

Madeleine goes on the fiddle for concert

CELEBRATED violinist Madeleine Mitchell joins the Solihull Symphony Orchestra for her second concert this season as their 'Artist-in-Association', on Saturday, April 1 at Shirley Methodist Church.

Madeleine will be playing and introducing three pieces written for her by Michael Nyman in 1993 called "On the Fiddle", in the orchestral version, drawn from Nyman's film scores for Peter Greenaway.

According to Nyman, "After I had decided to write three violin pieces, unified not only by their cinematic origins but by the alternation of slow and fast music, I discovered the origin of the phrase "on the fiddle" - illegal street gamblers who were running "Find the Lady" sessions would have a member of their gang holding a violin, on the lookout for the police.

"When a policeman came in view, the "violinist" would pick up his instrument and play (presumably fast music) and the gamblers would disperse into the crowd."

The material of Full Fathom Five comes from Nyman's setting of one of Shakespeare's lyrics in *The Tempest*, as used in the 1991 film *Prospero's Books*.

Angelfish Decay is based on a sequence of music from *A Zed And Two Noughts* (1985), and was written to accompany a speeded up time lapse sequence in which an animal is seen in the process

of decay.

Miserere Paraphrase was written for the film *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife And Her Lover* (1989), and was originally a setting of the Miserere text of Psalm 51, sung in the film by a boy soprano and mixed chorus.

Madeleine Mitchell has a distinguished international career, performing as a soloist in over 40 countries and most recently in Symphony Hall's international series in February.

Tickets for the concert, which also includes the premiere of *A Solihull Ceilidh* (specially commissioned for the orchestra) and Borodin's *Symphony No 2* are available from the orchestra's website www.solihullsymphony.org.uk or the Solihull Box Office (0121 704 6962).

The orchestra is supported by the Solihull Rotary Clubs, and has received an award from the PRS Foundation for New Music for this season.

● Pictured are Madeleine Mitchell with Michael Nyman

