

Concerts and Events

2009

SATURDAY 9 May at 3.00 pm

CRIME AND CREAM TEA – “LINES OF ENQUIRY” **Crime-writer SIMON BRETT**

Foul play is the subject of police investigation in SIMON BRETT's racy farce, *Lines of Enquiry*. A rare opportunity to witness Simon grappling with a variety of characters and a veritable flurry of hilarious, tongue-twisting rhyming couplets. Simon Brett has published over 70 books. He is author of the popular TV series *After Henry*, and the Radio 4 series *Dear Diary*. Simon is the current President of the Detection Club. [This performance is limited to 60 places.]

With Country House Cream Tea £20

SATURDAY 6 June at 7.30 pm

‘DROP ANOTHER HAT’ **An Evening with Flanders and Swann**

MICHAEL BERNSTEIN and COLIN STEVENS

We welcome back for our 25th Anniversary year the amazing ‘Flanders and Swann’ performers, MICHAEL BERNSTEIN and COLIN STEVENS (piano). By popular request, we can hear again their matchless performance of such classic favourites as *The Income Tax Collector*, *The Gnu*, and wallow with *The Hippopotamus*. A deliciously nostalgic evening of intimate revue from the 1950s.

‘Fascinating impersonations of Flanders and Swann – sold out for four performances. Colin Stevens is a first-class accompanist. Bernstein acts with gusto.—from Peter Tatlow in The Stage.

With wine and canapés £20

SATURDAY 4 July at 7.30 pm

HAYDN IN LONDON

A Bicentenary Celebration

NEIL JENKINS & THE NEIL JENKINS CHORALE **accompanied by TIM NAIL**

A fascinating evening with international tenor NEIL JENKINS, who uncovers Haydn's amorous liaison with the poetess Anne Hunter. Haydn's personal correspondence and notebooks answer some of the questions. But the music that he subsequently composed also holds a clue. Haydn's vocal compositions may contain coded messages of love! The period is 1791-1795, and the place is London. Using contemporary English song, and extracts from journals, diaries and letters, we visit some of the places where Haydn heard music and met the cream of London society during his two famous visits.

With wine and canapés £20

SATURDAY 25 July at 3.00pm

ST. MARY'S TRADITIONAL PALM COURT TEA

SHELLEY VAN LOEN (violin)

and her PALM COURT PLAYERS

This programme of much-loved music continues to captivate our audiences. Recapture the atmosphere and elegance of a by-gone age and take a ‘Musical Tea’, served in our Victorian Music Room, where you can listen at your leisure to the popular masterpieces of the past, redolent of ‘the good old days’ of ‘Grand Hotel’. Shelley has broadcast with BBC's ‘Friday Night is Music Night’, a series of ‘Sunday Night Out’ for Classic FM, as well as performances at the Grand Hotel, Eastbourne, the Royal National Theatre, the Royal Albert Hall (BAFTA Awards), and has given private concerts for the Queen. [This performance is limited to 60 places.]

With full English Afternoon Tea £25

SATURDAY 15 August at 3.00pm

THE ENGLISH POETRY GARDEN

JAMES BOLAM, SUSAN JAMESON

SOMPTING MORRIS DANCERS

Festive opening of Peter Thorogood's unique **English Poetry Garden** by stage and television actor, JAMES BOLAM. He made a sensational appearance in the musical, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, and has starred in numerous television series, including *Only When I Laugh*, *The Likely Lads* and *New Tricks*. SUSAN JAMESON had a great success in her rôle as Mrs Nickleby at the Chichester Festival, has appeared in many television series including *Dalziel and Pascoe* and *New Tricks*. Susan is also audio-book narrator for the Catherine Cookson novels. She will give the first short poetry reading in the Poetry Garden, after which there will be an opportunity to explore the gardens and Rural Museum. Our garden team will be in attendance to welcome you and answer questions. With a display of traditional Morris dancing on the House lawns, and a chance to enjoy a delicious Strawberry Tea.

With strawberry cream tea £20

SATURDAY 19 September at 7.30pm

ASTRAEUS ENSEMBLE – Wind Quintet

DAN ELSON (oboe), ROLAND McCABE (clarinet), **JEREMY CRUMP (bassoon), STEPHEN CARROLL-** **TURNER (piano), horn player to be announced**

The talented group, which performed at the Brighton Festival last year and is to appear there again this year, has built up a good reputation in Sussex and was well-received at the Sussex Musicians' Club. The programme will include the two undisputed masterpieces for wind quintet by Mozart and Beethoven, as well as other combinations for piano and wind instruments.

The members of the quintet have performed in many prestigious venues in Britain and Europe.

With wine and canapés £20

SATURDAY 3 October at 7.30pm

AUTUMN PIANO RECITAL

NADIA GILIOVA

This young award-winning Russian pianist made her début at the Wigmore Hall in London. Besides her native Russian composers, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov, she has a wide repertoire which includes Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Liszt and Chopin. Among her international awards, she won first prize at the Oxford Music Festival, received much praise for her performance of the Prokofiev piano concerto and has given recitals in a multitude of venues across the country, including St. John's Smith Square, the Pump Room Bath, Malmesbury Abbey, the Steinway Festival in Florida, and the prestigious Salle Cortot in Paris.

With wine and canapés £20

SATURDAY 31 October at 7.30pm

CELEBRATION GALA SONG RECITAL

DAME FELICITY LOTT

TERENCE ALLBRIGHT (piano)

We are privileged to welcome DAME FELICITY LOTT, who made her débuts at English National Opera, Glyndebourne and the Royal Opera House and went on to perform in the opera houses in Vienna, Milan, Paris, Brussels, Munich, Dresden, Tokyo and New York, specializing in Mozart and Richard Strauss. Her programme at St. Mary's includes songs by Richard Strauss, Schumann, Poulenc, Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Frank Bridge, and songs from musical theatre. Dame Felicity will be accompanied by TERENCE ALLBRIGHT, who has been a popular performer at St. Mary's for many years and is in great demand as an accompanist. He performed Peter Thorogood's *Fantasy Variations on a Danish Folk Song* at last year's Brighton Festival, as well as his own compositions.

Black tie optional.

With champagne, canapés and éclairs £25

SATURDAY 14 November at 7.30pm

LOUIS DE BERNIÈRES

with ILONE ANTONIUS-JONES (flute)

and EMMA POUNTNEY (clarinet)

A sparkling and entertaining show of poetry, classical / traditional music and badinage. The world-famous writer LOUIS DE BERNIÈRES, author of *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, *Birds without Wings* and the recently published *A Partisan's Daughter*, reads his own and other people's poetry and plays an amazing variety of instruments (including his mandolin) together with

flautist ILONE ANTONIUS-JONES and clarinettist EMMA POUNTNEY. Rated as 'unmissable' in 2005 by Edinburgh Fringe critics, their exciting and eclectic mix has delighted audiences throughout Britain and abroad.

LOUIS DE BERNIÈRES was named one of Granta's Best of Young British Novelists. *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* (1994) won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, the British sales of which were more than 2.5 million copies.

With wine and canapés £25

SATURDAY 5 December at 7.00pm

A SPECIAL CELEBRATION CONCERT

at St. Andrew's Parish Church, Steyning

in aid of *The St. Mary's House & Gardens Charitable Trust*

The acclaimed Vocal Group **TONUS PEREGRINUS**

Directed by its founder **ANTONY PITTS**

EDWARD DEAN, Lancing College organ scholar

Reader: **GWYNETH POWELL**.

A Thanksgiving Concert celebrating 25 years of restoration and conservation of historic St. Mary's House Bramber and its Gardens, by Peter Thorogood and Roger Linton, together with family and volunteers.

Introduced by Peter Thorogood MBE FSA

TONUS PEREGRINUS is one of the most exciting young ensembles in Britain, with major successes in both early and new music, including the prestigious **Cannes Classical Award** for the Ensemble's debut release on the Naxos label, and last year's nomination for the first-ever **BBC Music Magazine Awards**. Recent acclaim in *The Telegraph*, *The Gramophone*, and the *BBC Music Magazine* speaks for itself: 'Utterly spellbinding', 'Captivating excitement', 'Utterly beguiling', 'Gloriously sung by this superb choir'.

GWYNETH POWELL is perhaps best known for her rôle in BBC's *Grange Hill* as headmistress, Mrs McClusky, and has appeared in countless television series such as *Heartbeat* and *A Touch of Frost*.

In the presence of

The Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex, Mrs Susan Pyper

Centre nave £15, *side aisles (restricted view)* £12.50

SATURDAY 12 December at 2.30pm and 7.30pm

ST. MARY'S ON FILM AND TELEVISION

The year of celebrations concludes with a fascinating and often amusing delve into the St. Mary's film archives, with memories past and present of St. Mary's House and Gardens. We hear the voice of former owner Miss Dorothy Ellis interviewed in BBC Radio's *Down Your Way*, and see her in the garden with her Welsh Springers. We see Peter Thorogood and Roger Linton being interviewed by Fiona Fullerton (one of James Bond's glamorous girl friends!), excerpts from a classic 1988 episode of

BBC's *Dr Who*, Roger's appearance on *Jim'll Fix It*, and episodes from Prince Edward's TV series *Crown and Country*, among many other surprising discoveries.

With wine and canapés £20

SUNDAY 26 April at 2.30 pm

GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME

With a distinguished panel of experts – CHRIS BRICKELL (former director of the RHS Garden, Wisley), ROBERT HILL-SNOOK (Head Gardener, Royal Pavilion, Brighton), JEAN GRIFFIN (BBC Southern Counties Radio Gardening Expert) and FIONA PHILLIPS (National Gardens Scheme Area Adviser).

Turn last year's gardening mistakes into this year's success stories with the help of the professionals. Why not share your gardening dilemmas.

With tea and cake £10

Send in your questions to Penny Hill **before March 27th** so that the panel can cover a good range of subjects.

Please note: Bookings via Penny Hill (tel. 01903 814390)

A FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S FUND-RAISING EVENT.

GARDEN OPEN DAYS FOR CHARITY

Five acres of gardens open in aid of

THE NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME

Friday 10 and Saturday 11 July, 2pm - 5.30pm, Adults £4, Children free. Teas.

Formal gardens with amusing topiary. Exceptional examples of prehistoric 'living fossil' tree *Ginkgo Biloba* and *Magnolia Grandiflora*. Water features include pools, shaded stream and ancient ivy-clad 'Monks' Walk' pergola – all complementing the Grade I medieval timber-framed house. ([House not open for this event.](#))

The Victorian Walled and Pleasure Gardens. Hidden for over half a century, with 140 ft fruit wall, heated pineapple pits with original stove-house and potting shed now housing the Rural Museum. Woodland walk with 19thC circular orchard now being restored as the new Poetry Garden. Visit also the Jubilee Rose Garden and Terracotta Garden.

ST. MARY'S HOUSE – Public open afternoons

May to end of September

Sundays, Thursday, Bank Holiday Mondays

2 - 6pm. Last entry 5pm.