



THE FRENCH CONNECTION

Fauré: Requiem

Ravel: Daphnis and Chloe, Suite No. 2

Debussy: Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune

Poulenc: Gloria

Wednesday 10 July 2013, 7.30pm

London Concert Choir

Canticum | Southbank Sinfonia

Mark Forkgen conductor

Claire Seaton soprano | **Duncan Rock** baritone

Tickets £30, £25, £20, £15, £10

barbican

Box Office

020 7638 8891

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In this evening of French choral and orchestral music, scenes of pagan sensuality are framed by two very different sacred works.

Fauré's much-loved Requiem is serene and elegiac, in a deliberate reaction against earlier settings by Berlioz and Verdi. The composer revised it several times before the version with full orchestra was published in 1901. In contrast Poulenc's joyful Gloria, first heard in 1961, contains echoes of the soprano arias of Verdi and the rhythms of Stravinsky. Described by the composer as having 'very clear, primary colours', it ranges from the dramatic to the playful, yet is always sincere.

Both Debussy's orchestral Prelude and Ravel's Daphnis and Chloe Suite for choir and orchestra are impressionistic and colourful evocations of mythical landscapes dominated by the seductive melodies of a flute. Ravel's music culminates in a frenzied bacchanalian dance. Each was featured in the 1912 Paris season of Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, although Debussy's revolutionary score had been written some 18 years earlier.

Recently London Concert Choir celebrated its 50th anniversary and Canticum chamber choir its 21st. Both choirs are noted for their unusual musical versatility and expressiveness under their Music Director Mark Forkgen. Southbank Sinfonia is internationally recognised as a leading orchestral academy for young graduate professional musicians from all over the world.

Getting to the Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2Y 8DS:

- Tube:** The nearest station is Barbican. Moorgate, St Paul's, Bank and Liverpool Street are nearby.
Rail: Liverpool Street, Farringdon and Blackfriars are nearest.
Bus: Route 153 stops close to the Barbican; many other routes serve the area.
Car: The Barbican is clearly sign-posted on all roads and has four carparks.



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