

Thames Concerts Series 2018/19 – Artistic Director’s notes

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the forthcoming series (October 2018 to February 2019), 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 nearby excellent establishments. All evening concerts start at 7.30pm.

Saturday 20th October sees the first string quartet to feature in Thames Concerts in some years, with the dynamic young Jubilee Quartet kicking things off in their programme of Beethoven, Panufnik and Schubert.

The second concert in the series on **Saturday 10th November** features the multiple-award-winning **Vickers-Bovey Duo**. The combination of two guitars in the St Andrew’s acoustic is particularly rewarding one. Julian and Daniel present a rich tapestry of music from France and Spain.

Saturday 1st December sees the first appearance in a series of the internationally-renowned **Cantabile (The London Quartet)**. It was a pleasure to do a concert tour with these guys last year, and I know that their fun and festive programme will be a welcome feature of this year’s series.

An organ recital has long been a feature of every series, and taking us into 2019 is the talented young **Daniel Moulton** on **Saturday 19th January** in a programme that puts the wonderful Hunter organ through its paces, and includes a complete performance of Widor’s *5th Symphony* (with its famous *Toccata*). A noted teacher, Daniel will also be leading a masterclass on the 20th January for young local organists.

The fifth concert in the series on **Saturday 2nd February** sees the welcome return of the remarkable pianist Ashley Fripp. For this appearance he presents a ravishingly Romantic programme of Schubert, Schumann and Chopin. Thames Concerts is grateful to Kawai Pianos for their kind support of this concert.

The series will be brought to a close on **Saturday 16th February** in a concert given by the wonderful Aurora Trio (a magical combination of flute, viola and harp), in a predominantly French and English programme which includes Debussy’s intoxicating *Sonata*.

Our admission-free Saturday morning coffee concerts continue following their successful introduction in 2015. **20th October (Coombe Girls’ School)**, **15th December (Kingston Music Service)**, **19th January (Kingston Grammar School)** and **16th February (The Lovekyn Consort)**, 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, and others, to showcase their work. All commence at 10.30am.

The partnership with the CornerHouse arts centre in presenting an annual series of workshops and masterclasses delivered by Thames Concerts performers continues. In addition to Daniel Moulton’s masterclass on the 20th January, I am delighted to welcome back a series performer, distinguished soprano Alison Pearce. She and I will lead a masterclass for student singers at the CornerHouse on Sunday 9th December. More details 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 16.viii.18