

# **COVERWOOD CONCERTS**

## **AT COVERWOOD LAKES, PEASLAKE**

### **THE ARTISTS...**

**KATHRYN HARRIES**, Coverwood's very own diva, has been extremely busy since the 2005 festival. During the autumn, she appeared at the English National Opera in a controversial new piece 'The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant' and was hugely relieved to be playing a mother who, just for once, doesn't kill anyone!

She returned to Hamburg to great acclaim in November. By the time the Coverwood Concerts take place, she will have given a number of recitals with Sarah Beth Briggs and Margaret Howard, as well as introducing an exciting new series of concerts called 'Glamorous Night' featuring operatic favourites and the ever popular hits of Ivor Novello.

2006 is going to be an exciting year for Kathryn as she is going to hit the road again for another marathon walk. This time she'll be raising money for the ENO and WNO Benevolent Funds by walking from London to Cardiff to Leeds, and back to London. With concerts along the way and the support of many illustrious musicians, it promises to be a high profile event which will celebrate Kathryn's thirty years of fund raising.

Kathryn will shortly be releasing a new CD.

**LINDA ORMISTON** has again been touring all over Britain in her many guises since appearing at Coverwood in 2005. Autumn was taken up with performances in a new Welsh National Opera production of The Merry Widow, with Lesley Garrett as the Widow and Donald Maxwell as Baron Zeta. The production traveled from Edinburgh to Southampton and was shown on BBC2 in December.

Spring 2006 saw her casting off on a Classical Music Cruise to the Caribbean with P&O, where, in addition to solo concerts, she directed an ensemble of passengers in a performance of HMS Pinafore.

Her services as a guest tutor have taken her to St Andrews in Scotland and St Ives in Cornwall and she is now a regular coach at the acclaimed Music Theatre of Scotland.

She presented a series of concerts from the St Magnus Festival in Orkney for BBC Radio 3 and is in increasing demand as a thoroughly entertaining after-dinner speaker.

**JAMES NICOL** is one of Scotland's finest tenors. His wit and charm as well

as his lovely lyric voice have won him fans all over the UK and abroad.

He is the regular soloist with the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra and appears in all their major concerts. James's versatility enables him to switch from operatic arias to Gilbert and Sullivan at the Pitlochry Festival and then to outrageous cabaret appearances with his musical partner in crime, Linda Ormiston.

He wowed the passengers on the 2005 National Trust for Scotland Cruise to Greenland last summer and has been invited back this year.

In the autumn, after a tour of Scotland, James will be off to the USA with his accompanist son Andrew for a series of concerts in Chicago.

**DONALD MAXWELL** has had an extraordinarily busy year.

He appeared with Linda in the Centenary production of *The Merry Widow* for WNO last autumn, which toured all over the UK and was broadcast on December 30<sup>th</sup> – the actual Centenary date.

He was back at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden for performances of *The Bartered Bride* under the baton of the legendary Sir Charles Mackerras in January. He then headed to Opera North for the intriguingly titled '*Arms and the Cow*' by Kurt Weill...it sounds like an appropriate opera for Coverwood!

In the summer Donald will be singing at the Buxton Festival in a new production of Telemann's masterpiece, '*Pimpinone*'.

**ROBERT POULTON** is one of the UK's finest baritones. He has sung with all the major British Opera companies, in Europe and Australia.

In the past year he has performed the roles of Podesta (*The Thieving Magpie*) for Opera North, Don Alfonso for ENO, The Minksman (*Flight*) for Glyndebourne and the Adelaide Festival, and the Poacher (*The Cunning Little Vixen*) for the Netherlands Opera.

Robert has also recorded the roles of Animal Tamer and Acrobat in *Lulu* for Chandos.

This is Robert's second visit to Coverwood's famous cowshed, although he will be well-known to many of you as one of Kathryn's Christmas Concert team. And as he is renowned for his wicked sense of humour as well as his mellifluous baritone voice, we're *certainly* in for a treat.

**GARRY MAGEE** is, not surprisingly, a huge favourite with Coverwood audiences; he has an extraordinarily beautiful voice and enormous charm and charisma both on and off the platform.

Garry is the consummate globe-trotter and we're extremely fortunate to

find him in the UK over the Coverwood weekend.

Since he was last in the Barn, Garry has starred as the Barber of Seville, Eugene Onegin, and Pelleas in Debussy's Pelleas and Melisande. Future engagements include the Count in Mozart's Marriage of Figaro and Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte*, both operas celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mozart's birth.

Garry and Kathryn will be starting the 'Glamorous Night' series of concerts on March 12<sup>th</sup> at Hampton Hill and will include part of this popular programme at Coverwood.

**ADRIAN THOMPSON** returns to Coverwood by popular demand and singing in a Surrey cowshed evidently agrees with him as, over the past two years, he has gone from success to success all over the world.

Since we last saw him in 2004, Adrian has starred at the Bregenz Festival and the Royal Opera House as Arv in Nielson's *Maskerade*, after which he went on to have a huge hit in *Billy Budd* at ENO.

He created the role of Cardinal Bellarmin in Jarrell's new opera *Galileo*, and he and Kathryn will be singing together in Germany in October. Adrian will then be the soloist in a brand new song cycle with the Czech Philharmonic in November.

If you love the great tenor arias beautifully and dramatically sung, don't miss Adrian. And by the way, he and Donald have a nice line in comedy as well!

**MELISSA FORSHAW** is another of Coverwood's great favourites and it is not difficult to see why. She is possessed of a rare gift in that her 'voice' on the violin is exceptionally beautiful and expressive; coupled with extraordinary grace and virtuosity, Melissa has her audiences spellbound whenever and wherever she plays.

Melissa studied at the prestigious Julliard School of Music in New York. No one who was present at Coverwood will ever forget her playing of the *Ashokan Farewell* as a tribute to a dozen of her friends who lost their lives on September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001.

On a happier note, Melissa was appointed Deputy Concert Master at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden at an astonishingly young age, and she continues to go from strength to strength as a violinist and as a musician.

**ROBERT IRVINE** is regarded as one of the world's outstanding cellists and since 1990 he has held the prestigious position of principal cellist with

Scottish Opera. He previously held this position with the famous Academy of St Martin in the Fields and toured all over the world with them.

Robert formed the celebrated Brindisi Quartet whilst working closely with Sir Peter Pears at Aldburgh during the 1980s, and in the '90s he founded the Chamber Group of Scotland.

With several critically acclaimed CDs to his name, Robert has an incredibly busy schedule with engagements world-wide over the next few years. We are thrilled to be able to welcome him to Coverwood this summer and our Friday evening promises to be a night to remember.

**ROSEMARY ELIOT** is considered to be one of the world's most accomplished flautists today. This is Rosemary's first visit to Coverwood and appearing in a cowshed is something of a departure from her usual engagements.

She studied at the Guildhall School of Music in London before winning a prestigious scholarship to study in Paris with legendary flautist, Alain Marion.

She went on to become the first British flautist with the European Community Youth Orchestra – a considerable achievement – and has been principal flautist with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra for several years.

In addition to her orchestral commitments, Rosemary frequently plays chamber music with a number of well-known ensembles and has worked on many occasions with Coverwood's gifted accompanist, Angela Livingstone.

**ANGELA LIVINGSTONE** is a pianist of exceptional ability and is consequently in great demand as an accompanist and coach for many of Britain's leading singers and instrumentalists.

She has the rare gift of making the piano sound like an orchestra and Angela has a delicacy and authority at the keyboard which makes her one of the UK's most talented and successful musicians.

Based in Cardiff, Angela lectures at the Welsh College of Music and Drama as well as travelling all over the world in her capacity as examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. She is also much in demand as an operatic coach and has worked with many of the luminaries in the singing world including Felicity Palmer and Bryn Terfel.

## **THE PROGRAMME**

Each programme features internationally renowned singers and instrumentalists and each programme is hugely varied, offering something for everyone. Where else would you find 'One Fine Day' and the 'Ashokan Farewell' sitting comfortably beside that great favourite 'Line Dancing' and the hilarious 'Rigoletto Quartet' for two?

From Broadway to Beethoven and Sondheim to Strauss, a Coverwood Concert is rather like a delicious cocktail – difficult to resist!

So, if you think this may be your cup of tea, or indeed glass of champagne, contact Ann and Nigel Metson and book your tickets for the 2006 Coverwood Festival.

Friday June 9<sup>th</sup>: Kathryn Harries, Linda Ormiston, James Nicol, Garry Magee, Robert Irvine and Angela Livingstone.

Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup>: Kathryn Harries, Linda Ormiston, Adrian Thompson, Donald Maxwell, Rosemary Eliot and Angela Livingstone.

Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup>: Kathryn Harries, Linda Ormiston, James Nicol, Robert Poulton, Melissa Forshaw and Angela Livingstone.

The gardens and lakes will be open for picnics from 4pm and a wind ensemble will play by the top lake. Friday evening's concert will begin at 7.30pm and finish at about 10.30p. The Saturday and Sunday concerts will begin at 7pm and finish at about 10pm.

## **TICKETS**

Prices (which include coffee served in the interval): £26 each night.

SEATS ARE NOT NUMBERED AND ARE RESERVABLE ON THE NIGHT AFTER 5PM.

A SMALL NUMBER OF RESERVABLE SEATS ARE AVAILABLE EACH NIGHT AT AN ADDITIONAL COST OF £2 PER TICKET. PLEASE REQUEST NUMBERED SEATS ON BOOKING WHICH WILL BE SOLD ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS.

Tickets are obtainable solely from Mr. and Mrs. Nigel Metson, Coverwood Farm, Ewhurst, Surrey, GU6 7NT.  
Telephone: 01306 731101 or Fax: 01306 731158

The concerts are not suitable for children under 14 years of age.  
Please note that no dogs are permitted.

Please make cheques payable to 'HURTWOOD CONCERTS'

If you wish your tickets to be sent by post, please include a stamped, addressed envelope (minimum size 6 by 4 1/2 inches).  
Tickets must be paid for within one week of booking or they will be offered for resale.

NOTE: tickets are valid for:

Friday	(RED TICKETS)
Saturday	(YELLOW TICKETS)
Sunday	(BLUE TICKETS)

Tickets are not transferable.