestra was founded in 2002 for a performance in Canterbury Cathedral as part of the Canterbury Festival, conducted by international conductor and oboist, Nicholas Daniel. In 2007, the orchestra was brought together once again, under conductor Anthony Halstead, and now continues to be a professional orchestra that enjoys exploring and performing a wealth of wonderful chamber music. The FCO perform five concerts a year at venues across Canterbury.

Tickets: £18, £9 students, under 12s £5, Friends of FCO £15

Available from Crowthers of Canterbury, 1 The Borough, Canterbury, CT1 2DR

Online: www.crowthersofcanterbury.co.uk

Tel: 01227 763965

www.festivalchamberorchestra.co.uk

www.davidrees-williams.com