

Dear Neighbours, friends and musicians

Ilmington Music Festival – September 10th, 2011

Following on from our first letter to the village in April we have been stunned by the support and enthusiasm we have received. Thank you all.

Plans are afoot for the festival and details are available on the Ilmington website: www.ilmington.org.uk

The website will be updated regularly with detailed information, rehearsal venues, description of the day and links to order tickets! If you do not have access to the internet do not worry you can always get in touch with Deborah and I at the Grange or on 01608 682776, 07776 175905.

The music festival is taking shape and I am pleased to announce that the day will be musically led by the critically acclaimed masterful genius Jules Harris of Vallenders Lane. Jules is our Festival Music Director.

There are two particular events that we would like to invite you to join – the Ilmington Festival Chorus and the Ilmington Festival Orchestra.

ILMINGTON FESTIVAL CHORUS

The Chorus will perform at 5.00 in the Festival Marquee.

We will be performing 5 or 6 choruses from well known operas. There will be several rehearsals taking place beforehand. These will be on:

Monday 1st August
Friday 12th August
Thursday 18th August
Weds 24th August
Thursday 1st September
Wednesday 7th September

Rehearsals will be at Ilmington Grange unless numbers are so great we need to find a larger venue!

We will be singing choruses by Purcell, Handel, Mozart, Mascagni, Verdi and Donizetti – including the famous Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves. The Chorus is open to all and if your friends from outside the village would like to join in feel free to bring them along as well.

This is a chance to sing on stage in front of an audience and if you have never done this before you must try it. Singing and performing give you such a joy in life. For those who have never done this before it will be the high point of 2011 so come and join us.

So how do you register to participate?

The best way is to register via the village website and sign up for the festival chorus. Otherwise we are delighted to announce that Pam McFarlane has been appointed Co-ordinator to the Ilmington Festival Chorus. So you could also contact her at Folly Farm or by phoning 01608 682425 or emailing her at pam@follyfarm.co.uk

ILMINGTON FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

The orchestra will just be performing and rehearsing on the day. They will play the Overture to The Barber of Seville by Rossini. There will be simpler versions of some of the more difficult parts so you don't have to be a virtuoso to take part. The rehearsal will be at Noon (or thereabouts) and we will play the Overture before excerpts of Act 1 of the opera at 6.00pm

To register for the orchestra contact Jess May via the village website or on 01789 750127 or 07554 937641 or by email at jessmay@yahoo.com

Both of these groups are open to all comers so don't be frightened to come along and have a go and you could do both if you wanted!

We look forward to hearing from you all as soon as possible. It is going to be a fantastic day and please do book your tickets via the website as soon as you can so we can estimate numbers as accurately as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Harris – Festival Music Director
Iain and Deborah Barker
The Grange, Ilmington, Back Street

07776 175905