



mozart
Requiem

mendelssohn
psalm 42

will todd
ode to a nightingale

Image courtesy of Anita Klein

saturday 5 may 2012

7:30 pm hall one **the sage gateshead**

hertfordshire chorus & david temple
english philharmonic orchestra

katherine watson · kitty whately · joshua ellicott · michael bundy

Mozart
Mendelssohn
Will Todd

Requiem Psalm 42 Ode to a Nightingale



HERTFORDSHIRE CHORUS is one of the finest and busiest around. In the last year they have performed an a cappella concert in Kings Place, Haydn's *The Seasons* in St Albans Abbey, Fauré's *Requiem* with the BBC Concert Orchestra for Radio 2, *Last Night of the Proms* in Rochester Castle, two concerts in London's Barbican (the world premiere of Will Todd's *Ode to a Nightingale* with Brahms's *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, and Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*), Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610* with Emma Kirkby at Thaxted Festival, Christmas concerts for Bob and Megs Wilson's Willow Foundation and in the Old Palace at Hatfield House, *Music to Die For* at London's Queen Elizabeth Hall with the BBC Concert Orchestra, and toured with Noel Gallagher. The Chorus is delighted to be returning to The Sage for its third visit, with a programme featuring great and much-loved choral classics alongside the latest highly-acclaimed work by north-east composer Will Todd, commissioned by Hertfordshire Chorus in 2011, and receiving its second performance in this concert.

MOZART'S REQUIEM was composed in Vienna in 1791, during the final year of the composer's life. It was Mozart's last composition and is one of his most popular and respected works.

WILL TODD ON HIS SETTING OF KEATS'S ODE TO A NIGHTINGALE: "There are soft harmonies and more urgent ones. Quiet reflective moments and massive climactic gestures. The solo violin weaves in and out of the choral textures like a muse, leading the music forward towards the central moment of the poem, 'now more than ever seems it rich to die'. There are big orchestral colours and very thin and eerie ones. Like the poem I have sought to use a rich harmonic and textural language."

MENDELSSOHN'S SETTING OF PSALM 42 was one of his most successful choral works during his lifetime, and still has great appeal today.

Tickets for all Hertfordshire Chorus concerts are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk. Tickets for this concert are also available from The Sage Gateshead, online or tel 0191 443 4661.

