

## PRESS RELEASE

### Cambridge University Musical Society's May Week Concert 2014

The grand finale to the CUMS 2013-14 Season sees the annual collaboration of the society's two largest ensembles: the **CUMS Symphony Orchestra** and **CUMS Chorus**. This year features one of the most famous pieces of British music, **Elgar's *Enigma Variations***, contrasting with less well-known but no less phenomenal *Glagolitic Mass* by Czech composer Leoš **Janáček**. An annual collaboration between these two ensembles has been a long-running part of the society's history and the 'May Week Concert' falls at the beginning of the University's traditional week-long celebrations following the end-of-year exams.

An iconic piece of British music in an iconic British setting, CUMS Symphony Orchestra's performance of *Elgar's Enigma Variations* is not one to be missed. This set of fourteen variations, written as musical portrayals of Elgar's close acquaintances, quickly achieved international fame after its premiere in 1899 and is now a well-loved constituent of the English musical cannon. Janáček's mighty *Glagolitic Mass* is considered one of the last century's masterworks and so its inclusion in this programme is only just. The text is written in Old Church Slavonic, and provides not only a veritable challenge to any singer unfamiliar with this strange language (the Glagolitic Alphabet was an early Slavic alphabet, preceding the modern Cyrillic alphabet) but also a unique sound-world for the listener.

Stephen Cleobury CBE is best known for his musical prowess with the internationally-renowned King's College Choir with whom he has featured as conductor on numerous national and international recordings and broadcasts. However, this year he also celebrates thirty years of involvement with CUMS for whom he has conducted many concerts and for whose Chorus he has been Musical Director during the whole of that period. Sharing the conductors' stand for this concert is second-year Music student Ben Glassberg (CUMS Conducting Scholar 2013-14) who has worked extensively throughout the classical and theatrical student music scene in Cambridge in addition to his work with the CUMS Symphony Orchestra. Ben has recently been appointed to the brand new position of CUMS Student President for 2014-15.

**CUMS**, founded in 1843, is one of the oldest and most distinguished university music societies in the world. It offers a world-class musical education for members of the University, nurturing the great musicians of the future. It has educated such luminaries as Sir Andrew Davis, Sir Mark Elder, Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Edward Gardner, Christopher Hogwood and Robin Ticciati.

**Saturday 14 June 2014, 8pm**  
**King's College Chapel, Cambridge**

*Tickets* £32, £26, £20, £10

**Students:** £4 reduction of above prices  
and £5 on the door, subject to availability

**Booking:** [www.adcticketing.com](http://www.adcticketing.com)

Tel: 01223 300085

ADC Theatre, Park Street, Cambridge, CB5 8AS

For more information about CUMS and all of our concerts please visit our website: [www.cums.org.uk](http://www.cums.org.uk)

**For more information or images of Stephen Cleobury, Ben Glassberg or the orchestra and chorus please contact Karys Orman, Marketing Coordinator at [ko287@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ko287@cam.ac.uk).**



www.cums.org.uk  
Cambridge University Musical Society

Saturday 14 June 2014  
at 8pm

King's College Chapel, Cambridge

# May Week Concert

Elgar *Enigma Variations*  
Janáček *Glagolitic Mass*

CUMS CHORUS  
CUMS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Stephen Cleobury & Ben Glassberg *conductors*

Rachel Nicholls *soprano*

Victoria Simmonds *mezzo-soprano*

Jeffrey Lloyd-Roberts *tenor*

Darren Jeffery *bass*

Stephen Cleobury

Ben Glassberg

Rachel Nicholls

Victoria Simmonds

Jeffrey Lloyd-Roberts

Darren Jeffery



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Booking: [www.adcticketing.com](http://www.adcticketing.com) | 01223 300085 | Mon 12.30-4pm, Tues-Fri 12.30-7pm, Sat 3-7pm

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