

Welcome to the 36th Season of Ray Law Concerts at Leamington Hastings

Dear Music Lover,

It is with pleasure that I am writing to tell you about the coming series of concerts. Once again we have invited some favourite musicians to return, they are all people who never fail to impress with the sheer quality of their music making and presentation. Some of them like Emma Johnson, Nicholas Daniel and Julius Drake are old friends, while others, are making their first return visit to us having given exciting performances here a couple of years ago. At Christmas we will welcome Laudate, a superb mixed voice choir conducted by Howard Ionascu which has not been here before. I have asked for a Christmas Celebration in words and music and having heard several of their CDs including 'On Christmas Night' I think you will enjoy this choir immensely.

We begin the series with Nicholas Daniel accompanied by Julius Drake. Their total rapport in performance stems from inspired musicianship and the meeting of minds of two old friends. In June the Barkham Harp Quartet are returning to play again by popular request. These talented young women with their harps make a wonderful sound and also introduce their music with enthusiasm and panache.

In July the Yehudi Menuhin School Orchestra pays us its bi-annual visit. It is always a joy to hear these youthful musicians who give their all in performance and are superbly conducted by Malcolm Singer. As time goes by it is interesting to follow the development and careers of the most outstanding such as Tasmin Little, Mary Wu and more recently Alina Ibragimova. We first heard Alina here aged thirteen leading a quartet playing Schostakovich and she is now making a name for herself as soloist.

Leon McCawley returns to give a piano recital in September and I am delighted. Geoffrey Norris describes him as a pianist for whom the word 'eloquent' could have been coined, and Christopher Morley speaks of 'the popular and much admired Leon McCawley'. Last October in New York at his debut at the Frick critics highlighted his poetic account of Rachmaninov's Etude-Tableaux (Op.39) and a virtuosic reading of the Variations on a Theme of Corelli, which latter you may remember he played here two years ago.

In October we shall be able to welcome Emma Johnson for the fifth time to Leamington Hastings and on this occasion she will be accompanied by Andrew West. She is a great performer and in such demand that I think we are fortunate to have been able to make a date with her. Emma is increasingly being invited to direct from the clarinet and has had a highly acclaimed tour with the London Mozart Players. Her wide musical interest extends to jazz and her recital programmes are full of unusual and fascinating pieces as well as the great classics for clarinet.

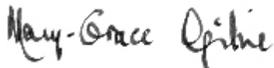
The concert series culminates in December with the concert just ten days before Christmas. This year Laudate, a fine mixed choir from the London area, will re-create for us the spirit of Christmas in words and music. Laudate has sung in Christ Church and New College Oxford and on Radio 3 and Classic FM, and has performed Christmas concerts at St Paul's Church,

Knightsbridge for the last six years to a sell-out audience. It is good to think of Leamington Hastings joining this circuit! Our Christmas concert has also evolved into a bit of a party as well as a significant musical occasion, and I expect this year to be up there with the best of them.

At the beginning of another year I do want to thank my colleagues, Ann Coulson, Heather Hemelryk and Karen Hatch for all their good advice, practical help and support of the concerts. My thanks also go to Ray for our brainstorming sessions, to Martin Jackson for his wizardry at tracking down the origins of even the most obscure music and writing interesting programme notes, and to Kay Reeve and David Smith for their lovely photographs. Thank you too to John and Sue Middleton whose masterminding of the mulled wine and the strawberries and much else I greatly appreciate, to Valerie Smith, Gwyn Davy, Gill Ayers and Rose Hull for programme selling, and to Adrian Allen and his car-parking team who give their time so kindly on Saturday evenings. Finally my warm thanks to Brenda and helpers for their continuing effort to ensure our beautiful flower arrangements in fair weather and foul, and to Wallace McCurdie, Jeff Elliott and Martin Greenaway for their invaluable help with staging and lighting. So many people are involved in these concerts and not all named even now, they form the 'sure foundation' from which these concerts can operate smoothly and I thank them all most warmly.

We look forward to seeing you again when the new season begins. We hope you like the programme and will be able to come to as many concerts as possible. If you have any friends who might be interested in receiving a brochure we will always be pleased to send them one. We need to attract new people all the time as we have no arts funding or sponsorship and must rely on maintaining a good audience to balance the books.

With very best wishes to you for 2007,



Mary-Grace Ogilvie

PARKING

Parking is in the usual 'big field' (5 minutes walk from the church).

Parking in the small church car park is reserved for Patrons and the infirm.



Concert 1

May 19th / Saturday 7.30pm

"The Daniel/Drake partnership is one of the most satisfying in British chamber music: vital, thoughtful and confirmed in musical integrity of the highest order"

Independent on Sunday

Nicholas Daniel

Nicholas Daniel is one of the greatest exponents of the oboe in the world and amongst the UK's most distinguished soloists. He is also a founder member of the Haffner Wind Ensemble and the Britten Oboe Quartet.

Following his successful debut at the BBC Proms with Vaughan Williams oboe concerto, he was invited to perform the Strauss concerto in '94 and in '96 gave the world premiere of John Woolrich's oboe concerto commissioned for him by the BBC. This work and performance met with unanimous critical acclaim and has led to the creation and performance of more new repertoire for the oboe. In 2004 he made his conducting debut at the Proms in a chamber series with the Britten Sinfonia. Nicholas Daniel is an active chamber musician and recitalist and has enjoyed a long and fruitful collaboration with Julius Drake, and the Maggini and Lindsay Quartets.

Julius Drake

Julius Drake works with many of the world's leading vocal and instrumental artists, both in recital and on disc. He appears at all the major music centres and recent seasons have taken him to Edinburgh, Munich, Salzburg, Schubertiade, and Tanglewood Festivals; to Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Centre, Concertgebouw, Chatelet, Musicverein and Konzerthaus Vienna, Wigmore Hall and BBC Proms.

Julius directed the Perth International Chamber Music Festival from 2000 – 2003, and was also Musical Director of Janacek's "Diary of One who Vanished" touring to Munich, London, Amsterdam and New York.

In 2006 he was invited onto the jury of the Leeds International Piano competition.



Nicholas Daniel (oboe) Julius Drake (piano)

Schumann	3 Duos (arr. Ferguson)
Hamilton Harty	3 Pieces
Alan Bush	Northumbrian Impressions
Schumann	Fantasiestücke Op.73 (Oboe D'amore)
Schumann	Romances Op.94
Huw Watkins	2 Romances
Donizetti	Sonata for oboe & piano

Piano Solo

Chopin	Nocturne in D flat Op.27 no.2
Schumann	Adagio & Allegro

Strawberries and cream (if available) or a glass of wine will be served in a local garden during the interval.

Concert 2

June 9th / Saturday 7.30pm



Barkham Harp Quartet:

Eleanor Turner

Keziah Thomas

Harriet Adie

Angharad Wyn Jones

The Barkham Harp Quartet was formed in 2000 and is made up of four award-winning harpists. They have given concerts at many venues and festivals including the Two Moors, Windsor, Bromsgrove and Three Choirs Festivals and were chosen for the hotly contested Blackheath Halls Young Artist's Series 2003-04. Their first CD, funded by the Tillet Trust, was released at the end of 2002.

Eleanor, Harriet, Keziah and Angharad all enjoy talking to the audience about the harp and their music, and concert programmes usually include some solo items.

Barkham Harp Quartet

Handel	Alla Hornpipe, from the 'Water Music'
Handel	Arrival of the Queen of Sheba
Edward Longstaff	Saraswati
Arr. 4 girls 4 Harps	Illust. history of the Harp
Carlos Salzedo	Rhumba
Bill Withers arr.	'Ain't no sunshine'
Scottish Reel	Glenlivet
Latin American	Cumbia Deliciosa
Ernesto Lecuona	Malaguena
Saint-Saëns	'The Swan & the Aquarium' Danse Macabre Ave Maria
Schubert	In the Mood
Glenn Miller	O Mio Babbino Caro
Puccini	O Mio Babbino Caro
Ortiz	Milonga para Amar
Tchaikovsky	March, Danse of the Sugar Plumb Fairy, Trepak & Waltz of the Flowers from 'The Nutcracker Suite'.

Strawberries and cream (if available) or a glass of wine will be served in a local garden during the interval.

Composers today are discovering the enormous musical excitement and variety the harp is capable of, and with four harps the scope is wider still. The Quartet strongly supports new music and is continually developing its eclectic repertoire. So far they have commissioned and premiered four dramatically contrasting works: Edward Watson's 'A Celtic Springtime' (sponsored by the Vaughan Williams Trust): 'The Island' by Eleanor Turner: 'Sun, Moon and Stars' by Harriet Adie and Edward Longstaff's 'Saraswati'.

Committed to raising the profile of the harp, the four frequently play in diverse situations from glamorous cruise ships to music therapy projects and even fields! The harps can also be spotted in hospitals, schools and prisons; and in outreach programmes such as Live Music Now, and the London Philharmonic 'Playerlink' project. The Quartet is well travelled and has played in France, Switzerland, Morocco, Spain, Portugal, Russia, Norway and New York.

Yehudi Menuhin School Orchestra (YMS)

The headmaster Nicholas Chisholm writes: 'The pressures of growing up as a gifted child are considerable and one of the visionary aims of Yehudi Menuhin was to provide an environment with the atmosphere and support system to help such gifted children to cope. There are not only many external pressures, such as the expectation of teachers and parents, but also many internal ones, particularly perfectionism which can seriously affect a young person's self-esteem. The curriculum and staffing levels of the school are unusual in order to provide a counterbalance to these pressures and to alleviate them as far as possible.

A small school with many staff is a financial challenge and we are grateful to the D.O.E. and the Arts Council for some support. Any musically gifted young person can attend the school irrespective of financial background, and it is truly comprehensive. We are very aware of our responsibility to the wider community and have made a commitment to bring music and creativity to schools in Surrey, in collaboration with the London Mozart Players. In 2007 three sets of three day projects in schools will go ahead. In addition brass players from the YMS orchestra have been working with a number of schools on a composition project which will culminate in a concert in the Menuhin Hall. Our youngest pupils (aged from 9) have as usual visited several primary schools each term to lead music workshops.'

The YMS puts on an impressive number of fund-raising concerts and recitals each term and over 12,000 people have attended those in the new concert hall since it opened a year ago. It is all in a day's work for these gifted and delightful young people who are preparing to make music their life's work.



Yehudi Menuhin School Orchestra

Conductor Malcolm Singer

Dvořák
Elgar

Serenade
Serenade

Other items in the programme are yet to be selected. At the time of going to press the spring term is not far advanced and there is much work to be done before other concert pieces for the Gstadt Festival (and Leamington Hastings) are confirmed.

Strawberries and cream (if available) or a glass of wine will be served in a local garden during the interval.

Concert 4

September 22nd / Saturday 7.30pm



"...a pianist for whom the word 'eloquent' could have been coined."

Telegraph

"The listener was enveloped in an acoustical cocoon of bright, passionate sound"

New York Times

Leon McCawley (piano)

Schubert	Six Moments Musicaux D780
Chopin	Fantasia in F Minor
Beethoven	Sonata Op.27 No.1 'Quasi una fantasia'
Rachmaninov	Six Moments Musicaux Op.16

A glass of wine or juice will be served in church during the interval.

Leon McCawley

Leon McCawley leapt into international prominence in 1993 when he won both the Ninth International Beethoven Piano Competition in Vienna, and second prize in the Leeds International Competition, building on earlier successes as winner of the Piano Section of the BBC Young Musician of the Year, and the London Philharmonic Orchestra's Pioneer Young Soloist of the Year.

McCawley's deeply committed performances and engaging musicality have made him a favourite wherever he performs. In recent seasons he has given highly praised recitals at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Wigmore Hall and at the Philharmonie and Konzerthaus in Berlin, the Prinzregententheater in Munich, the Musikverein in Vienna, Tonhalle in Zurich, The Frick Collection in New York, Rudolfinum Prague and Washington DC's Kenedy Centre.

As a concerto soloist, McCawley is frequently heard with leading British orchestras including the Philharmonia, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, CBSO and Halle. He is regularly broadcast on BBC Radio 3 in recital and has performed at the BBC Proms several times.

He was born in 1973, and studied at Chethams School of Music with Heather Slade-Lipkin before continuing his studies at the Curtis Institute of Music, Philadelphia with Eleanor Sokoloff. He also acknowledges Nina Milkina for her inspiration and guidance.

Emma Johnson

Emma Johnson is one of the few clarinetists to have established a busy international career as a soloist. Emma performs across Europe, the USA and the Far East, as well as in Africa and Australia. In Britain she has achieved great popularity, regularly playing to sold-out concert halls. She has recently recorded two discs for Universal Classics and Jazz, the first of which, 'Voyage' went straight to number three in the Classical Charts. The second disc to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth includes the Clarinet Concerto and Quintet.

Emma began to study at the age of nine. In 1984 she won the BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition and in 1991 was a winner of the Young Concert Artist auditions in New York. She studied music and English at Cambridge University and was recently the first woman to be awarded an honorary Fellowship at Pembroke College. Emma has given master classes all over the world and was a visiting professor at the Royal College of Music. She was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in 1996.

Andrew West

Andrew West has developed partnerships with many of the country's leading singers and instrumentalists and is currently a Professor of piano accompaniment at the Royal Academy of Music. He has given recitals and recorded with Emma Bell, Alice Coote, Lesley Garrett, James Gilchrist, Christopher Purves and Hakan Vramsmo, and appears regularly with Mark Padmore. Last years' highlights included Aldeburgh Festival recitals with Christopher Purves, Robert Murray and Paul Silverthorne.

Andrew received the inaugural Gerald Moore Award for Accompanists, and subsequently gave many recitals with Ian Bostridge, Susan Gritton and Claire Rutter. He also partners flautist Emily Beynon and together with cellist Paul Watkins they have given trio recitals at the Purcell Room and at the BBC Chamber Music Proms. His piano quartet 'Touchwood' released their first CD in 2000, this was chosen as CD of the Month by the Daily Telegraph.



"Johnson is superb"
Sunday Times

"A Classical Music Superstar"
Clarinet & Saxophone
Magazine

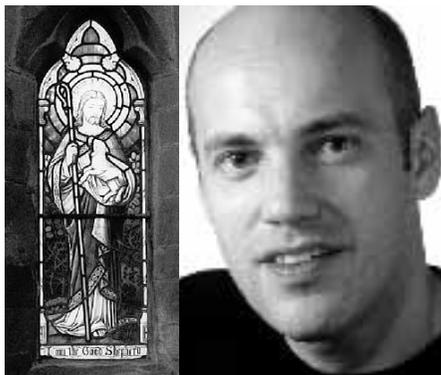
Emma Johnson (clarinet) Andrew West (piano)

Mozart	Variations K 581 Adagio from K 581
Brahms	Sonata Op.120 No.2 in E flat major
Malcolm Arnold	Sonatina Op.29
Aaron Copeland	Nocturne
Tom Johnson	Bedtime stories for clarinetist & narrator
Paul Reade	Suite from the Victorian Kitchen Garden
Leo Weiner	Two Pieces

A glass of wine or juice will be served in the church during the interval.

Concert 6

December 15th / Saturday 7.00pm



"A Choir which gets the hairs on the back of your neck to tingle"

Gramophone Magazine

Laudate

Conductor **Howard Ionascu**

Programme will include the following music, interspersed with Readings.

Cornelius	Three Kings
Handel	Resonet in laudibus
Lauridsen	O magnum mysterium
Palestrina	Hodie Christus natus est
Poston	Jesus Christ the apple tree
Poulenc	Quatre motets pour le temps de Noel
Rutter	What sweeter music
Sandstrom	Es ist ein Rose 'entsprungen
Seivewright	Starlight
Trad	Gaudete
Warlock	Bethlehem down
Weir	Illuminare Jerusalem

During the interval a glass of mulled wine and festive refreshments will be served in church.

Laudate

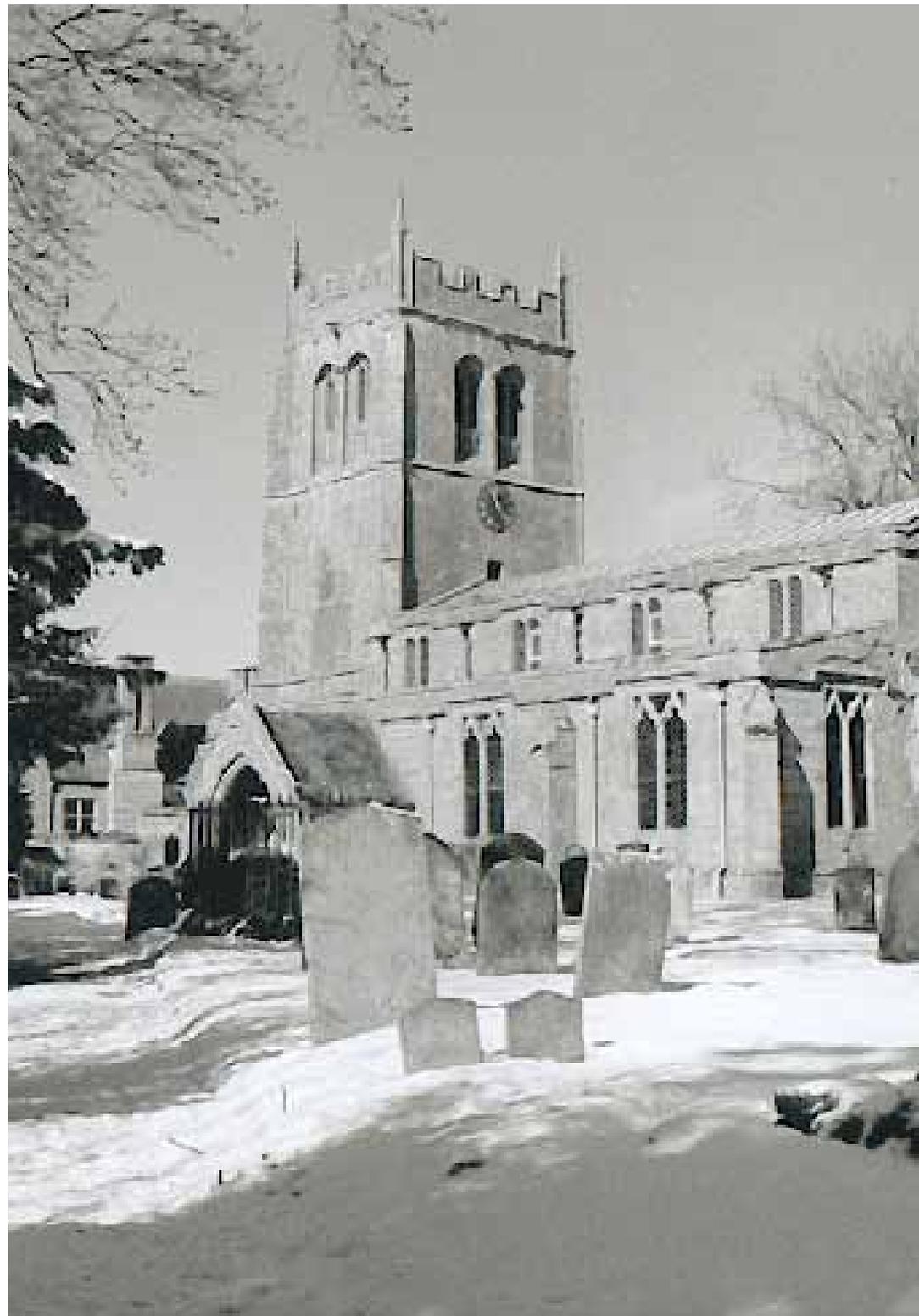
Laudate includes some of the finest young singers in London. Founded in 1998 by Howard Ionascu, the choir is frequently praised for its high quality, excellent balance, and vibrant performances. The choir has broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM and has performed at St James Piccadilly and throughout the south of England including Christ Church and New College Oxford. For the last six years it has performed its 'On Christmas Night' concert, combining popular Christmas music with some unusual choral gems, to a sell-out audience at St Paul's Church Knightsbridge. It also performed at the Macmillan 'Celebration of Christmas' alongside celebrity readers from stage and TV. The Choir also collaborates from time to time with the City of London Sinfonia and the choristers of the King's School, Canterbury

Laudate's first recording of music by George Jeffreys met with critical acclaim. Other recordings include choral music by Peter Aston and Herbert Brewer, and a popular CD of Christmas music 'On Christmas Night'. In 2004 Laudate recorded much of its Christmas repertoire for Priory Records.

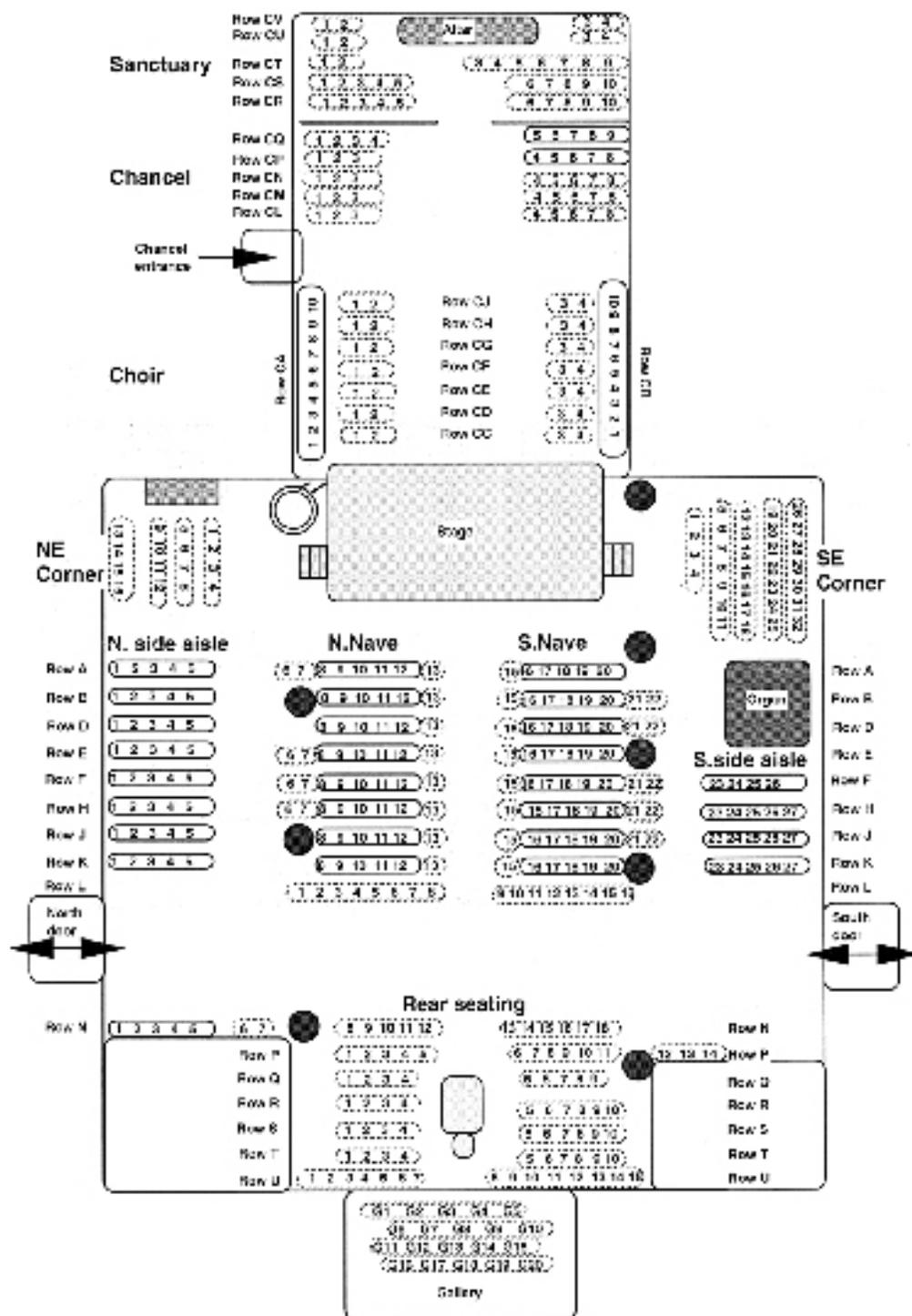
Howard Ionascu

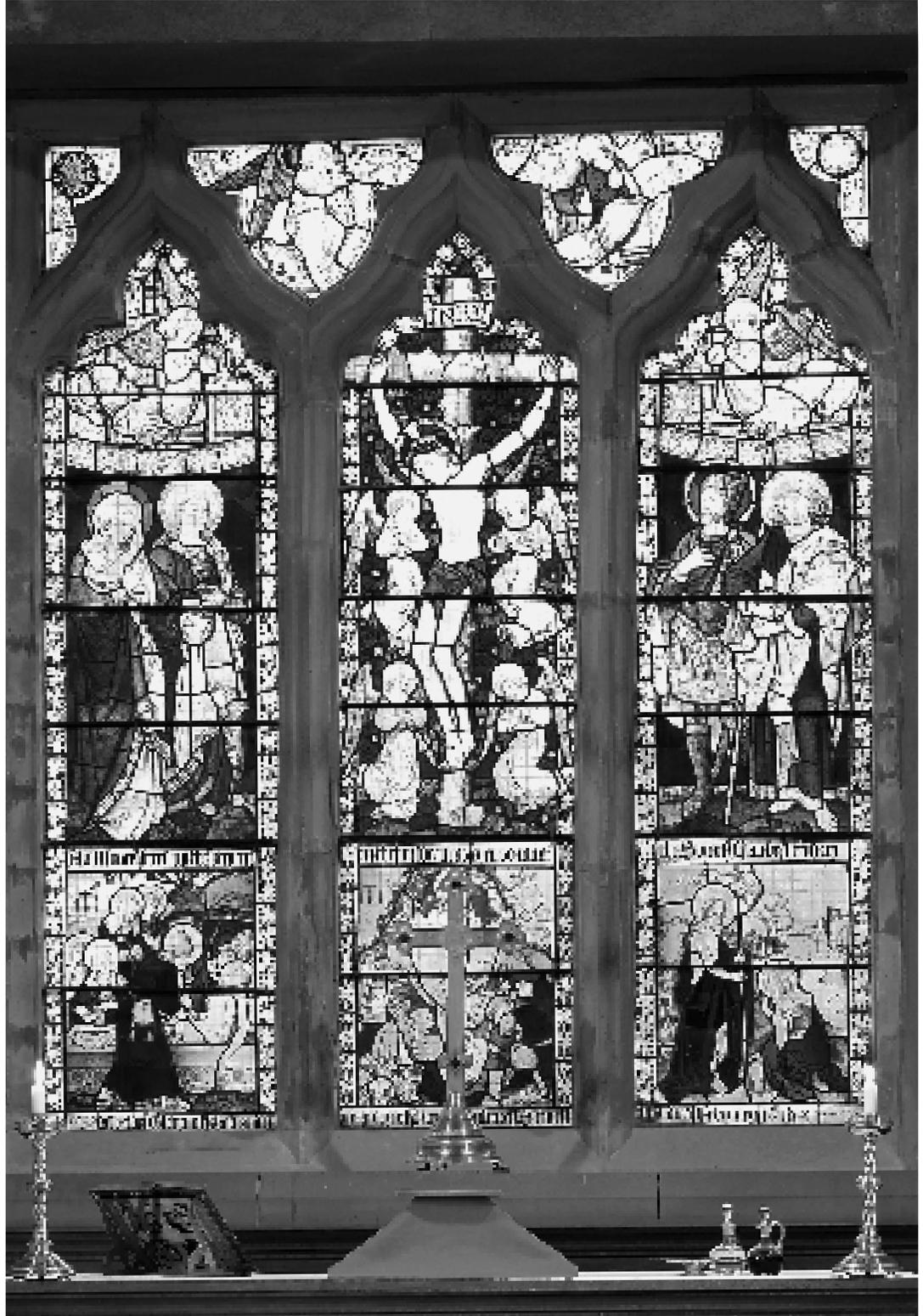
Howard Ionascu formed Laudate in Oxford in 1998 and is a hugely experienced choral trainer and director. He has worked with a number of orchestras and ensembles including the City of London Sinfonia, New London Orchestra, Sinfonia Britannica, Bournemouth Symphony, Onyx Brass and the Professional Period Band.

Howard is a former Musical Director of Bournemouth Sinfonietta Choir, Esterhazy Singers of London and Guildford Chorale. He also worked with Trebles Choir of Finchley Children's Music Group. In 2002 he was appointed Director of Music at King's, Canterbury, a school renowned for the quality of its music. In his time to date the school's Crypt Choir has recorded two CDs for Priory and reached the finals of the BBC Choir of the Year competition.



Leamington Hastings Church - Seating for 2007





Patrons of Music at Leamington Hastings

We are immensely grateful to the 30 supporters who have become Patrons during this first year of the scheme. They have enabled us to plan ahead with new confidence, and to start on progressive improvements; we have plans to improve lighting and access paths, and have already started improving the church car park, so it can be used in wet weather.

We hope to invite Patrons to a function this year, and look forward to hearing their ideas on the future. Founder Patrons include:

Mrs Jennifer Buckle
Mr & Mrs P Coulson
Miss Constance Elliott
Miss Helen Forster
Mrs Rona Galliford
Mrs K Gibson
Mrs Pam Greenway

Dr Sharon Hancock
Mrs Helen Hogarth
Sir Igor & Lady Judge
Mr & Mrs P Kander
Mr & Mrs Ray Law
Mr Charles McLeod
Mr Tom Pedrick
Mrs Rosamund Peirson

Mr David Potts
Mr Michael Raynor
Mr Brian Southern
Mrs H Steven
Mrs Mary Swainson
Mrs Patricia Wakeford
Major Westby
Mr B W Young

