

SPEENFESTIVAL2011

You are warmly invited to take part in an exciting new collaborative musical event happening in a little village on the top of a hill...

The Setting

We are from Speen, the little village that puts on a big event every two years in the heart of the Chilterns: The Speen Festival. We would like to invite you to take part in a completely new and exciting idea for a musical finale to this year's festival in September.

Over the last 10 years, the Speen Festival has established itself as a biennial celebration of the very best artistic and creative talent from the village itself and the surrounding areas.

At the heart of the Festival is the desire to provide local people with opportunities to create and participate in innovative, artistic events. Performances, exhibitions and outdoor activities are offered to the whole community at affordable prices over a 10-day period.

The Festival reaches well beyond the village boundaries and is a true platform for new and developing talent excelling in art, music, dance, science, nature and photography, including a full theatrical production.

Further details at: www.speenfestival.org

Our Aim

This year we are proposing a free Prom-style spectacular event for all ages on **Sunday 18th September 2011** and would like to invite you to form a new orchestra for one day only. As a fellow music-lover and instrumentalist, we hope you will enjoy playing the fun and challenging programme under the artistic direction of conductor and Speen resident, Sam Laughton.

Our aim is to pool groups of musicians from nearby orchestras, including at least one youth orchestra, making this an exciting collaboration of local talent and an opportunity to showcase the quality of musicianship in Buckinghamshire.

Participating groups of musicians will be able to nominate, on behalf of their regular orchestra, a charity of their choice. The audience will be encouraged to make donations during the event.

We already have strong interest from the Chiltern Camerata and the Misbourne Symphony Orchestra, and are hoping to achieve representation from the following local groups: Aylesbury Symphony Orchestra, Crendon Chamber Orchestra, Great Missenden Orchestra, Pigotts Music Camp, Wycombe Sinfonia and High Wycombe Music Centre.



The Music

The programme is designed to have something for all ages but equally to appeal as an interesting programme to play. Current plans are to include:

Walton: 'Spitfire' Prelude and Fugue
Badelt: Pirates of the Caribbean
John Williams: Raiders March
Malcolm Arnold: Tam O'Shanter
Bernstein: West Side Story selection
Edmund Rubbra: Symphony No.6 (slow mvt)
Prokofiev: 'Dance of the Knights' from Romeo & Juliet
Parry: Jerusalem
Elgar: Pomp and Circumstance March No.1

In addition we are delighted that the well-known and highly talented Reid Sisters will be joining us to play the virtuosic show-stopper 'Navarra' by Sarasate. There will also be a couple of operatic standards sung by local professional tenor Jeff Stewart.

The Big Day

The 'Prom' itself is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday 18th September 2011. Players will perform from the marquee on Speen Playing Field HP27 ORU.

Rehearsals will be held on the evening of Friday 16th September and on the morning of Sunday 18th prior to the afternoon performance. Exact timings are still to be confirmed. The music will be available to all players before the event on request.

Lunch will be provided for participating players on Sunday 18th between the morning rehearsal and the afternoon performance.

The main event will be billed as a free finale event for all ages. The audience can settle in with rugs and refreshments on Speen Playing Field to enjoy the music classics and some prom style participation. Facilities on the Playing Field include a children's playground, village pub with ice cream parlour and toilets.

We extend a warm welcome to any of your families and friends who would like to come along.

The Conductor

Our conductor for the event will be Sam Laughton, who also returns to his successful role as co-artistic director for Speen Festival.

Sam read music at Cambridge, where he was organ scholar at Sidney Sussex College. He is musical director of the Elysian Singers of London, one of the country's leading chamber choirs, with whom he has made a number of acclaimed recordings and has appeared several times on TV and radio. Having been for many years the director of the Craswall Players, he also recently took up the musical directorship of the Chiltern Camerata.

Sam's approach is one of limitless enthusiasm, especially for bringing people together to make music and reaching out to new audiences. His energy and skill allow him to quickly form effective groups producing high quality musical results. As Bucks born and bred, and now with a family of four children in Speen, he has staked his local reputation on making the Speen Festival 'Prom in the Playing Field' a fantastic community event!

So, come and join the fun...

We would love you to play a part in making this new event a resounding success.

If you are interested and available on **Sunday 18th September (and for the evening rehearsal on Friday 16th September)** please contact the event organisers below by **14th May** giving details of your instrument, the orchestra(s) you play with and your regular desk/position.

Annabel Warr: annabel.warr@btinternet.com 01494 488340

Cat Cook: catcook@waitrose.com 01494 488939

We look forward to hearing from you.