

Rainbow Trust «

Concert for Rowan

**RAINBOW
TRUST**

CHILDREN'S CHARITY

More than 300 musicians are coming together to raise money for local charity the Rainbow Trust, inspired by a special little girl.

Rowan Todd, who lives in Guildford, was diagnosed with a brain tumour when she was just five years old. She and her family have been supported by the Rainbow Trust throughout years of treatment at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Rowan's dad, Will, is an internationally recognised composer, whose *Mass in Blue* has been performed all over the world and who is a well-known figure in Guildford. Will also composed *The Call of Wisdom* for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee service at St Paul's Cathedral, and his work *The City Garden* will feature in this grand charity concert, which takes place at Guildford Cathedral on Saturday, May 23rd.

"This is a charity that is so close to my heart," says Will. "I would love to see the cathedral packed full so we can raise as much money as possible to keep this wonderful work going strong."

"Our daughter Rowan was diagnosed with Neurofibrosis Type 1 in 2009. In particular, she had a tumour on her optic nerve that was gradually diminishing her sight as well as threatening her overall health. She began chemotherapy at GOSH and since then has had two intensive periods of treatment – the first for 18 months."

"It's hard work supporting an ill child; as well as being a worrying experience, there are the practicalities of life which must carry on – working, other children, normal things – that become more difficult when you are plunged into a situation like ours. "Our day-to-day life has been wonderfully supported by the Rainbow Trust, which has offered valuable support, taking Rowan and her mum to hospital appointments, leaving me free to work and look after our other children. They are a godsend."

The Rainbow Trust is based in Leatherhead and works

across the UK supporting more than 25 per cent of the 6,000 families in England who have a child with a life-threatening or terminal illness. Any family can receive support from the moment of their child's diagnosis and the trust continues to support families many years after bereavement.

More than 300 musicians, including Guildford's Vivace Chorus, Salisbury Community Choir, London chamber choir Vasari singers and Surrey's orchestra, Southern Pro Musica, will come together to perform *A Concert for Rowan*, which will include Will's music, alongside Bob Chilcott's *The Salisbury Vespers*. They will be joined by a specially created children's choir, called *Rowan's Choir* with singers from Tormead School, Queen Eleanor's Junior School and George Abbot School. Conductor Jeremy Backhouse is looking forward to a concert full of toe-tapping jazzy music and the power of massed-group singing: "As the conductor of all three of the adult choirs taking part, it's amazing to be able to bring so many musicians together for this fantastic cause," he said. "Both Will's and Bob's music is modern, easy to listen to and will send the audience away with the tunes ringing in their ears."

"All the choirs have a special relationship with the Todd family," he added. "We are thrilled we will not only be filling Guildford Cathedral with this wonderful music, but raising a lot of money for a cause that is close to all our hearts."

Tickets, £16 to £28, are available from www.vivacechorus.org and the Guildford Tourist Information Centre on **01483 444334**. Proceeds go to the Rainbow Trust.

Follow @Concert4Rowan on Twitter, like the *A Concert for Rowan* Facebook page and find out more about Will Todd's music at www.willtodd.com