

# *It Takes Two*

Welcome to our first concert for 2012, 'It Takes Two', brought to you by the NUMBER 2 and *Serendipity: the choir*.

In keeping with our theme, today you have two acts for the price of one. Joining *Serendipity: the choir* is our guest artist, soprano Nicole Thomson. Indulging us in our theme of two, Nicole will augment today's entertainment with two appropriate jazz standards: '*Second-hand Rose*' and '*J'ai deux Amours*' ('I have two loves') – both welcome additions to a programme you are sure to love.

It sounds like a maths lesson, but when you take three from two, we know the answer is Gilbert and Sullivan's finest Savoy operas. From 'The Mikado' comes the outstanding soprano aria '*The Sun Whose Rays*', whilst from 'The Gondoliers' we include the all-singing, all-dancing '*The Cachuca*'. And, as good slaves to duty, Nicole and a bevy of maidens present '*Poor Wand'ring One*' from 'The Pirates of Penzance'. So sit back, enjoy an imaginary sherry and tap your foot to some of the best from one of history's most famous musical duos.

And two from two quite often gives us something much better than nothing. From Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical 'The King and I' you will hear '*Something Wonderful*' – a song that stresses the great positives - and from that **other** famous musical duo, George and Ira Gershwin, '*I'll Build a Stairway to Paradise*', a song made famous in the film *An American in Paris*, memorably sung by Georges Guétary.

Coffee or Tea? It's often difficult to select your beverage of choice – but not today! To celebrate the pick-me-up qualities of coffee *Serendipity* sings the Manhattan Transfer arrangement of '*Java Jive*', first sung by The Inkspots. And this concert would not be complete with Vincent Youmans' '*Tea for Two*', that unforgettable song of an afternoon tea *à deux*.

Religious texts have been set by many composers over the centuries and today we present three of the most famous. *'The Lord's Prayer'* from *'African Sanctus'*, a work by modern-day English composer David Fanshawe contrasts with *'Pater Noster'* (the Latin text), a thrilling eight-part double choir setting by the German Renaissance composer Jacob Handl (not Handel, composer of *'The Messiah'*).

Psalms have been a source of inspiration for composers over many centuries and none is more famous than *'Psalm 23'*. Schubert's setting for sopranos and altos is simply beautiful and its accompaniment, echoing quietly babbling streams, is typically Schubertian. Howard Goodall's modern setting is famous for its association with *'The Vicar of Dibley'* but, as you will hear, it is much more than a simple television theme. And from Psalm 100 (the *'Jubilate Deo'*) are settings by Handl's contemporary Orlando di Lasso and the modern American composer, Emily Crocker. Despite a separation of 400 years, both versions are characterised by joyful energy.

No *Serendipity: the choir* concert is complete without a spiritual and today we present two versions of *'Goin' Up'*. These look stirringly towards a bright future in heaven away from earthly toil. Finally, there are two works about two – *'Manchai Puito'*, a song about two doves lamenting their loss of flight, and *'Two for the Price of One'*, an elegant combination of two nursery songs about two old men.



# *It Takes Two Repertoire*

The Lord's Prayer \*\*

Tea for Two

I'll Build a Stairway to Paradise

1. J'ai deux Amours

2. Second Hand Rose

The 23rd Psalm \*

Manchai Puito \*\*

Two for the Price of One

Goin' Up

Pater Noster \*

The Lord Is My Shepherd \*\*

Java Jive

The Cachuca \* (Gondoliers)

1. The Sun Whose Rays Are All Ablaze (Mikado)

2. Poor Wandering One (Pirates of Penzance)

Jubilate Deo \*

Jubilate Deo

Something Wonderful \*\*

Going Up to Glory

Fanshawe

Youmans arr.Gritton

G. & I. Gershwin arr.Brymer

Scotto & Koeger

Handley

Schubert

Argentine folk arr.Escalda

English traditional arr.Carter

spiritual arr.Arch/Clipsham

Handl (Gallus)

Goodall

Oakland arr.Shaw

Gilbert & Sullivan

G. & S.

G. & S.

di Lasso

Crocker

Rodgers & Hammerstein arr.Fowles

traditional work song - Thomas