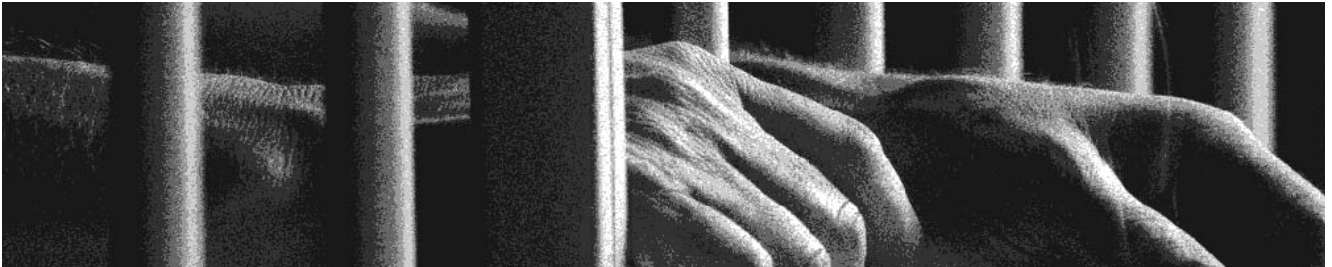


Saturday 5th April 2008

7.30 pm

# St Albans Cathedral



Rathbone

**Requiem for the Condemned Man**

**The Ballad of Reading Gaol**

World premiere

**Pavane** Fauré      **Song for Athene** Tavener

Barnet Choral Society and  
the London Forest Choir  
**with the Sylvan Ensemble**

Micaela Haslam ~ soprano    David Morris ~ tenor  
Nicholas Garrett ~ narrator

Conductor: Jonathan Rathbone

Tickets £18, £15, £12 (unreserved restricted view £5)

For bookings contact the LFC Ticket Secretary telephone 020 8531 4837  
or BCS on 020 8449 5866 (before 8.30 pm)

For credit card bookings phone 01727 890256 (between 10.30am and  
4.30pm Monday to Saturday) £1 handling charge per transaction

Registered Charity Nos Barnet Choral Society 273403 London Forest Choir 272799

## Powerful works on the theme of capital punishment inspired by Oscar Wilde's *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*

*Requiem for the Condemned Man* - a powerful modern work by Jonathan Rathbone for large choral and orchestral forces - receives its first full scale performance at this concert.

Rathbone, an accomplished composer, arranger and choral conductor, was inspired to write the *Requiem* after reading Oscar Wilde's *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*. As well as the choral piece, the concert will also showcase Rathbone's setting for narrator (Nicholas Garrett) and orchestra of the *Ballad* itself, a world premiere.

Rathbone says of these works: "Having always believed capital punishment to be profoundly wrong, I was deeply moved by the *Ballad*, which Wilde wrote in response to the execution of a fellow prisoner. Wilde's theme is that the executioner, and the society for which he acts, does just as the condemned man did: kills but in a cold, calculating way."

*Requiem for the Condemned Man* is modelled on Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* and alternates words of the Latin Mass with modern words by Paul Whitnall. As the Condemned Man awaits execution, he acknowledges his guilt and yearns for mercy, while his Victim - his former lover - implores him to show remorse and invokes God's compassion. The People, though singing a requiem for the Condemned Man, are unforgiving, until they are reminded in the Lord's Prayer that, to be themselves forgiven by God, they also must forgive. The music dramatically explores the moral struggle of the People as well as of the Condemned Man.

David Morris, for whom the Condemned Man was written, will sing in the St Albans concert, with Micaela Haslam, founder and musical director of Synergy Vocals and a member of the BBC Singers, taking the part of the the Victim. Barnet Choral Society and the London Forest Choir, two major amateur choirs for which Jonathan Rathbone is Music Director, will represent the People. The Sylvan Ensemble, a group of leading professional instrumentalists, will accompany the performance.

The concert will also include John Tavener's *Song for Athene* and Fauré's choral version of his familiar *Pavane*.