

**Southampton Philharmonic Choir**  
**1860 – 2010**  
**150 Glorious Years**  
**Anniversary Concert on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

Southampton Philharmonic Choir celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year with a special concert on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April in Southampton Guildhall. The choir was founded in 1860, making it Southampton's longest-established music society and it has been a constant part of Southampton's cultural life ever since.

The main work in the concert will be Mozart's magnificent *Requiem*. The composition of the *Requiem* is shrouded in mystery and intrigue – employed to good effect, if not historical accuracy, in the play and film *Amadeus*. It was commissioned in 1791 by "a mysterious man in grey" whom Mozart, already very ill, took to be a visitation from the grave. Following Mozart's death later that year, the work was completed by others, but includes enough of Mozart's genius to be a masterpiece.

The concert will also include the third performance of Dominic Muldowney's oratorio *The Fall of Jerusalem*, with words by poet and writer James Fenton. This work was commissioned jointly by Southampton Philharmonic Choir and Leeds Festival Chorus for the Millennium. It was premiered in Leeds, followed by a second performance in Southampton, in March 2000. Dominic Muldowney was born and educated in Southampton, and has composed songs for David Bowie and Sting, and TV and film theme tunes, as well as concert pieces. The oratorio is about the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, although the shadow of the 20th century Holocaust hovers musically over the piece. Haunting saxophone solos allude to klezmer music and the closing youth chorus is based on a melody from a Jewish ghetto of the 1930s.

Southampton Philharmonic Choir will be joined for the concert by the student singers of the Southampton University Phil, with orchestral accompaniment from the New London Sinfonia conducted by David Gibson. In *The Fall of Jerusalem* the saxophone solos will be played by leading saxophonist John Harle, and the youth chorus will be sung by Hampshire County Children's Choir.

Tickets for the concert, which begins at 7.30pm, can be obtained from the Guildhall Box Office (tel: 023 8063 2601, [www.livenation.co.uk/southampton](http://www.livenation.co.uk/southampton)), priced £8 to £19 (concessions available). For further details visit [www.southamptonphil.org](http://www.southamptonphil.org).

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**Further information and complimentary tickets for reviewers can be obtained from:**  
Ingrid Peckham, Press Officer, Southampton Philharmonic Choir: [ingrid.peckham@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ingrid.peckham@tiscali.co.uk); tel 023 8036 0525.