***The Sinfonietta***

"Dramatic! A wonder to behold" – Surrey Mirror

**Johan Michael Katz** – Conductor

**Iva Fleischhansova** – Leader

*Music for Christmas*

Kabalevsky – The Comedians

Rimsky-Korsakov – Suite from *Christmas Eve*

Tchaikovsky – Music from *The Nutcracker*

Wagner – Siegfried Idyll

**Friday 29 November 2013 at 7:00pm**

**St James’s Church**

**197 Piccadilly, London** **W1J 9LL**

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**Saturday 30 November 2013 at 7:30pm**

**United Reformed Church**

Bluehouse Lane Oxted Surrey RH8 0AA

**Tickets:** £19 (Concessions £15.00)

*The Sinfonietta* box office  
Rookwood, Quarry Rd  
Oxted Surrey RH8 9HE

Tel. 020 7381 0441 (For St James’s only) or 01883 712264

Also on the door on the evening Wheelchair accessible

**Kabalevsky** (1904 – 1987) extracted his suite the Comedians from music written for Mark Daniel’s play *The Inventor and the Comedians* presented at the Moscow Central Children’s Theatre in 1938. After the earlier success of his opera *Colas Breugnon* Kabalevsky increasingly turned his attention to music for education and children. The suite from the play is full of energy and represents some of the composer’s finest writing – concise witty and short. We present this so young and old will enjoy this music

**Wagner** (1813 – 1883) actually wrote *Siegfried Idyll* before his famous Ring cycle which included the opera *Siegfried*. The *Idyll* was first performed on Christmas morning in 1870 to rouse a sleeping Cosima on her 33 birthday by musician friends of Richard. Two other important dates to remember are that Siegfried Wagner was born in June 1869. Richard and Cosima were married in August 1870. The Opera *Siegfried* had its premier in 1876. There are many hidden secrets embedded in the music which Cosima and Richard shared but remain a mystery.

**Rimsky-Korsakov** (1844 – 1908) wrote numerous operas. *Christmas Eve* is based on material by Gogol. Amid huge confusion only possible in opera, the hero, Vakula, contrives to get the devil to take him to St Petersburg to fetch a pair boots from the Tsaritsa as requested by Oxsana his fiancée. Once at court during which we hear the famous and splendid *Polonaise* his wish is granted. When arriving back in his village with the boots Oxsana declares she wants him rather then the boots. All ends in happiness of Christmas Eve.

*The Nutcracker* ballet is quintessential Christmas music and needs little introduction since it is played continuously during the festive season. The biggest regret for me is that **Tchaikovsky** (1840 – 1893) did not include the fantastic Pas de Deux (from the final scene) in his Suite from the ballet. We hope by correcting this omission we will bring happiness to all at Christmas.

Please visit our website [www.thesinfonietta.org](http://www.thesinfonietta.org)