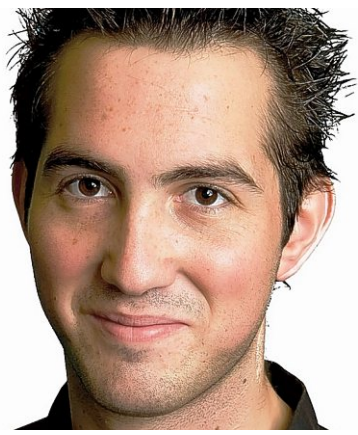


Classical music

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Baroque birthday at splendid manor

YOU probably won't hear a baroque rendition of 'Happy Birthday to You' on Sunday March 14, in the splendid surroundings of Paignton's Oldway Mansion, but Devon Baroque is celebrating its tenth birthday with a special afternoon concert there at 3pm.

It has, however, put together a fascinating programme with a perfect mix of familiar, and less well-known works, opening with Drottningholm Music, an orchestral suite by Johan Roman, often referred to as the Father of Swedish Music. American cellist, Reinmar Seidler, joins the orchestra in Domenico Lanzetti's Cello Concerto in F, after which young baroque oboists, Rachel Baldock and Leo Duarte play Albinoni's Concerto for Two Oboes. Keeping the party going will be baroque bassoonist, Zoe Shevlin, with Johann Fasch's Bassoon Concerto, leaving Bach's First Orchestral Suite to bring this anniversary concert to a resounding close.

Internationally-acclaimed violinist, Maggie Faultless, directs once more, and this will be a perfect opportunity to hear this home-grown period orchestra playing some exhilarating music actually intended for display.

Tickets (£20) are available in advance from the English Riviera Tourist Board Information Centres at Torquay, Paignton and Brixham (01803 211211) or at the door if unsold. If you really want to immerse yourself in the unique sound of this ensemble, then you can hear them the night before, when they accompany the Exeter Chamber Choir in Bach's St John Passion in the Great Hall, Dartington at 7.30pm.

Andrew Daldorph conducts, with soloists, Rebecca Yates (soprano), Andrew O'Sullivan (counter-tenor), Nicholas Yates (tenor) and Thomas Guthrie (bass).

The Evangelist will be taken by local tenor, David Webb, who sang with great effect in Plymouth Philharmonic Choir's last two Guildhall performances. Tickets (£18 / £17 / £5 students & young persons) are available from the Box Office (01803 847070).

For further information, please



by PHILIP R BUTTALL
Classical Music Writer

contact Jasper Solomon (01803 868883) or visit the website (www.devonbaroque.co.uk).

■ Meanwhile, the young award-winning Early Music ensemble, Le Jardin Secret, presents a programme of French music by the Couperins, Charpentier, de Visée, Marais and de Lalande at St Mary's Church, Totnes on Friday March 12 at 7.30pm. Soprano, Elizabeth Dobbin, will be accompanied by Sofie Vanden Eyden (theorbo & baroque guitar), David Blunden (harpsichord), and Romina Lishka (viola da gamba). The event is a collaboration between Totnes Early Music Society and The Arts at



Dartington. Tickets (£10 / £9 concessions / £5 students & young persons) are available from the Box Office (01803 847070) and at the church on the night.

■ Director of Music at the University of Plymouth, Simon Ible, will also be busy on Friday March 12, when the university orchestra presents its regular offering of orchestral music, and chamber music put together during rehearsals and workshops through the term. The venue is the Davy Main Hall at 8pm, and there is free admission. The following day at St Andrew's Church, the university choral society sings popular opera choruses and sacred music by Mozart, Byrd, Bizet, Puccini, Purcell and Palestrina, all rehearsed during the day's workshop.



Mary Mazur-Park accompanies at the organ, with guest soprano, Amanda Forbes. The public performance starts at 4pm, and again there is no admission charge. Parting donations are invited in aid of the Shekinah Mission.

■ South West Chamber Choir will be action on Saturday March 13 at Tavistock Parish Church at 7.30pm. Stephen Trahair conducts a programme of music by parry, Pärt, Purcell, Stanford, Tavener, Balfour Gardiner and Bach, with Sean Sweeney (organ). Tickets (£7 / £4 students & children) will be available at the door, and there will be a retiring collection in aid of ShelterBox. For further information please phone 01752 847546, or visit the website (www.swchoir.org.uk).



FRENCH FOCUS: Le Jardin Secret present a programme of French music

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Maggie Faultless, David Webb, Reinmar Seidler and Rachel Baldock (left) will be helping Devon Baroque (above) celebrate its 10th anniversary; Amanda Forbes, the University of Plymouth Orchestra's guest soprano

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