

# Party planned for spring show

**SOLIHULL** Symphony Orchestra's spring concert in Shirley will feature a work specially composed for the orchestra.

A Solihull Ceilidh by Peter Cowdrey was commissioned through the orchestra's award from the Performing Rights Society Foundation for New Music.

Conductor Martin Leigh said: "We wanted a lively work to open our concert, and the idea of the ceilidh came through Peter's engagingly eclectic approach to musical styles".

Peter Cowdrey won music scholarships to Winchester College and Trinity College, Cambridge, and studied composition with Oliver Knussen.

After leaving Cambridge he helped to start the performing arts department at a University in Tonga where he developed an interest in world music.

As composer his commissions include Land of the Prophets, for flute and strings, premiered in the Royal Albert Hall by Wissam Boustany, and A Garden amidst Flames, the result of a year long project working with Turkish Classical

musicians, commissioned jointly by the Istanbul Festival and the British Council and performed in a Basilica in Istanbul.

As a pianist he played Charles Ives' first piano sonata on tour in South America, and he recently organised an Ives evening at Birmingham Conservatoire. He is also Music Director for Opera Anywhere.

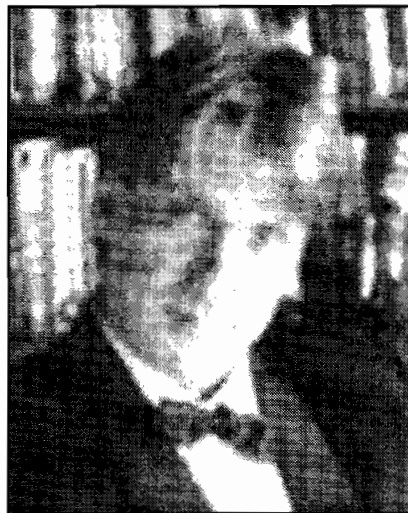
Last Summer Peter's song cycle In Nature's Ball was premiered at the Sunningwell Festival, and he recently finished a string quartet for The Brodskys, and a chamber work, Songbirds, entirely derived from the songs of about thirty bird species.

Future plans include an opera based on wine diaries by Michael Broadbent for Opera Anywhere, with a libretto by Hamish Robinson.

The concert also features the second appearance this season by the orchestra's Artiste in Association, the celebrated violinist Madeleine Mitchell.

Madeleine will be playing Michael Nyman's suite for violin and orchestra, On the Fiddle based on music to some of Peter Greenaway's films. The concert concludes with Symphony No 2 by Borodin.

Tickets for the concert at Shirley



● Peter Cowdrey

Methodist Church at 7.30pm on Saturday April 1 are available from the orchestra's website [www.solihullsymphony.org.uk](http://www.solihullsymphony.org.uk) the Solihull Box Office (0121 704 6962) or at the door. The orchestra is supported by the Solihull Rotary Clubs.