



'Orchestra of the Swan brings the music ear-catchingly alive' **Gramophone**

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
HOME OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Orchestra of the Swan BBC Ten Pieces Project

Orchestra of the Swan

Orchestra of the Swan, from Shakespeare's Stratford-upon-Avon, is Associate Orchestra at Town Hall Birmingham and has performed in St David's Hall Cardiff, Symphony Hall Birmingham, The Bridgewater Hall, The Sage, Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall and Royal Albert Hall. In 2014 OOTS toured China for the first time and 2016 sees the orchestra performing in Mexico and Istanbul.

OOTS records for Avie, Naxos, Nimbus, Signum, MSR and Somm and TV appearances include the South Bank Show and The RSC "Shakespeare 400" live on BBC2 in April 2016. CDs have been Gramophone Choice, CD of the Week on Classic Fm and Washington Public Radio and the top 20 Classical Albums on Chicago Public Radio. OOTS features on USA Performance Today networked to 260 radio stations.

"you won't hear much better than this anywhere" **Classic Fm**

"A joy to hear from start to exuberant to finish, superbly played" **Gramophone**

"Orchestra of the Swan is absolutely top-notch" **International Record Review**

BBC Ten Pieces

One of the works chosen for the new **BBC Ten Pieces** Project is **Vaughan Williams 'Lark Ascending'** one of the most iconic works in the repertoire and Classic Fm Hall of Fame No.1. Orchestra of the Swan (OOTS) has performed and recorded this work with **Tamsin Waley-Cohen** www.tamsinwaleycohen.com which has had repeated broadcasts on Classic FM and BBC Radio 3.



As part of the BBC Ten Pieces project the Lark Ascending has been arranged to allow performers of varying standards to perform the work presenting an excellent opportunity for Orchestra of the Swan to deliver a project of real value for music services.

In partnership with your school we will offer a series of workshops and school performances led by OOTS Artistic Director **David Curtis** and fellow musicians of OOTS. In addition we will offer all participating schools a complimentary CD and there an online link to a performance by Tamsin Waley-Cohen with Orchestra of the Swan.

The Project

1. An introduction to the work given by David Curtis and 2 OOTS musicians
2. A series of four 90 minutes workshops in each school exploring the music and poem that inspired Vaughan Williams. The sessions will be led by OOTS musicians and 2 other principals from the orchestra. The sessions will encourage students to:
 - a. Develop an understanding of Vaughan Williams music and times
 - b. Develop an understanding of the links between words and music
 - c. Create versions of the Lark Ascending poem and music in different idioms
 - d. Develop string playing skills
 - e. Develop composition skills
 - f. Develop a deeper understanding of musical vocabulary
 - g. Rehearse the Lark Ascending BBC version
3. In-school performances of the Lark Ascending and other work created by students with our soloist and supported 10 players from Orchestra of the Swan (if requested).

Project Schedule

The draft schedule is as follows:

1. Term 1 – preliminary inset session combined with an introduction to the work given by David Curtis and colleagues
2. Half term 2 1-3 x 90 minute workshops in participating schools
3. Half term 3 – final workshop session and in-school performance of new work

This schedule is purely for information and could be arranged over a shorter time period if more suitable for your school calendar.

Outcomes

1. Increased music skills including composition, performance, vocabulary and especially string playing
2. Increased skills in literature and other art forms
3. Increased understanding of music history, in particular British music history
4. Understanding of the value of collaboration and co-operation
5. Increased levels of confidence and self-esteem
6. Increased social skills

This project is suitable for Children's University and Arts Award Activities.

If you would like to know more about this project and find out how to invite us into your school, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sue Pope

Learning & Participation Manager

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