A trilogy of symphonies from the sea

SOUND to Sea is a new symphonic choral work inspired by the words of Plymouth explorer Captain Robert Falcon Scott and naturalist Charles Darwin, as well as the music of Elgar, Mozart and Stravinsky.

It is written by Eduardo Miranda, Professor of Computer Music at Plymouth University and Director of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Computer Music Research. The work features as the main item in the Ten Tors Orchestra’s (TTO) next concert in the Minster Church of St Andrew on Saturday, September 22.

The programme will be joined by the Peninsula Arts Chorale, and mezzo-soprano Juliette Pochin.

As with most contemporary works, though, it helps to have a little prior knowledge about how the composer has put everything together and what he’s trying to achieve. So Eduardo will be giving a lecture on his new work on Monday, in Theatre 2, Roland Levinsky Building, at 5pm.

The whole TTO programme on the Saturday has been commissioned by the university for 2012 – the 150th anniversary of the origin of the institution as the School of Navigation – and is inspired by the oceans. BAFTA award-winning composer Nick Ryan explores the properties of the meniscus layer, which “divides the sea from the sky and the past from the present”, in his So Above, As Below.

Completing this trilogy of first-performances is Alexis Kirke’s Distinction, scored for mezzo-soprano, timpani, and tubular bells, with computer-simulated evolving and audible marine organisms – artificial intelligences all set to transform Plymouth’s mother church into a surround-sound, acoustic-marine environment.

ABOVE: Eduardo Miranda
RIGHT: Alexis Kirke

The next concert in the Kelly College Concert Series features the all-girl Trumpet Quartet, Bella Tromba.

The programme is a mix of music of all styles and combinations, from John Bull to Mozart, Miles Davis to Bernstein, as well as the first performance of The City of Devon. The venue is in the university for 2012 – the 150th anniversary of the origin of the institution as the School of Navigation – and is inspired by the oceans.

BROADWAY and London West End star Ruthie Henshall joins the Ten Tors Orchestra for a gala concert as part of the Plymouth University 150 celebrations.

TTO Conductor Simon Ishle will be wielding the baton for the music from Stage and Screen show on Sunday September 23.

The venue is in the university graduation marquee on the Hoe, from 7pm.

Ruthie will sings some of her best-known numbers, including I Dreamed a Dream from Les Miserables, and Chicago’s All That Jazz.

The TTO programme will include selections from the Phantom of the Opera and film soundtracks from Gladiators, Jurassic Park and Pirates Of The Caribbean, as well as Barber’s Adagio, and much more besides.

Simon, who is Peninsula Arts Director of Music, said: “Ruthie Henshall is one of the really brilliant music-theatre performers of our time. To have her come and sing at this special celebratory concert is great for the region.

Plymouth University will already have this massive marquee on Plymouth Hoe for the students’ graduation ceremonies, which will now provide a spectacular venue for a truly great singer and, of course, our very own Ten Tors Orchestra.

“It’s going to be a wonderful evening, overflowing with so many favourites from the magic of musicals to the high drama of movies.”