



***Aylesbury Methodist
Church & Centre
Buckingham Street, Aylesbury***

***32nd ANNUAL
ORGAN CONCERT***

Presenting Concert Organist

Piers Maxim

***Director of Music
Malvern Priory and President
of Aylesbury Festival Choir***

WEDNESDAY 10th MAY 2017

@ 7.30 pm

PROGRAMME

50P

***Profit in aid of Church Property
Maintenance***

PIERS MAXIM



Piers Maxim at the Aylesbury Methodist Church organ
Photo: Robert Bucknell

Piers Maxim is a former boy chorister at St Paul's Cathedral, London. Having received his degree in Music at Cambridge University he continued his studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London.

Composing music since he was 7 years old, he had songs, carols and piano works published while still at school. Composition highlights over the years, include commissions for a National Childrens Home celebration in Winchester Cathedral (The Land of Lost Content), and the millennium eve service of celebration at Southwark Cathedral, in the presence of HM Queen Elizabeth II (And I said to the Man).

As conductor, assistant conductor and chorus master, he has worked regularly in the opera houses and theatres of Europe, including Staatsoper Berlin, La Monnaie Brussels, Le Théâtre des Champs Elysées Paris, and the Netherlands Nationale-Reisopera, with whom he conducted Orfeo ed Euridice (Gluck) and performances of Cosi fan Tutte (Mozart) and Orfeo ed Euridice (Haydn).

In 2004 Piers Maxim made his Scottish Opera debut, conducting performances of Aida (Verdi) and La Bohème (Puccini). From September of that year he was Chef des Choeurs at Le Théâtre Royal de La Monnaie Brussels, where he worked on around 40 operas on stage and in concert, also conducting performances of

Agrippina, Giulio Cesare (Handel), Die Zauberflöte (Mozart), La Petite Messe Solennelle (Rossini), and the Concert de Noel 2007 comprising works by Saint-Saens and Respighi, and both Iphigénie operas by Gluck.

As Assistant Conductor to René Jacobs, he has worked on many Handel operas and oratorios. He featured as harpsichord soloist on the harmonia mundi (France) recording of Rinaldo, and was Musical Assistant to Jacobs on the recordings of the three Mozart/Da Ponte operas.

As conductor of several choirs and choruses in England, Piers Maxim has conducted most of the choral and choral-symphonic repertoire, including Messiah and Saul (Handel), Mass in B minor (Bach), Mass in C minor (Mozart), Elijah (Mendelssohn), The Dream of Gerontius (Elgar), Sea Symphony (Vaughan Williams), Carmina Burana (Orff), A Child of our Time (Tippett)...

Piers Maxim made his USA debut conducting Die Zauberflöte at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, New York in April 2007. This same production then toured to Cape Town and Johannesburg in September 2007, where Maxim received glowing critiques.

At the end of June 2009, Maxim left La Monnaie to pursue his freelance career, and to concentrate on his composing. That Summer saw him returning to the Aix-en-Provence Festival to assist René Jacobs on Die Zauberflöte. The 2009-2010 season at La Monnaie saw Maxim invited as Chef du Choeur for several productions, also assisting Christopher Rousset on Semele (Handel) and the Iphigénie operas by Gluck.

In October 2010 he conducted the first performance of a staged baroque opera in China, when he led a performance of Semele (Handel) in the Beijing Music Festival, with soloists Jeremy Ovenden and Yeree Suh, the China Philharmonic and English Voices.

Recent composition projects include An Animals' Nativity for the Church of Scotland in Brussels, and a choral-symphonic setting of Longfellow, which was joint winner of the Longfellow Chorus Cantata Composition Competition 2011 in the USA.

Piers is now Director of Music at Great Malvern Priory, and Musical Director of Epsom Chamber Choir.

This Evening's Music

Prelude and Angel's Farewell
from "The Dream of Gerontius:

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)
Arr. Brewer

Suite from Henry V

March

Passacaglia on the death of Falstaff

Touch her soft lips and part

March

William Walton (1902-1983)

Toccata Nuptiale

Christopher Maxim

Three transcriptions for organ:

The banks of green willow

George Butterworth (1885-1916) arr. Tambling

Fantasia on a theme of Thomas Tallis

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) arr. Lloyd

Salut d'Amour

Edward Elgar (1857-1934) arr. Grey

Festival Toccata

Percy Fletcher (1879-1932)

Interval

Refreshments will be served in the Church Hall

Three pieces from “Pièces de Fantasia” Op.53 & 54

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Hymn au Soleil

Clare de lune

Carillon de Westminster

Choral No 3 in A minor

Cèsar Franck (1822-1890)

Carillon Sortie

Henry Mulet (1878-1967)

Page turner: Andrew Hoodless

Recording of this concert, in whole, or in part,
is strictly prohibited, as is the taking of photographs
during the performance

THE ORGAN

The organ in this Church is a particularly fine example of digital organ technology. Installed in 1987, it was designed and built by Bradford Organs under the supervision of Anthony Woods. During the ensuing years, technology had moved forward considerably and the Church Property Committee considered it appropriate to keep pace with these advances. Consequently Anthony was appointed to undertake major rebuilding incorporating 'state of the art' components. The work was completed in 2007.

The system now has four processing modules instead of three, with their audio outputs more efficiently fed to the loud speaker system. The Loudspeaker system now has eight main speakers instead of six and retains the original subwoofers.

The organ has 55 speaking stops and 40 registration aids. A series of audio channels are fed to two large banks of Wharfedale speakers (specifically designed for use with the organ) strategically directed to the sanctuary wall to effectively reflect the sound throughout the Church. The outstanding voicing was carefully selected and modified on site to suit the acoustics of the building. A copy of the organ's specification can be obtained on request.

The Buckinghamshire Organists' Association

Supporters of this evening's concert. Also active in encouraging both young and experienced organists in their playing and appreciation of the organ and its repertoire. See their display stand in the Church Hall during the interval.

For Next Year's Organ Concert, we will be pleased to present the return visit of... **Joseph Nolan
Organist: St George's Cathedral, Perth, Western Australia
Wednesday 16th May 2018 @ 7.30 pm**

Everyone who is already on our mailing list, will receive information a few weeks prior to the concert. If you would like to be added to the list, please provide your full contact details and place them in the box provided in the vestibule. Alternatively contact Derrick Matthews on 01296 488076 (derrick.matthews@btinternet.com)

.....
Forthcoming Organ Concerts in our Locality:

St Mary's Church, Northchurch

Thursday 1st June @ 8.00 pm.

Mark Cyphus will perform an all Bach programme including the exciting Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor.
(Retiring collection in aid of Church Funds.)

Bicester Methodist Church

Friday 16th June @ 7.30 pm.

Robert Foster of Christchurch, Waterside, Chesham
Tickets £10.00 (£11.00 at the door) Contact John Boxall (01869 252170)
john.boxall@talktalk.net

St Peter & Paul, Buckingham

Saturday 17th June @ 7.30 pm

Myles Hartley of Harris Manchester College, Oxford.

Entrance £10.00 (under 18's free) All proceeds to The Centre
.....

For all your music requirements: **Aylesbury Music**

New and Pre-owned Instruments, Accessories & Sheet Music

3 Temple Street, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 2RN

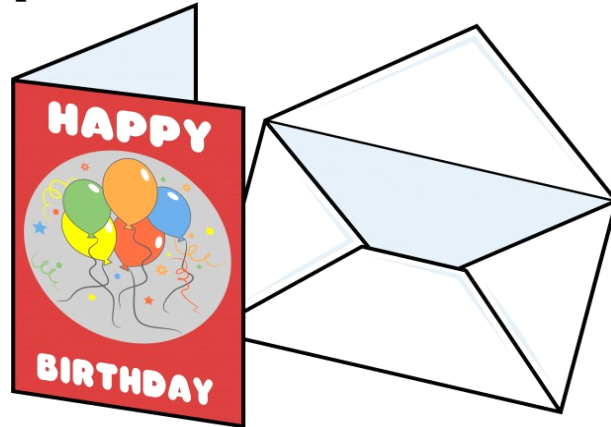
01296 392225

www.amusic.co.uk

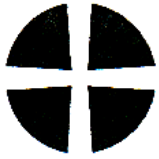
sales@amusic.co.uk

HANDMADE GREETING CARDS

A wide range of individually crafted cards,
all at very reasonable prices.
Special cards can be made to order



On sale in the Church Hall during the interval.



Vale of Aylesbury Methodist Circuit

Songs of Praise 2017

Great Hymns

With Great Tunes

Come along for a Great Sing

**Congregational hymn singing presented by the
Circuit Choir together with friends from Sts Peter & Paul,
Tring and other local churches and choirs.**

Led by the Rev Helen Kirk

Aylesbury Methodist Church: Sunday 16th July: 6.00 pm

EVERYONE WELCOME