



Pianist Andrew Warburton performs two lunch-hour recital programmes at Durban's Howard College Theatre this month. Above right are members of The Durban Chamber Choir, who perform English choral music at St Thomas's Church in Musgrave, Durban, on Sunday, May 17, and at the Lutheran Church in Hayfield Pietermaritzburg on May 24.

Double lunch-hour treat from Warburton

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CLASSICAL NOTES

CLASSICAL music enthusiasts have two free lunch-hour concerts to look forward to at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Howard College Theatre, both featuring Durban pianist Andrew Warburton.

The first of these, at 12.15pm on Wednesday, May 13, offers a programme of music written for two pianists, in which Warburton will be partnered with Brendan Hollins, a graduate of the University of KwaZulu-Natal and Stellenbosch University, who is currently serving on the music faculty of Grand State University of

Michigan in the United States.

Their programme includes Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite for Piano Duet* and Mozart's *Piano Sonata for Four Hands in E minor K497*. It concludes with three movements from Rachmaninoff's *Fantasia-Tableaux Suite for Two Pianos*.

Warburton's second recital this month is scheduled for 12.15pm on Tuesday, May 19, when he will perform alongside soprano Vanessa Tait-Jones.

Their programme will open with four lieder by Johannes Brahms, including *Liebestreu Op 3 No 1*, *Vergebliches Standchen Op 84 No 4* and *Die Mainacht Op 43 No 2*. Also on the bill is *Meine liebe ist grün Op 63 No 5*, which is noted for its formidably taxing piano part.

This group will be followed by four much-loved melodies by Gabriel Faure: *Après un reve*, *Les Rose d'ispahan*, *Chanson d'amour* and *Notre Amour*.

A selection of popular arias complete the programme. These include *Ebben, ne andro Lontana* from Catalani's opera, *La Wally*; Marguerite's *Jewel Song* from Gounod's *Faust* and *Mi chiamano Mimì* from Puccini's *La Bohème*.

Also to be performed are Frantz Lehar's *Meine lippen sie küssen so heiss* from *Giuditta*; and the evergreen *Italian Street Song* from Victor Herbert's operetta, *Naughty Marietta*.

On a different note, the Durban Chamber Choir, under the musical direction of Christopher Cockburn, is scheduled to perform an hour-long programme of English choral music from the Renaissance and Romantic periods by two important British composers: William Byrd (1540-1623) and Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924).

This event will be presented at St Thomas's Church in Musgrave at 3pm on Sunday, May 17.

"During the Renaissance, English music could hold its own with the best produced anywhere in Europe," notes Cockburn.

"After the death of Purcell, however, and particularly as a result of the influence of Handel on English composers, the most significant musical developments moved elsewhere.

Mainstream

"It was only at the end of the 19th century, and notably in the music of Stanford, that signs began to appear of another 'musical Renaissance' which would reconnect British music to the European mainstream and produce composers of the stature of Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Gustav Holst (the last two being pupils of Stanford)."

Cockburn adds that Byrd and Stanford will each be represented in the Chamber Choir programme by a varied

selection of works, sacred and secular, unaccompanied and with organ.

These will include settings by both composers of the Latin text "Justorum animae" (The souls of the just), and of the Anglican Evening Canticles.

"In addition to the stylistic differences between the composers, the programme includes strong contrasts of mood: from Byrd's joyful *Deo Gratias* and sorrowful *Wounded I am*, to Stanford's light-hearted *Shall We Go Dance* and serene *Blue Bird*, this last being as exquisite a miniature as any in the choral repertoire."

The two halves of the programme will be linked by an attractive rarity from the period between these two composers, the *Duet for Organ* by Samuel Wesley, which will be played by Cockburn and Jacques Heyns.

The same programme will be reprised at the Lutheran Church

in Hayfield, Pietermaritzburg, at 3pm on Sunday, May 24.

Tickets for both concerts will be available at the door and cost R50 each (R30 for students and senior citizens).

Tea and cake will be served after each performance.

Finally, a reminder that the KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra's 2015 winter season of symphony concerts in the Durban City Hall runs every Thursday evening at 7.30pm from May 21 to June 25.

For more information about the season's roster of guest artists, and the eclectic mix of concert favourites and a number of intriguing rarities to be performed, visit the orchestra's website at www.kznphil.org.za

To subscribe to the season phone 031 369 9438.

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