

Bradley Smith, who was to have sung the tenor solos in today's performance, is unfortunately indisposed, and Iain Milne has kindly agreed to take his place at very short notice. We are delighted to welcome him again. Some members of the audience may recall that Iain sang the tenor solos when the Whitehall Choir performed Handel's *Israel in Egypt* here at St John's a year ago.

Iain Milne



Iain was born in Inverurie in Aberdeenshire, and it is somewhat of a miracle that he is a singer at all. He was born with a congenital disorder resulting in under-developed larynx muscles – a rather useful set of muscles when it comes to singing. No one would have predicted that 26 years later he would have debuted on the opera stage, as Tito in Mozart's *La Clemenza Di Tito* for Hampstead Garden Opera, and would now be studying singing at the Royal Academy of Music.

Iain's main experience lies in choral music; he has been a Cathedral Lay Clerk at Aberdeen, Norwich, Wells and Christ Church, Oxford. During his 12 years as part of the choral tradition he enjoyed going on tour to Norway, Malta, Germany, the USA and South Africa. He also featured as a soloist with Wells Cathedral Choir on recordings of Kenneth Leighton's *World's Desire* and David Bednall's *Flame Celestial*.

Becoming increasingly in demand as an oratorio soloist, Iain has sung for many choirs and choral societies across the UK and Europe. Recent highlights include Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* in the Fairfield Halls, Croydon, Handel's *Messiah* in Hamburg and Haydn's *Creation* in Aberdeen Music Hall.

Iain is very proud of his Scottish roots and of his hugely supportive family, venturing home to do concerts as much as he can. He is also very proud to be studying with fellow Aberdeenshire tenor Dr Neil Mackie.

Iain is currently supported by the Michael James Music Trust, the Josephine Baker Trust, the Musicians Benevolent Fund, the Countess of Munster Trust, the Robertson Trust and the Sir James Caird Trust.