

HENLEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Mendelssohn

Overture: To the Fair Melusine

Rodrigo

Concierto de Aranjuez

Rodrigo

Zarabande Lejana y Villancico

Mendelssohn

Symphony no. 4 'Italian'

JACQUES COHEN *Conductor*

CRAIG OGDEN *Classical Guitar*

Saturday 11th November 2023, 5:00 pm

St Mary's Church, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2AU

Tickets: email hsoboxoffice@gmail.com or 07726 459261

£20 unreserved; U16s/students £8



www.henleysymphonyorchestra.co.uk

Henley Symphony Orchestra is a Registered Charity No. 271849

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HSO is delighted to present its Autumn concert, in the beautiful surroundings of St Mary's Church, Henley. Our guest conductor will be **Jacques Cohen**, Principal Conductor of the Cohen Ensemble (formerly the Isis Ensemble) which performs regularly at London's Southbank Centre and around the UK. He has conducted at the UK's leading conservatoires where he has also given master classes and composition seminars. Jacques is Principal Conductor of the Royal College of Music Junior Department Symphony Orchestra and Lloyd's of London Choir.



Described by BBC Music Magazine as 'A worthy successor to Julian Bream', the Australian-born guitarist **Craig Ogden** is one of the most exciting artists of his generation. He studied guitar from the age of seven and percussion from the age of thirteen. In 2004, he became the youngest instrumentalist to receive a Fellowship Award from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. He has performed concertos with many of the world's leading orchestras and this season Craig performs concertos with orchestras including the BBC Concert Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, Oulu Symphony Orchestra (Finland) and the Northern Chamber Orchestra. Craig is Director of Guitar at the Royal Northern College of Music, Adjunct Fellow of the University of Western Australia and Associate Artist at The Bridgewater Hall in Manchester. Craig Ogden plays a 2011 Greg Smallman guitar and strings made by D'Addario.

Programme. Escape from the autumnal English chill, with works inspired by a fantastical European fairy tale and the sights and sounds of Italy and Spain. Written in 1834 by **Mendelssohn**, the *Overture: The Fair Melusine* evokes the story of a water sprite who marries a mortal on the condition that he never asks her where she goes on Saturdays. **Mendelssohn** had attended a performance of the opera, written by Kreutzer, and was so taken with the failure of the music to do justice to the subject that he wrote his own overture, of which he was very fond. The sunny Spanish tunes and the extraordinary beauty of its central Adagio make **Joaquín Rodrigo's** *Concierto de Aranjuez* one of the most popular concertos of all time. **Rodrigo**, who was blind from the age of three, was reputedly inspired by the gardens of the palace of Aranjuez, which he had visited on honeymoon. The piece was written in 1939, amid the chaos of the Spanish Civil War.

Zarabanda lejana y Villancico for string orchestra (1928-30) was originally written for solo guitar and piano by **Rodrigo** but he later arranged this beautiful gem for string orchestra and added a contrasting Villancico, a simple rondo, to the more sombre sarabande. **Mendelssohn** toured Italy in 1830, and his popular '*Italian*' *Symphony no.4* was based on sketches written during his travels. He declared 'it will be the jolliest piece I have ever done, especially the last movement'. The dramatic rhythms of Neapolitan dances in this final movement give the work its nickname and make for a rousing conclusion to our concert.

Come and join us!

St Mary's Church, Hart Street, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2AU is situated by the bridge over the River Thames in central Henley, in a continuation of the Market Place. Parking at the church itself is extremely limited so we reserve this space for disabled visitors. Public car parks are available within a few minutes' walk, off the Market Place (RG9 2AA) or Kings Road (RG9 2DQ).