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Nicholas Mulroy
Tenor
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If you would like to make a booking or order an additional Singers Direct brochure, just ring any of us above or the
General enquiries line: 020 8671 0210

www.singersdirect.org

Newsletter
Spring 2006
Happy New Year !

singers
direct
Soloists making your lives easier

Innovation for 2006

Singers Direct has had a busy year as you can see, but we have also been thinking up ways in which we can be of greater help to you. We have come up with an idea which is bound to appeal and which is detailed on the enclosed flyer:

discounted fees!

As always we are more than interested in any ideas you might have too, so do get in touch. More and more of you prefer to communicate via the web, and we are going to be improving the SD site further during the coming year, so keep an eye on that at www.singersdirect.org.

Meantime we wish you a highly successful 2006!

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: Claire takes Barbican by storm :
: Following a triumphant performance :
: of Strauss' Four Last Songs in the Bar- :
: bican in 2003, Claire Seaton will re- :
: turn on 20th February for Porgy & :
: Bess and a repeat of the Strauss on :
: 7th July. On 3rd June she will join :
: fellow Singers Direct members An- :
: drew Carwood and Michael Bundy in :
: St David's Cathedral in Britten's War :
: Requiem. Go Claire!
: Barbican Box Office: 020 7638 8891
:

Usher Hall Hogmanay Messiah
Tenor Nicholas Mulroy is delighted to be starting the New Year in Edinburgh's Usher Hall with a performance of Messiah on January 2nd with the Edinburgh Royal Choral Union. Singers Direct members are regular visitors to this premier Scottish venue, having sung Bach's Passions and Mahler's Eighth Symphony in recent years to great acclaim.
Usher Hall Box Office 0131 228 1155

Tsunami Appeal

Claire Seaton and Susanna Spicer were very pleased to be soloists in a performance of Verdi's Requiem in the Barbican for a fund-raising concert for Tsunami victims in April. Much comment was made on the obvious compatibility and familiarity the pair demonstrated in a work they have now performed together often. Conductor Mark Forkgen was particularly pleased with the notoriously difficult opening of the "Agnus Dei".

Handel scholar impressed

Nicholas Mulroy and Susanna Spicer recently took part in Buxton Musical Society's performance of Handel's Theodora. This, the fourth concert in BMS's Handel series and the third in which Susanna has sung, was reviewed by Handel Scholar Dr Brian Hick. He wrote "Nicholas Mulroy was magnificent as Septimius—the coloratura lucid and flowing, ornamentation always apt—an ideal Handelian voice. Susanna Spicer's Irene... impressed, creating a dramatic intensity which lasted the evening."

Buxton's conductor Michael Williams is a keen advocate of the less frequently performed Handel oratorios, which contain great choruses and dramatic solos. In a most imaginative long-term project he and the Musical Society are gently working through these magnificent works: Jephtha, Solomon, Belshazzar and Theodora. Semele will possibly be next!

Welcome back Andrew

Following major abdominal surgery earlier in the year we are delighted that Andrew Carwood is now fighting fit and raring to go!

Highlights of his coming season lie with Benjamin Britten: two performances of the Serenade (St John's Smith Square and the Presteigne Festival), a recital of all the Cantatas (Presteigne Festival) and the War Requiem in St David's Cathedral with Singers Direct singers Michael Bundy and Claire Seaton.

Reinforcing his reputation for championing the English repertoire, Andrew will also be singing Finzi's rarely performed orchestral song-cycle Intimations of Immortality, and Elgar's The Apostles in Winchester Cathedral on November 23rd with the Winchester Music Club and SD colleagues Claire Seaton, Susanna Spicer, Michael Bundy and Christopher Foster.

Helen Meyerhoff finalist in New York competition

The New York Contemporary Opera Competition, organised by the New York Centre for Contemporary Opera, is open to singers from all over the world.

Singers Direct is therefore particularly proud of Helen for reaching the final six in the 2005 competition (the 20th held), an extraordinary achievement for which we congratulate her.

Three Choirs Festival Debuts August 2006

Susanna Spicer and Nicholas Mulroy are to make their Three Choirs Festival debuts on 9th August 2006 in Hereford Cathedral in Mozart's Requiem. Both have been frequent visitors to Hereford Choral Society and are looking forward to working again with organist Geraint Bowen and the combined choirs of Hereford, Worcester and Gloucester Cathedrals. *Box Office 01432 274455*

RFH debut for Christopher

Christopher Foster was thrilled to break his Royal Festival Hall duck with a standing-room only performance of Mozart's Requiem in February 2005, an occasion he described as "one of the most exciting concerts of my career". He also made his Wigmore Hall debut singing Bach Cantatas. 2006 will find him spreading his wings further afield with two performances of Bach's St Matthew Passion in Holland, alongside many British appearances.

Jennifer bids conductor farewell

By special request of conductor Julian Mann, Jennifer Higgins will once again be singing Verdi's Requiem with the Luton Choral Society. Julian retires at the end of the 2006 season and Jennifer is honoured to be engaged for the occasion. Her other 2006 highlights will include concerts of Beethoven and Schubert.

Singers Direct combines scholarship and artistry in British premiere

Singers Direct's Michael Bundy is not only a baritone of superb quality, but a scholar too, being arguably the world expert on the little known melodie repertoire of the great Parisian organists Widor, Vierne, Dupre and Tournemire.

Claire Seaton and Susanna Spicer used this to their advantage when asked to give a recital featuring soprano/alto duets, and were able to sing four of Widor's most lovely works in possibly their first ever British performance. The pieces were met with fascination and appreciation by a particularly knowledgeable audience.

Michael has recorded three CDs of the organists' solo songs, The Songs of St Sulpice, The Songs of Notre Dame and The Songs of St Clotilde. He has also recently completed a book on the subject, to be published shortly, with the provisional title: "Prophets without Honour". The discs and further information regarding this intriguing repertoire are available from Michael on 020 8390 5375.

Cadogan Hall welcomes SD

SD's Helen, Claire and Michael have already performed in London's newest venue, the Cadogan Hall. Helen particularly relished her appearance with the RPO in their totally sold-out 2005 Christmas concert.