



PREVIEW | RHAGOLWG

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The composers of the seventeenth and eighteenth century Baroque valued their ability to compose music that could tug at the heart-strings. It was said that few in the audience did not shed a few tears on hearing Monteverdi's famous *Lamento d'Arianna*. The same might be said of Dido's famous lament with which Purcell's opera *Dido and Aeneas* ends. Similarly, eighteenth century audiences, unused to expressive bitter-sweet and sensual sacred choral music, quickly warmed to Pergolesi's intensely personal *Stabat Mater*. Both composers died young: Purcell at thirty-six and Pergolesi at just twenty-five.

St David's Hall audiences can experience these two Baroque masterpieces on **Tuesday 20 October** when the **Armonico Consort**, directed by **Christopher Monks**, return. There is a superb line-up of soloists to whet the appetite: soprano **Elin Manahan Thomas** takes the role of Dido and sings in the *Stabat Mater* and tenor **Alexander Aldren** takes the role of Aeneas. In Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, they are joined by countertenor **Williams Towers**.

The next Orchestral Concert is on **Wednesday 4 November** when **Vladimir Ashkenazy** returns to conduct the **Philharmonia Orchestra** with soloist **Ingolf Wunder** in Chopin's First Piano Concerto. This season includes a spotlight on Rachmaninov whose glorious Second Symphony concludes the concert. And don't forget that each concert in the International Concert Season now includes a pre-concert talk

at 6.30pm and a short post-concert recital starting around ten minutes after the main concert ends.

CARDIFF PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

The first of this season's concerts by the **Cardiff Philharmonic Orchestra**, under the baton of Michael Bell, on **Friday 16 October** features star Euphonium player **David Childs** in Karl Jenkins's popular Euphonium Concerto. The concert also includes Rossini's *William Tell* Overture and Dvořák's *New World* Symphony.

CONTEMPORARY SATURDAYS

If you fancy something a little different, then why not try one of Contemporary Lunchtime Concerts on **Saturday 24 October**? The **Piatti String Quartet** explore the amazing new sound world that today's composers are conjuring from the 250-year-old string quartet. Just arrive by 1pm and pay whatever you feel is appropriate.

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Tuesday lunchtime concerts are now in full swing and on **13 October** pianist **Ivan Illic** returns to Cardiff with a programme marking the anniversary Scriabin's death. You can hear his Chopinesque Twenty-four Preludes as well as music by Chopin and a premiere by one of Wales's leading composers: John Metcalf's *Chant*. Violinist **Benjamin Baker** and pianist **Jonathan Ware** give the following lunchtime concert on **20 October** with music by Schubert and Elgar. Both concerts begin at 1pm.