

SUNDAY 4TH MAY

7.45PM

**BEETHOVEN**

Symphony No 6 in F 'Pastoral'

**WALTON**

Overture 'Portsmouth Point'

**SIBELIUS**

Symphony No 7 in C

**STRAUSS**

Till Eulenspiegel

Neil Mantle *conductor*

*Greyfriars' Church*

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**WHAT THE PRESS SAID ABOUT  
OUR 1995 MAHLER 9**

"From the gripping heartbeat pulse that announces the opening theme, it was clear that SINFONIA conducted by Neil Mantle had penetrated the very soul of this work. This was a fine, confident performance that captured MAHLER'S complex exploration of the different faces of life and death"

*Scotsman*

"No, not the suave polish of the Berlin Philharmonic but a raw, greedy sound which aptly conveys the sense of risk and excitement that must have been in the air before these symphonies became established classics"

*Guardian*

**TICKET INFORMATION**

*August, November, February  
and May Concerts:*

**£6.50**

**£6.00 concessions**

**£4.00 schoolchildren**

*March Concert:*

**£8.00**

**£6.00 concessions**

*Available from:*

**The Queen's Hall 0131-668 2019**

**The Usher Hall 0131-228 1155**

**The King's Theatre 0131-220 4349**

**Assembly Rooms 0131-220 4349**

*and Members of the Orchestra*

*Tickets for the August Performances are also  
available from:*

**The Festival Fringe Office 0131-226 5138**

**1996-7 Concerts**

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**SINFONIA** at **GREYFRIARS**

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Beethoven Bruckner Ravel Shostakovich Strauss Walton  
Berlioz Mahler Rossini Sibelius

*They're all here - why not join them?*

## Welcome to our 1996 -97 season of concerts!

Last year, we celebrated our quarter century of concert giving and you, our audience, certainly helped us to make it an anniversary to remember by filling Greyfriars Kirk at every performance. Thank you for that wonderful support!

As usual, our season commences in August with two MAHLER Concerts at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Last year, our performances of the mighty ninth symphony were heard by nearly one thousand music lovers among whom were the music critics of *The Guardian* and *The Scotsman*. Their reviews may be seen elsewhere in this brochure.

This year's, offering, the fourth symphony, a delightfully fresh and lyrical work, is aptly partnered by some of the songs from MAHLER'S Cycle '*Des Knaben Wunderhorn*'.

In former years the great Austrian symphonist ANTON BRUCKNER was rather arbitrarily bracketed with MAHLER. 1996 sees the centenary of his death and we pay homage to his memory by performing his serenely beautiful seventh symphony. A huge success from its premiere onwards, it was the first of his works to spread his fame worldwide. As a strong contrast, this concert also includes SHOSTAKOVITCH'S 'Cello Concerto. To Perform this taxing work, we have enormous pleasure in welcoming Edinburgh born 'Cellist Garry Walker. Garry is currently studying at the Royal Northern College of Music. Don't miss this opportunity to sample some exceptional 'home grown' talent.

Last season, the orchestra scored an enormous success with a programme of largely French music including a performance of RAVEL'S *Daphnis and Chloé* which was rumoured to have caused structural damage to our concert venue! On the basis that imitation is the sincerest form of box office, we are making another French Foray - or should it be Fauré? - into this fascinating territory. Music guaranteed to raise the temperature of a cold February night!

SINFONIA always enjoys the annual joint concert with The Edinburgh Bach Society. This year our collaboration focuses on ROSSINI and BRUCKNER. If VERDI'S *Requiem* has been called his greatest opera, ROSSINI'S *Stabat Mater* also carries with it more than a whiff of greasypaint. With a fabulous line-up of soloists, this will be an evening to remember.

Strangely, a composer whose name does not often appear on our programmes is BEETHOVEN. In May we make amends for this by closing our season with his evergreen '*Pastoral*' *Symphony*. After the interval we offer a dramatic contrast by way of the dark majesty of SIBELIUS' final symphony - *the seventh*. We end our twenty sixth season in the highest of spirits with RICHARD STRAUSS'S well loved *Till Eulenspiegel*.

So, don't languish at home, come and experience - be part of - the thrill of live music making. There is no substitute. Bring your friends. We look forward to seeing you!

## EDINBURGH FESTIVAL CONCERTS

SUNDAY 25TH AUGUST

5.00PM

MONDAY 26TH AUGUST

8.00PM

### MAHLER

Songs from Des Knaben Wunderhorn

### MAHLER

Symphony No 4 in G

Joanne Armstrong *soprano*  
Kevin Greenlaw *baritone*  
Neil Mantle *conductor*

*Greyfriars' Church*

SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

7.45PM

### SHOSTAKOVITCH

'Cello Concerto

### BRUCKNER

Symphony No 7 in E

Garry Walker *'cello*  
Neil Mantle *conductor*

*Greyfriars' Church*

SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY

7.45PM

### BERLIOZ

Overture - Beatrice et Benedict

### FAURÉ

Pelleas et Melisande

### RESPIGHI

The Pines of Rome

### RAVEL

Rapsodie Espagnole

### DEBUSSY

La Mer

Neil Mantle *conductor*

*Greyfriars' Church*

SATURDAY 22ND MARCH

7.45PM

JOINT CONCERT WITH EDINBURGH BACH SOCIETY

### BRUCKNER

Te Deum

### ROSSINI

Stabat Mater

Gillian Taylor *soprano*  
Fiona Milne *mezzo-soprano*  
Alan Oke *tenor*  
Alan Watt *baritone*  
NeilMantle *conductor*

*Greyfriars' Church*