

PRESS RELEASE

Green Clothing Optional

What happens on 17 March?

That's easy! It's St Patrick's day! The waters in the fountains in Trafalgar Square run green as the annual celebration of all things Irish gets into full swing. And a certain black liquid is sold in (literally) staggering quantities.

But there's no need to go into central London - you can celebrate locally. For the first time ever, Kingston Philharmonia will be giving a special St Patrick's Day concert featuring works inspired by Ireland. It's at St Andrew's Church, Maple Road, Surbiton on Saturday 17 March at 7.30pm.

"This year the Orchestra is marking festivals and seasons, so I've programmed Irish music appropriate to St Patrick's Day. And since it's also the start of Spring, we'll also play Schumann's much loved "Spring" Symphony" says Levon Parikian, the Orchestra's conductor. "The Irish pieces in the first half are not that well known, but because they are inspired by well known Irish melodies, they'll seem instantly familiar."

The concert gets off to a truly emerald start with Leroy Anderson's *Irish Suite* - guaranteed to get your feet tapping. It features several Irish favourites, including the Wearing of the Green, Minstrel Boy and The Girl I Left Behind Me.

Anderson was a prolific American composer of light music, and although his ancestral roots were Swedish, the *Suite* shows he really understood and appreciated traditional Irish tunes. Anderson is probably best known for his *Sleigh Ride*, written, believe it or not, during a heatwave. And if you listen to Radio 4's *News Quiz* you may not realise that Anderson wrote the theme tune - it's called "The Typewriter".

Next up is a piece by the Irish composer Hamilton Harty. It's based on poems by Emily Lawless called "With the Wild Geese", which describe the myth of how exiled Irish soldiers, killed fighting on the Continent for the French, arose from where they lay slain on the battlefield, and sailed all through the night back to Ireland. It's an evocative work based on several beautiful Irish melodies.

The orchestra will finish with a symphony which, if not Irish, is fitting to the season. Schumann's "Spring" Symphony was his first, composed during the Spring of 1841. Schumann originally gave the symphony's four movements evocative titles such as "The Beginning of Spring", and "The Height of Spring". Schumann later suppressed these titles, but the longing for Spring is evident throughout the work.

What better way to celebrate St Patrick's Day and the start of Spring than with Kingston Philharmonia? And feel free to wear something green!