Somerville Music Society

Friday Lunchtime Recital Series, 27 January 2012

Wilfrid Jones (tenor)
Benjamin Bloor (piano)

Gerald Finzi (1901-1956)
A Young Man's Exhortation *Op. 14*

II. Ditty
VII. The Sigh

Aaron Copland (1900-1990)
Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson

IV. The world feels dusty
V. Heart, we will forget him

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Die Winterreise *D. 911*

I. Gute Nacht
V. Der Lindenbaum

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
Dichterliebe *Op. 48*

VI. Im Rhein, im heiligen Strome
VII. Ich grolle nicht

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
Erlkönig *D. 328*

Wilfrid Jones, tenor

Wilfrid Jones was born in London in 1993. He studied music at the London Oratory School from 2002 to 2010 and is now a choral scholar reading music at New College, Oxford.

He sang with the London Oratory Schola from 2002 to 2011 and sings with the Choir of New College, Oxford, the New Men, the Choir of St. Michael at the North Gate, Oxford, the Rodolfus Choir and Voce Sanctis. He has taken part in recordings for *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* and been on the staff of four Eton Choral Courses.

He conducts a choir in London called "Floreat Cantus" and studies singing with Bronwen Mills.

Benjamin Bloor, piano

Ben Bloor was born in Derby in 1991. He started his musical education with the piano in 1998 closely followed by the organ in 2002, studying with Peter Gould. As a boy Ben sang in the Derby Cathedral Choir and in his final year was Head Chorister. This led to his being chosen as the organ scholar there when his voice broke, playing for many services. As part of this role Ben also accompanied the choir on several tours to places including Italy, Germany and France as well as to St Albans and York Minster. During his time at Derby Ben also played for live national radio for the BBC Radio Three Choral Evensong, indeed he was one of the youngest organists ever to do so. In 2010 Ben achieved his ATCL Piano Diploma which was in addition to the ARCO Organ Diploma he was awarded in 2009, for which he won the Sawyer and Durrant Prize for his performance.

Last year Ben was awarded the organ scholarship at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, where he resided and worked for a year, training the probationer choristers as well as playing regularly for services, many of which were attended by royalty. He is currently reading music as an undergraduate at New College, Oxford, and is also the organ scholar there, under the baton of Edward Higginbottom.

Earlier this year, Ben was a finalist in both the American Guild of Organists' Quimby Competition for Young Organists, held in New Jersey, as well as the inaugural Northern Ireland International Organ Competition in Armagh, and is much in demand as a recitalist up and down this country.

Ben's musical abilities are not limited to the organ world and indeed he was involved in many other musical productions at school; playing the piano for *Grease*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Annie* and *Blood Brothers*. Among his other interests are snooker and chocolate. He hopes to continue studying the organ and eventually make a career out of it. Although he is particularly fond of French romantic organ music, Ben enjoys listening to a wide variety of genres including jazz.

Next Recital

Thursday, 9 February 2012, 8pm, Somerville College Chapel
Margaret Irene Seymour Award Holders' Recital
Rilly Chen (flute and Chinese flute), Tal Katsir (soprano), Aimee Taylor (flute), Douglas Knight (clarinet), Robert Pecksmith (organ) and others

If you are interested in playing a lunchtime recital at Somerville Chapel next term, please contact Stefan Schwarz (SMS Recitals Coordinator).