

PRESS RELEASE



LEEDS
PHILHARMONIC
SOCIETY

“A Leading Chorus In Europe”

Date:

March 2009

LEEDS SINGERS IN POLAND AT EASTERTIDE

The prestigious Leeds Philharmonic Chorus is set to travel to Poland for a series of Easter concerts in the picturesque city of Krakow.

The choir, led by their conductor Mark Hindley, will give their first concert at the Church of St Catherine of Alexandria. Traditional works by Handel, Haydn and Mendelssohn will be combined with songs by the English musician Ralph Vaughan Williams and an inspiring piece by the Polish composer Henryk Gorecki which was written to commemorate Pope John Paul II's return to his native land.

A short concert will also be given 100m below ground in the Kinga Chapel of the famous Wieliczka Salt Mine, which has UNESCO World Heritage status.

However, the centrepiece of the tour will be the Polish premiere of “The Armed Man” by Karl Jenkins. This moving and increasingly popular Mass for Peace was commissioned by the Royal Armouries, based in Leeds, to commemorate the Millennium. At this early stage all indications are that the concert in the Krakow Philharmonic Hall will be a sell-out. The performance will feature a collaboration of English and Polish soloists. The European tour is supported by Yorkshire Forward, the region’s development agency, who through their funding have enabled younger members of the choir to join the group and provide musical and orchestral requirements for the group as a whole.

The tour will culminate with a reception to celebrate the Easter visit of the chorus to Poland, and will be attended by the Mayor of Krakow who is the patron of the concert. He will be presented with greetings and a gift from the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Leeds City Council and from the Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, Dr Ingrid Roscoe, who is the President of the Leeds Philharmonic Society. The Society, which is self-funded, is based at Leeds Town Hall.

Thanks are due to Yorkshire Forward for their financial support and to several Yorkshire businessmen who kindly made donations to the funding of the tour.

For all further enquiries please contact:

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BACKGROUND/EDITORS NOTES

Leeds Philharmonic Society:

- was founded in 1870 and has since then continuously promoted classical music performances in the City of Leeds and far beyond;
- founded and runs the Leeds Philharmonic Chorus which has sung acclaimed performances with distinguished musicians in prestigious national and international venues including, of course, Leeds Town Hall: Home of the Leeds Phil;
- promotes international tours including Brno, Prague, Tallinn, Riga, Helsinki, Vienna, Budapest, Bratislava and Krakow;
- participates annually in the prestigious Leeds International Concert Season;
- Visit our website at: www.leedsphil.org.

Leeds Philharmonic Chorus is a trading name of Leeds Philharmonic Society.

Self Governing Registered Charity No 506467.

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