

Thames Concerts Series 2017/18 – Artistic Director’s notes

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the forthcoming series (October 2017 to February 2018), and I am again delighted with the high calibre of performers set to visit the Borough. Thames Concerts’ position as the premier promotor and organiser of high-quality chamber music performances in the Borough since 1961 remains unrivalled. Our attractive ticketing options and incentives continue of course, and the 10% discount scheme for concert-goers on the concert days continues at the nearby excellent establishments *Gordon Bennett!*, *Joy, Da Lucio*, *Surbiton Flyer*, and *Excellar*. Friends and Patrons also enjoy increased privileges from this year. All evening concerts start at 7.30pm.

Saturday 21st October features the first brass quintet to feature in Thames Concerts for many years, with the young Westcombe Brass kicking things off with nationalistic flair in their spirited programme of music from across the British Isles.

The second concert in the series on **Saturday 11th November** features the **Ducasse Trio**. When I heard William, Charlotte and Fiachra performing with such flair and musicianship at a City Livery event two years ago I knew I had to include them in a series. The combination of clarinet, violin and piano is a comparatively rare one, and some gems from that repertoire will be performed.

Saturday 9th December sees internationally-renowned jazz vocalists Claire Martin OBE and Ian Shaw in their *Early Xmas Cracker*. Their formidable reputations as both singers and broadcasters need no elucidation here. Ian performed solo in a very memorable performance in the series back in 2014.

An organ recital has long been a feature of every series, and taking us into 2018 is the talented young **Jeremiah Stephenson** on **Saturday 13th January**. In a slight twist, he will be joined by fine young trumpeter **Darren Moore**. The combination of trumpet and organ in the wonderful St Andrew’s acoustic will provide an aural experience not to be missed.

The fifth concert in the series on **Saturday 3rd February 2018** sees **Alena Lugovkina** (flute) and **Pavel Timofeyevsky** (piano) in their enchanting programme entitled *Soviet and Russian Souvenirs*.

The series will be brought to a Romantic close on **Saturday 17th February** in a concert given by one of our distinguished vice-presidents international cellist **Jamie Walton**, with **Jack Liebeck** (violin) and **Katya Apekisheva** (piano) in music by Schumann, Mendelssohn, Bridge and Ravel.

Our admission-free Saturday morning coffee concerts continue following their successful introduction in 2015. **21st October (Coombe Boys’ School)**, **16th December (Kingston Music Service)**, **20th January (t.b.c.)** and **17th February (Kingston University)**, coinciding with the Surbiton Farmers’ Market in Maple Road. These 50-minute performances provide an opportunity for some of the Borough’s up-and-coming talented young performers to showcase their work. All commence at 10.30am.

Finally, I am delighted that the new partnership with the CornerHouse arts centre in presenting an annual series of workshops and masterclasses delivered by Thames Concerts performers has started well. There will be two workshops/masterclasses this series, taking place on Sunday 22nd October (brass) and Sunday 18th February (strings). More information may be viewed at www.thech.org.

I look forward to meeting you at some point during the series. More details may of course be found as usual at www.thamesconcerts.com.

Benjamin Costello 15.viii.17