

Orchestra's anniversary showcase

SOLIHULL Symphony

Orchestra is marking the 50th anniversary this year of the death of Jean Sibelius with a performance of one of his orchestra suites, Pelleas et Melisande.

The suite was written in 1905 as incidental music to the play of the same name by Maeterlinck.

The orchestra's music director Martin Leigh said, "Sibelius's music is always popular, and as we have performed several of his symphonies in recent years, we thought we would try something more unusual this time".

The striking poster (pictured right) shows Mary Garden, who played the part of Melisande in the original production of Debussy's opera based on the same story.

The concert also includes Gabriel Faure's shorter suite of the same name, Brahms' Serenade No 1 and Beethoven's Eighth Symphony.

It will be one of the last public events to be held in St Ninian's Church, which closes at the end of the year. Tickets for the concert are available from 0121 704 6962.

