

# philharmonia orchestra

## **PHILHARMONIA VOICES**

Philharmonia Voices is a professional chorus which was formed in 2004 to work with the Philharmonia Orchestra and international conductors on performances of the great choral-orchestral repertoire. Since then the choir has established itself as one of the most exciting choruses in London, attracting consistently high praise from the critics for its collaborations with the orchestra in a wide range of repertoire. Notable performances have included Bach's *B Minor Mass*, Haydn's *Creation*, Mahler's *Symphony No.3*, Britten's *Death in Venice* and Holst's *Planets*, with conductors including Schiff, Salonen, Hickox, Dohnányi and Dutoit. Among many other projects, 2008 sees the choir taking a prominent role in several concerts marking the Vaughan Williams anniversary year. Philharmonia Voices has also combined to great effect with the Philharmonia Chorus for large-scale performances of works such as Verdi's *Requiem* (under Riccardo Muti last year) and Beethoven's *Symphony No.9*.

The choir's members are drawn from some of the finest young singers in the country, most of them either at the start of their professional careers or completing their conservatoire studies. Working exclusively with the Philharmonia Orchestra, the size and make-up of the choir is able to be tailored precisely to the varying demands of each collaboration by chorus master Aidan Oliver, providing to the orchestra a choral partnership of unique flexibility.

One of the country's leading young choral conductors, Aidan Oliver (Chorus Master) is Director of Music at St Margaret's Church, Westminster (the Parliamentary Church), and works as a freelance choir trainer with many of London's leading professional and amateur choirs. He began his musical career as a chorister at Westminster Cathedral, later singing as a choral scholar at King's College, Cambridge. Having also trained as a répétiteur at the National Opera Studio he is highly active in the field of opera, and has worked on the music staff of many of the UK's major opera companies. Since 2004 he has also been Associate Conductor of the St Endellion Summer Festival in Cornwall.