

## **The Friends of Oxford Botanic Garden**

### **An appeal in aid of conservation work at the Harcourt Arboretum**

**This concert is being held to raise money for conservation work at the Harcourt Arboretum, as part of the ambitious and exciting Arboretum Development Strategy.**

2011 has been designated the International Year of Forests to raise awareness for the need of sustainable management, development and conservation worldwide.

The Harcourt Arboretum is central to teaching conservation and habitat restoration to local primary and secondary school children and to undergraduates, and also organises adult education programmes.

In 1835 Archbishop Harcourt instructed William Sawrey Gilpin to design and plant a Pinetum and the resulting dramatic collection of trees and shrubs that thrive on the acid soil has been part of the University since 1963. In December 2006, the University of Oxford, together with support from the FOBG, purchased Palmer's Leys, 50 acres of farmland adjacent to the Arboretum, so that now a total of 130 acres has to be managed.

Together with the original Pinetum there is now a 10 acre bluebell wood, an expanding acer glade and a series of themed plant areas including a fern gully and a collection of plants from high places. After survey work and essential drainage work, 13,000 British native trees were planted in Palmer's Leys to create 20 acres of woodland. This left 30 acres for a new meadow. The first 10 acres have been ploughed and harrowed and sown with seeds of bird's foot trefoil, lemon sorrel, cowslip, field scabious, lady's bedstraw, lesser knapweed, oxeye daisy, ragged robin, ribwort plantain, selfheal, tufted vetch, yarrow and yellow rattle.

---

**The programme will include music by Bach, Handel, Purcell and Vivaldi**

---

**Merton College** was founded by Walter de Merton in 1264. The chapel consists of transepts, crossing and choir. Work on the choir was started in C13 and the East window has some of the best examples of late C13 tracery in the country. The Chapel interior, completed in C15, is on a grand scale, very lofty and spacious. (By kind permission of the Warden and Scholars of the House or College of Scholars of Merton in the University of Oxford.)

Organising Committee: Maura Allen, Mary Isaac, Anna Nasmyth and Jennie Turner.