

# Classical music

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## A natural selection for anniversary concert



by PHILIP R BUTTALL

Classical Music Writer

**T**HE Ten Tors Orchestra has already done its bit to celebrate the anniversaries of Haydn and Handel and, as befits an ensemble linked to a university, now looks to a completely different discipline for the inspiration for its next concert.

On Sunday October 25 in the University of Plymouth Roland Levinsky Theatre at 7.30pm, the TTO commemorates the bicentenary of Charles Darwin's birth and the anniversary of *The Origin of the Species*.

You can always count on conductor Simon Ible to come up with a relevant yet totally entertaining programme, and this one should be no exception.

Taking its theme from a line of Darwin's epic work, 'It is interesting to contemplate an entangled bank, clothed with many plants of many kinds, with birds singing on the bushes...', the programme explores the musical invention of well-known composers, including the naturalist's great-nephew, Vaughan Williams, to bird-song, alongside *An Entangled Bank* by Michael Stimpson, a work which received its London premiere in January 2009.

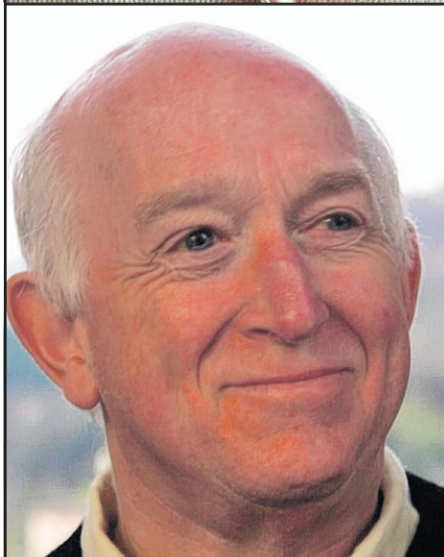
Vivaldi's 'Goldfinch' Flute Concerto features flautist Judith Hall, whilst violinist Mary Eade takes the solo part in Vaughan Williams's *Lark Ascending*, with Haydn's 'Hen' Symphony providing an especially apt finale.

Simon Ible said: "Sometimes it's good to attach a theme to a concert, although for me it's the pure beauty of the music that makes this such an attractive programme."

"Michael Stimpson describes his work as very much in the romantic tradition and reflects the style of Mendelssohn, who was born the same year as Darwin. Michael takes his themes from the songs of the thirteen species of finches Darwin noted on the Galapagos Islands."

Tickets (£17/£15 Friends of Ten Tors Orchestra and Peninsula Arts/£5 students and children) are available in advance from Peninsula Arts Box Office (01752 585050) and at the door on the night. There is no charge for UoP students.

■ Ashburton's St Lawrence Chapel provides the venue for an evening of clarinet and piano music on Saturday October 24 at 7.30pm.



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Judith Hall, the Cory Band, Ten Tors Orchestra, Jonathan Watts and Colin Parr, Mary Eade and Michael Stimpson

Colin Parr, former principal clarinet with the City of Birmingham Orchestra, and well-known keyboard player and conductor Jonathan Watts return to the town with a programme to include Weber's Grand Duo Concertant, a tour de force for both players.

Tickets (£8 available/under 16s free) can be bought at the door, and refreshments will be available during the interval.

■ On Saturday October 31 at 7.30pm, Plymouth Pavilions pays tribute to those

sons of Devon who fought in the Battle of Britain.

Compere Angela Rippon is joined by the Cory Band, reigning European Brass Band Champions, in a programme that includes the Dambusters March, Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines, 633 Squadron, the RAF March Past, and much more.

This charity event is being promoted by the Battle of Britain Historical Society and supported by the RAF Charitable Trust.

Tickets (£16/£15/ £14) are available from the Box Office (0845 146 1460) and may be subject to a processing fee.

■ Meanwhile, the Radio Light Orchestra gives an afternoon concert in Devonport Playhouse on Sunday November 1 at 2.30pm, with young soprano Sophie King. Tickets (£10/£8 senior citizens/£4 children) are available from Maestro's Music (01752 263069). More details next week.

■ But if chamber music is your scene, then there's only one place to be on Saturday

October 24 in the Sherwell Centre at 7.30pm, when the Aquinas Piano Trio presents a programme of Haydn, Debussy and Mendelssohn.

Tickets (£15/£8 concessions for students and registered unemployed) are available in advance from the university Reception, Peninsula Arts Box Office (01752 588017), or at the door on the night. For enquiries on the day of the concert, please ring the Sherwell Centre after 6.30pm on 01752 588406.