

MUSIC IN THE VILLAGE
ST. MARY'S CHURCH,
WALTHAMSTOW

16TH OCTOBER 2008



The Fitzwilliam String Quartet

Lucy Russell and Jonathan Sparey, violins
Alan George, viola;
Heather Tuach, cello

Introduzione for strings (1829)

Gaetano Donizetti
(1797- 1848)

Molly on the shore (1907)

Percy Aldridge Grainger

*"Lovingly and reverently dedicated to the memory
of Edvard Grieg. Irish reel based on two Cork Reel tunes...."* (1882-1961)

I Crisantemi (1890)
(*Chrysanthemums*)

Giacomo Puccini
(1858-1924)

String quartet no. 2 in a minor (1945)

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1873-1958)

"For Jean on her birthday"

Prelude: Allegro appassionata

Romance: Largo

Scherzo: Allegro

Epilogue *"Greetings from Joan to Jean"*: Andante sostenuto

***** Interval *****

Quartet no 2 in D major (1881)

Alexander Porir'yevich Borodin

Allegro moderato - Scherzo: allegro

(1833-87)

Notturmo: andante - Finale: andante-vivace

This concert is generously sponsored by June and Roger Butcher
to celebrate their retirement,

Apex Arts (The Arts Council For Waltham Forest) and
WalthamSoft.com (who kindly donate webspace and a lot of time to
create our website: www.WalthamSoft.com/VillageMusic).

Founded in 1968 by four Cambridge undergraduates, the Fitzwilliam first became well known through its close personal association with Dmitri Shostakovich, who befriended them following a visit to York to hear them play. He entrusted them with the Western premières of his last three quartets, and before long they had become the first ever group to perform and record all fifteen. These recordings, which gained many international awards, secured for them a world wide concert schedule, and a long term contract with Decca/London which embraced some byways of late Romantic repertoire (including Franck, Delius, Borodin, and Sibelius) before they embarked on a Beethoven cycle. Indeed, the Shostakovich set was included in *Gramophone* magazine's "Hundred Greatest-ever Recordings" in November 2005. Extremely generous private patronage has made possible their current collaboration with Linn Records, which began with Haydn's *Seven Last Words*, and has since continued with the Brahms clarinet quintet (issued in January) as well as a disc of 20th cent English songs with piano quintet (including Vaughan Williams's *On Wenlock Edge*), in which they collaborated with James Gilchrist and Anna Tilbrook (just released); the Bruckner string quintet will follow in December, and future plans include Purcell string music and the complete quartets of Tchaikovsky. They were Quartet-in-Residence at the University of York for twelve years and at the University of Warwick for three, as well as Affiliate Artists at Bucknell University, USA, since 1978. Nine years ago they began a new Residency at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, with similar associations at Bangor and London Royal Holloway following soon after. They are one of the few string quartets in the world using Classical instruments for the appropriate repertoire, and perhaps unique in that they perform on both historical and modern set-ups (sometimes within the same concert!). At the other end of the musical spectrum, a renewed interest in contemporary music has resulted in over thirty additions to the new century's repertoire, including a cycle of four annual commissions from the Swaledale Festival, each with strong Yorkshire connections. Since 2002 they have been collaborating with the German saxophonist Uwe Steinmetz, working extensively with his jazz group in Sweden, Switzerland and Germany – where their CD of Steinmetz's *Bonhoeffer* Suite has now been released. Other recent travels have taken them to Slovenia for the first time, as well as to Munich, where they took part in an international dance film featuring Shostakovich's last three quartets. There have also been four visits to Russia, which included sharing an all-Tchaikovsky programme with the St. Petersburg Klassika Symphony Orchestra, plus concerts in Pushkin's House, the Sheremetev Palace, the Summer Palace at Peterhof, as well as at Agora – former home of Modest and Pyotr Tchaikovsky. For most of their career they have been making regular trips to the USA, the most recent including a marathon three-hour event in Lorin Maazel's private concert hall at his farm in Virginia. They currently have invitations to visit Canada, USA, Denmark, Switzerland, Greece/Turkey, South Africa, Germany, China, and India, following return visits in 2006/7 to Spain, Switzerland, the USA, and to Russia for the Shostakovich centenary celebrations. Indeed, it was this special anniversary which, not surprisingly, was at the centre of their activities last season – but with more than a passing reference to the Mozart 250th anniversary as well. They have just returned from their first trip to the snows of Newfoundland, which included concerts for the Humber Valley Chamber Music Society and Memorial University, St. Johns, and well as chamber music masterclasses and schools workshops. www.fitzwilliamquartet.org

OUR NEXT CONCERT ON November 25th 2008 The Aris Wind Quintet Bravura!
Kate Walter, flute; *James Burke*, clarinet; *Louise Whipham*, oboe; *Emily Allen*, horn and *Ruth Rosalis*, bassoon. This prize-winning group play Carl Nielsen's dramatic wind quintet, Samuel Barber's evocative Summer Music, the world premiere of a new work by Simon Speare (this season's audience commission!) and more.

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