PRESS RELEASE

**Howard Shelley conducts Dvorak and Brahms**

Howard Shelley *conductor*

Elinor Rolfe Johnson *soprano*

Jonathan Sells *bass*

Cambridge University Chamber Orchestra

Members of CUMS Symphony Orchestra

The Choirs of Clare, Gonville and Caius, Jesus and Selwyn Colleges

Members of CUMS Chorus and Cambridge University Chamber Choir

**Dvorak *Symphony No.8***

**Brahms *Ein deutsches Requiem***

Start the New Year with an unforgettable evening of music-making in King’s College Chapel. Join the Cambridge University Chamber Orchestra and members of CUMS Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Howard Shelley, as they perform Dvorak *Symphony No.8*. Followed by the heart-wrenching Brahms *Ein deutsches Requiem,* this concert presents an opportunity to hear two fantastic works of the nineteenth century.

Dvorak’s *Symphony No.8* draws much of its inspiration from the Bohemian folk music he loved. Opening with a lyrical theme in the cellos, horns, clarinets and bassoons the symphony remains distinctly light-hearted throughout. The glorious first movement is followed by an Adagio which depicts a tranquil summer’s day that is then interrupted by a thunderstorm. The symphony closes with a complex theme-and-variations movement; beautiful melodies are built up into a tempestuous middle section and the work ends with a chromatic coda.

The light-hearted Dvorak symphony is in many ways a world apart from Brahms *Ein deutsches Requiem*. Completed in 1868, Brahms structured a work that displayed some of his greatest skills as a composer, with both the third and sixth movements culminating in powerful fugues. The Requiem is symmetrical and centred round the fourth movement which describes the ‘lovely dwellings’ of the Lord. Written for symphony orchestra, choir and soprano and bass soloists Brahms *Ein deutsches Requiem* is an intensely powerful composition, possibly inspired by the death of his mother.

**Cambridge University Chamber Orchestra and CUMS Symphony Orchestra are the University’s flagship ensembles, drawn from the top student instrumentalists in Cambridge. They are delighted to be performing by a wealth of Cambridge choral talent who will form the Requiem chorus. CUMS Chorus and the Cambridge University Chamber Choir will be joined by the choirs of Clare, Gonville and Caius, Jesus and Selwyn Colleges who perform, record and tour internationally on a regular basis.**

Howard Shelley is a distinguished conductor and pianist who made his conducting debut in 1985. He has worked with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Seattle Symphony Orchestra and many others. We are delighted that Howard is coming to Cambridge to perform this inspiring programme.

CUMS are thrilled to welcome back Elinor Rolfe Johnson and Jonathan Sells to Cambridge to perform this beautiful requiem. With Dvorak and Brahms all in one evening, this programme is not one to miss this New Year.

Saturday 17 January 2015, 8pm

King’s College Chapel

Tickets £35, £30, £10

Concessions: £2 reduction of above prices

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

Booking: 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 Howard Shelley, Elinor Rolfe Johnson, Jonathan Sells, the orchestra or the choirs please contact Helen Daniels, Marketing Coordinator at hd317@cam.ac.uk.