

LEISURE

Choral Society returns with St Nicolas concert

Mysteries, miracles and magnificent music await the audience at St Albans Choral Society's next performance in the city.

St Albans Choral Society returns to St Saviour's Church in Sandpit Lane on Saturday, November 10 with Benjamin Britten's cantata, *St Nicolas*.

Tenor Bradley Smith joins the choir in the title role of this lively tale of the life and works of the 4th century St Nicolas, known to children in the guise of Santa Claus.

Legends about the saint abound, including how he saved mariners from shipwreck by calming a tempest, brought three 'pickled boys' back to life, and cajoled Constantine the Great into confessing his sins.

Soloist Bradley started his professional singing life as a chorister at St Albans Cathedral.

Three current choristers from the Abbey Choir, and St Albans High School Senior Chamber Choir, will also take part in the performance.



Tenor soloist Bradley Smith.

The mix of young and adult voices underlines the musical variety of the work, first performed in 1948 with Britten himself conducting.

The whole audience has the chance to join in the performance with the singing of two well-

known hymns: *All people that on earth do dwell and God moves in a mysterious way.*

In seeming contrast to the drama of *St Nicolas*, the programme includes two ethereal, meditative works by the contemporary Latvian composer Peteris Vasks – *Dona nobis pacem* and *Pater noster*.

Vasks suffered for his artistic and religious convictions under Soviet rule, just as Nicolas is believed to have suffered for his faith under Roman rule.

The fourth work in the programme is Sibelius' beautiful string orchestra suite *Rakastava (The Lover)*, played by Orchestra Nova.

The concert is conducted by George Vass.

Admission to the concert is £19 (£16 concessions), £15 (£12), and £1 for children.

Tickets are available from members of the choir, or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-albans-choral-society (online booking fees apply).

Herts Jazz concert



Brigitte Beraha's Babelfish play Herts Jazz.

Picture: MONIKA S JAKUBOWSKA

One of the most versatile and exciting vocalists on the UK jazz scene will be performing in St Albans.

Brigitte Beraha's Babelfish will play Herts Jazz at the Maltings Arts Theatre on Tuesday, November 6.

Co-led by Brigitte Beraha and "formidably skilled" UK pianist Barry Green, this all-star quartet crafts multi-lingual songs into little musical gems.

They have been garnering rave reviews since their 2012 debut album for their beautiful musical renderings drawn

from an eclectic songbook.

Also featuring Chris Laurence on bass and Paul Clarvis on drums, Babelfish will be appearing at Herts Jazz towards the end of their 20-date UK tour and ahead of recording their third album, a journey inside their favourite books through the vehicles of jazz, Latin, classical, folk and improvised music.

The gig starts at 7.30pm. Advance tickets cost £11 members, £12 concessions and £13 full. Walk-ups are £12 members, £13 concessions and £15 full.

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11th Jan	Fri	3	Best of British	½ price drinks 1 night	From £59pp
14th Jan	Mon	4	Comedy Capers	½ price drinks nightly	From £64pp
18th Jan	Fri	3	70's Party	½ price drinks 1 night	From £59pp
21st Jan	Mon	4	Music of the States	½ price drinks nightly	From £64pp
25th Jan	Fri	3	Comedy Capers	½ price drinks 1 night	From £59pp
28th Jan	Mon	4	Select Break	½ price drinks nightly	From £64pp
1st Feb	Fri	3	All Time Greats	x	From £65pp
4th Feb	Mon	4	Stop in the Name of Motown	x	From £69pp
8th Feb	Fri	3	80's Time Machine	x	From £69pp
11th Feb	Mon	4	Sounds of the 60's	x	From £69pp
18th Feb	Mon	4	Select Break	½ price drinks 1 night	From £69pp
22nd Feb	Fri	3	Country Music Weekend	x	From £79pp
25th Feb	Mon	4	Select Break	½ price drinks 1 night	From £69pp

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