

# AN EVENING SERENADE

 BWCI <sup>GUERNSEY</sup> *Camerata*  
A FINELY TUNED COLLABORATION

St James Concert Hall  
Saturday 3 October @ 8:00pm  
Conductor - Murray Stewart

## Conductor - Murray Stewart



Born in London, Murray Stewart read Music at Cambridge University, where he was Organ Scholar at Trinity Hall. Following studies under Peter Hurford and later Daniel Roth in Paris on an Arts Council Scholarship, he pursued a career as an Organist.

Since 1988, Murray Stewart has devoted himself exclusively to a conducting career, having studied with Harold Gray, Meredith Davies and Sir Charles Mackerras. He has worked with distinguished orchestras including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Philharmonia Orchestra and the BBC Concert Orchestra, Abroad, he has conducted several orchestras including the Aarhus Symphony Orchestra, the Musici de Praga and the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra.

Murray Stewart is Artistic Director of the London Pro Arte Orchestra and London Pro Arte Baroque. He is a former Conductor of the Collegium Musicum of London. He has conducted many distinguished choirs. As Artistic Director of Finchley Children's Music Group, he gave the British Premiere of Pierre Max Dubois' opera 'Le ruban merveilleux' at Sadlers Wells, and appeared regularly on television. Murray Stewart has maintained a strong interest in French repertoire of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Murray Stewart has developed a prestigious international reputation for conducting the premieres of many works at home and abroad, and his recordings including Richard Maunder's edition of Mozart's Requiem in its entirety, as well as a Christmas disc for Conifer Classics, which enjoyed great success.

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## Leader - Nicholas Miller



Nicholas Miller was born in Hertfordshire and began learning the violin at the age of eight. Following a period of study with Felix Andrievsky he continued his studies at the Royal Academy of Music with Carmel Kaine, where he won numerous prizes for both solo and chamber music. He was also awarded the prestigious Recital Diploma. While still at the Academy he won the sought after English Speaking Union Scholarship to the Yale University Summer School in Connecticut, USA, for a programme of chamber music.

The following year, with awards from the Countess of Munster Trust, Martin Fund and The Royal Society of Arts, Nicholas commenced two years study at the Juilliard School, New York with the world renowned Dorothy DeLay. On completion of his studies he joined the BBC Symphony Orchestra for two years before embarking on a freelance career. Nicholas has taught the violin at both Wells Cathedral School and the Yehudi Menuhin School. He is also an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music where he is currently a Professor of Violin. He plays on a violin by Camillus Camilli of Mantua dated 1746.

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## Soloists

### Elizabeth Scolah

Elizabeth Scolah has been playing the harp since the age of six. She finished her masters at The Royal Academy of Music last month, having gained her Bachelors degree and LRAM there also. Her playing schedule varies greatly. She has performed in venues including The Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall and with Orchestras such as the London Mozart players. The majority of her engagements are as an orchestral harpist, but also include solo and chamber concerts, outreach work (including a trip to Bosnia in September 2008) and teaching. In April 2010 she will travel to Chicago to shadow the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

### Fionna Travers

Having achieved a BA Hons Music Degree at Huddersfield and Post Graduate in Education at Bretton Hall, Wakefield, Fionna came to Guernsey in 1987 to teach flute and other woodwind instruments in the Schools Music Service. Soon after, she became a member and principal flautist to the Guernsey Symphony, Choral and Orchestral Society and Camerata orchestras. She has played with the Baroque Band on many occasions, and is part of a professional quartet called 'Serenata', who perform on a private basis. Fionna is also a tutor on the Elizabeth College Summer Orchestral Course. She now teaches woodwind instruments at Melrose, and enjoys teaching all ages on a private basis at home.

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## Guest Leaders -

Ted Barry – Second violin, Catherine McCracken - Viola, Martin Thomas – Cello

## Programme

### Overture to 'Rosamunde' - Franz Schubert 1797 – 1828

This overture was composed by Schubert for 'The Magic Harp', but was used for Helmina von Chezy's play 'Rosamunde', which was not very successful – it lasted two performances. Schubert had been given two weeks to compose ten pieces of incidental music for the play, so used an overture he had written earlier. It is one of Schubert's most tuneful orchestral pieces and is deservedly popular.

### Concerto for Flute and Harp K299. - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 1756 – 1791

Ist Movement – Allegro

Soloists – Elizabeth Scora (harp) and Fionna Travers (flute)

This concerto is the only piece that Mozart wrote for the harp, as at that time it was not thought to be an orchestral instrument. It was still being developed and was thought of as a 'plucked piano', as you can hear in the harp part. The concerto is technically challenging for both soloists. The orchestra begins by playing the two themes, which are developed by the soloists.

### Pavane pour une infante defunte - Maurice Ravel 1875 – 1937

The pavane was a popular dance in the 16th and 17th centuries. The steady eight beat pulse is intended to celebrate a young princess dancing slowly and gracefully at the royal Spanish court. On hearing one rather slow performance. Ravel commented that it was called 'Pavane for a Dead Princess', not 'Dead Pavane for a Princess'.

## Interval

### Suite Guernesiaise - John Crossley-Hayes 1910 – 2003

I Andante moderato II Allegro ma non troppo IV Allegro ma non troppo

John Crossley-Hayes came to Guernsey in 1939 to teach at Amherst School. He declined to be evacuated, and became teacher-in-charge of Vauvert School throughout the war. He loved classical music, playing flute and piano. He wrote this suite in 1942 to reflect his love of Guernsey, remembering happy times rather than the Occupation years. Unfortunately, the composer never had a chance to hear the music as this is its premiere performance. For further information, see [www.johncrossleyhayes.co.uk](http://www.johncrossleyhayes.co.uk)

### 'Aux étoiles' - Henri Duparc 1848 – 1933

This is one of fewer than 40 works by Duparc to survive, as he destroyed most of his music when he became blind. At the age of 37, he stopped composing because of mental illness. His 'mélodies' – French poems for voice and piano – have survived, as well as this symphonic poem, written in 1874.

### 'Dolly' Suite - Gabriel Fauré 1845 – 1924

(1) Berceuse	(iv) Kitty-valse
(ii) Mi-a-ou	(v) Tendresse
(iii) Le jardin de Dolly	(vi) Le pas espagnol

Fauré originally wrote these pieces as piano duets. He dedicated them to Debussy's second wife, Helene Bardac, who was nicknamed 'Dolly' as a tiny child. Those of you who are old enough may recognise the 'Berceuse' as the music from 'Listen with Mother' on the BBC Home Service.

### 'Portrait of a Flirt' - Robert Farnon 1917 – 2005

Robert Farnon was born in Canada, and came from a musical family. He learned to play violin and piano, then percussion, and was drummer in his brother's band, also playing the cornet while using his feet to play bass drum and cymbal. He became in charge of music at the Canadian Broadcasting Company, performing, conducting and composing many light, popular pieces. During the war, he brought his Canadian military band to England, where he decided to stay. After years of broadcasting and performing with his own orchestra, as well as composing for radio and television, Robert Farnon moved to Guernsey, where he continued to produce many tuneful and memorable pieces. 'Portrait of a Flirt' was written in 1947.

Our thanks go to the the Guille-Alles Library for supplying the music for this concert and also to the Guernsey Arts Commission for their support.

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A FINELY TUNED COLLABORATION

"The BWCI Group is delighted to be associated, through our corporate sponsorship, with the Guernsey Camerata. We believe that this orchestra makes a significant contribution to the local classical music scene and helps foster the development of the more advanced players on the island. It provides a great incentive to young players to strive towards the full realisation of their potential."

*Stephen Ainsworth, Senior Partner, BWCI Group*

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As well as providing actuarial and consulting services, the BWCI Group is a leading provider of specialist administration services for pension plans, employee share plans and life assurance companies. These complement our advisory services and enable us to offer complete solutions to meet the needs of our clients. Our administrative services also enable us to provide advice based upon our own practical experience.

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