

COMMUNITY NEWS - Tuesday 26 March 2024

IPSWICH ARTS ASSOCIATION with CHRIS GREEN

“You’re only supposed to blow the bloody doors off!”. Those of you of a certain vintage and old enough in 1969 to remember seeing *The Italian Job* starring Michael Caine and Noel Coward will recall one of the most famous lines in British cinema history. If you have never seen the original version of the film, then the irony of the line will elude you, but it came into my thoughts when I started planning this week’s column for the reason that this coming Saturday 27 April, my friends and colleagues in Trianon Music Group should be attempting to do just this, when they give their spring concert- *From Italy with Love*.



Stephen Rumsey. Credit: TMG

I am billed as the conductor, but that was before those who are overseeing my gradual recovery from the serious illness and accident I sustained last year advised against overdoing things. My place is more than ably taken by former conductor of the Ipswich Choral Society and a long-time friend, Stephen Rumsey. He will be conducting the choir and symphony orchestra in a programme that starts with the baroque courtesy of Vivaldi, transports the audience through an overture by Rossini, and operatic arias to the end of the first half with Respighi’s epic music depicting a Roman legion marching on Rome. That is reputed to be one of the world’s loudest pieces of music- hence enter Michael Caine. The second half of the concert consists of one work, Puccini’s *Messa di Gloria* with soloists Ashley Thompson (tenor) and Owain Jones

(baritone). The concert marks the return of Trianon to St John’s Church, Cauldwell Hall Road, Ipswich and the concert starts at 7.30pm.

In the film Michael Caine and his associates are being chased by the Italian carabinieri, but I do not think that any former police officers who belong to the Suffolk Constabulary Male Voice Choir, will be engaged in chasing stolen bullion when they perform on Sunday 28 April. Members are

looking forward to their next concert *Spring Serenade* where they will be raising funds for the Woodbridge based charity Jetty Lane. The charity is developing a hub for local community groups in Woodbridge including a much-needed social space for young people. For this concert the choir will be joined by special guests Mark Saberton (Baritone Soloist) and Strictly Celli (the complete cello section of the Ipswich Symphony Orchestra). The concert is at St Mary's Church, Woodbridge at 3.00pm and will include music composed by Vaughan Williams, Puccini, Mozart, Warlock and Hans Zimmer. Rachel Sloane will be compering the concert. Tickets can be purchased online from www.ticketsource.co.uk/.

For more information on the Suffolk Constabulary Male Voice Choir visit their [website](#).



Suffolk Constabulary Male Voice Choir. Credit: SCMVC.

Which takes me back to where I started and *The Italian Job*. Respighi wrote some wonderfully over-the-top music depicting Rome, but for a more restrained collection of his orchestral works I would recommend a Naxos release in which the Chamber Orchestra of New York performs Ottorino Respighi conducted by Salvatore Di Vittorio. They perform four works by him including the beautiful interpretation of *Three Botticelli Pictures*, and the suite of five movements, *The Birds*. The two suites are framed by a *Serenata* and a Suite in G for strings and organ given its world premiere recording. The acoustic is on the dry side and the size of the orchestra does not match the weight of the organ sound but this is interesting music and no doors are blown off (Naxos 8.573168). Oh by the way, a message to Trianon – make sure the doors are well secure before you play.

If you have a story to share with other organisations, please email IAA chairperson, Professor Chris Green at: cjc.green@talktalk.net