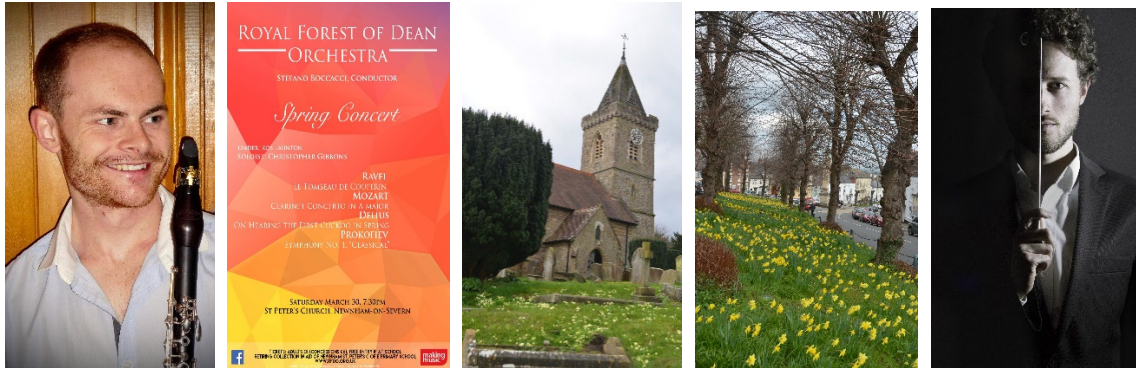


Press release: Home-grown talent for Spring Concert and workshop for children



From left: Soloist Christopher Gibbons, St Peter's Church, Newnham-on-Severn, daffodils fill the village, conductor Stefano Boccacci.

Royal Forest of Dean Orchestra Spring Concert St Peter's Church, Newnham-on-Severn, Saturday March 23rd 7.30pm.

The Royal Forest of Dean Orchestra will be celebrating home-grown talent at their daffodil-time Spring Concert on Saturday, March 30 in Newnham Parish Church.

Christopher Gibbons, from Yorkley Wood, will be playing Mozart's famous Clarinet Concerto in A Major. He has performed all over Europe, as well as closer to home with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, he leads the Redland Wind Band in Bristol and on his doorstep directs the Pillowell Singers. He has also worked with the Master of the Queen's Music Judith Weir.

As a teacher, Christopher has seen success at the national Music for Youth Festival with Duality Winds – a group of advanced young wind players he set up in affiliation with Gloucestershire Music.

His many talents will be called upon before the concert, when the orchestra's award-winning Colombian-born conductor Stefano Boccacci, leads a workshop for children between 1.30 and 2.30pm, showing them the different instruments and letting them listen to the start of the dress rehearsal featuring Christopher. This is open to all primary-age school children, who must be accompanied by parents.

The concert programme pays a nod to the season with Delius's *On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring* and features *Le Tombeau de Couperin* by Ravel as well as Prokofiev's 'Classical' *Symphony No 1*.

A retiring collection will be held in aid of the Spiritual Garden at Newnham St Peter's Church of England Primary School and the head boy and girl will be telling the audience about it.

Tickets for Saturday's concert, which starts at 7.30pm, are available on the door at £8, (£6 concessions), free for school children.

Later in the year, on June 29, the orchestra will be inviting Gloucestershire Young Musician of the Year finalist Emily Stephens to perform at their Summer Concert in the Cathedral of the Forest at Newland.

For more information about the orchestra which meets for rehearsals on Thursday evenings at Newnham St Peter's CofE Primary School, GL14 1AT, contact co-chairman Viv Hargreaves at vivhargreaves@yahoo.com or visit the website at rfd.org.uk

Caption: Soloist Christopher Gibbons

Caption: St Peter's Church, Newnham-on-Severn and Newnham High Street daffodils, plus River Severn

Caption: Conductor Stefano Boccacci

Press enquiries: Viv Hargreaves 01452 750386/07740 448262 vivhargreaves@yahoo.com