

NEWS RELEASE



8 April 2015

The glory of baroque

Lovers of baroque music are in for a treat this summer as the period orchestra Linden Baroque joins forces with local chamber choir The Harmonium Singers at St Mary's Church, Andover on 20 June. The main item on the programme is the ever-popular Vivaldi 'Gloria' which will occupy the second half. The first half consists of a delightful selection of shorter choral items, all baroque masterpieces in their own right. JS Bach, Handel, Telemann and Zelenka will all be represented, and the orchestra will also play a couple of items on their own.

St Mary's, Andover is a fitting venue for the concert with its soaring gothic arches and spacious acoustics. This iconic building is at the very heart of Andover and is the subject of a major appeal to enable important repair, restoration and remodelling work. The orchestra is funded in part by a Test Valley Borough Councillors Community Grant, supported by Winton ward councillors Chris Lynn and Jan Budzynski.

Musical director Bruce Randall explains: "We're delighted that we can invite Linden Baroque to Andover again, after a six-year gap. This is a London-based, semi-professional orchestra which specialises in playing baroque music on period instruments in a historically-informed way. Its members have included many specialists with prominent careers in the early music field.

"The instruments used are either 18th century originals or modern copies, played at 'baroque pitch' of 415Hz. The instruments are at a lower tension than modern concert pitch and their design and set-up means they sound much softer and more subtle than today's steel-strung and multiple-keyed successors, allowing the music to be heard closer to the way it was when it was composed."

The Harmonium Singers have earned a strong local reputation for polished performances of smaller-scale choral music, often singing unaccompanied but enjoying occasional concerts with instrumental groups or small orchestras. Most concerts raise money for local charities – this one being no exception with much of the ticket money going to the St Mary's Appeal.

Strong demand is expected for tickets, which are available in advance at £10 from the Lights, Newbury Building Society and from choir members, or £12 at the door. Under-14s will be admitted free. The concert begins at 7.30pm on Saturday 20 June.

Further information:
Veronica Bacon
Tel. 01264 771285 or 07855 905519