



Chantez!

French music on Bastille day

**Mouton, Phinot, Fauré, Gounod,
Franck, Saint-Saëns, Massenet,
Debussy and Vilette**

Whitehall Choir : Paul Spicer

Piano : Michael Higgins

7:30pm Thursday 14 July 2016

St James's Piccadilly

London W1J 9LL

Tickets £15 from

www.whitehallchoir.org,

a choir member, or on the door

Chantez!

The coincidence of our concert falling on Bastille Day gave us the opportunity to perform a French programme for our summer concert. The result is a very wide-ranging, colourful and representative set of works covering some six centuries of French music. The earliest composer is Jean Mouton born in 1459. His motet *Confitemini Domino* is almost unknown but the style will be familiar to anyone who knows the music of his far more famous exact contemporary, Josquin Desprez. We sing an astonishing and almost unknown motet by the 16th century composer, Dominique Phinot. His motet *Pater peccavi in caelum* tells the emotionally-charged story of the return of the prodigal son. The other music in the programme is more recent and features the almost hedonistic Pierre Villette (1926-98) whose highly coloured harmonies in the two motets we perform certainly put sensuality before spirituality. Saint-Saëns, Debussy, Fauré, César Franck and Gounod steer us through equally expressive landscapes and demonstrate again and again the French gift for lyricism.

Whitehall Choir

Under our Musical Director, Paul Spicer, the Whitehall Choir, now in its 72nd season, aspires to the highest standards of performance in all our concerts. Members share a strong commitment and, besides attending weekly rehearsals on Tuesday evenings for our concerts during the academic year in central London, take part in recordings, occasional tours abroad and choral workshops. The choir has just returned from Vienna where we performed two concerts featuring English choral music. We are currently interested in finding committed singers in all voice parts. Admission is by a short audition, usually after three or four rehearsals. Please go to www.whitehallchoir.org.uk for details.

Future events in 2016 include:

Come and Sing Day

Dvorak Stabat Mater

Saturday 8 October, Church of the Holy Spirit, Clapham, SW4 9JU

Mozart Coronation Mass in C K317

Mozart Divertimento in F K138

Richard Blackford Mirror of Perfection

Tuesday 22 November, St John's Smith Square, London SW1P 3HA

Whitehall Choir is a registered charity, number 280478.