

For immediate release:

Press Release from Bath Minerva Choir

A new baton is conducting Bath Minerva Choir. **Gavin Carr** is leading the team to a new tune and producing a powerful new sound. Their first concert together will feature cellist **Tim Hugh**.

“IKONS of Serenity” is the title chosen for this largely *a capella* concert featuring the music of Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky and Tavener. Conductor Gavin Carr says: “I really wanted to choose a programme of music that would help me get to know the choir and that would help this fine choir, with over 100 voices, to work in harmony as a team. The harmonic richness and meditative atmosphere of this kind of music is a perfect vehicle for getting to know one another, and introduces a new era for Bath Minerva Choir in the marvellous setting of Bath Abbey.”

The evening will feature atmospheric lighting to echo the meditative calm and rich atmosphere of this unusual and deeply moving programme.

Television screens will be in place so that a good view of the performance is available from seats in both aisles and from behind the choir stalls.

Saturday 26th April at 7.30m in Bath Abbey.

Tickets are £18, £15, £10 (reserved) £8 (unreserved)
NUS and under 18s £5

From Bath Festivals Box Office 01225 463362 www.bathfestivals.org.uk

Registered charity: 1098142 www.bathminervachoir.co.uk

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Additional information

Gavin Carr is already a well known and popular figure in Bath and surrounding areas. His vast enthusiasm and charisma make him hard to forget. He began his musical studies at King’s College, Cambridge, as a member of the world-famous choir, and made his *début* at English National Opera as **Aeneas Dido and Aeneas** and **St Ignatius Four Saints in Three Acts** returning as **Figaro** *The Barber of Seville* opposite Lesley Garrett. He is highly regarded for his expertise in contemporary music and several composers have written works specifically for him, most notably Michael Finnissy with *Not Afraid*, and *Medea*. He has appeared at Festivals around the globe, including Ravinia, Melbourne, Halle, and Aldeburgh, and appears regularly in the major concert halls and cathedrals of the UK. With his decision five years ago to focus also

on conducting, Gavin began what has proved to be an exciting journey: after a celebrated gala performance of the *St Matthew Passion* in Bath Abbey in 2007 in which he made his debut with the English Chamber Orchestra, Gavin made his operatic debut conducting Peter Brook's *Carmen* at the Wexford Festival – a performance which has been nominated for 'Best Opera Production of 2007' in the Irish Times Awards. He develops his choral and orchestral conducting side-by-side, and finds in the massed voices of the Bath Minerva Choir a magnificent vehicle through which to express the great transformative energies of some of the greatest music ever written.

The concert also features celebrated cellist, **Tim Hugh**. Tim has enjoyed an international career as soloist while maintaining his position as Principal Cellist with the LSO. He has worked as soloist with many of the great conductors including Previn, Haitink, Sir Colin Davis, Sir Andrew Davis, Rostropovich, Menuhin, Harding, Xavier-Roth, Chung and Tortelier. His recordings of Brahms Double and Beethoven Triple with the LSO and Haitink together with Nikolitch and Lars Vogt are released by LSO Live.

The programme for the evening includes the celebrated *Song for Athene* by Tavener that was sung to such memorable effect at the funeral of Princess Diana, as well as the deeply-felt *Svyati* and *Thrinis* – both showcasing the cello of Tim Hugh - from the same composer. Several of the most beautiful movements of the Rachmaninov *Vespers* also feature, along with stunning works by Tchaikovsky and Gretchaninov, in a programme that moves seamlessly from the minimalist beauties of Tavener through the richness and splendour of his Russian forbears and back again.

Sent on Tuesday 26th February 2008