

Thames Concerts Series 2019/20 – Artistic Director’s notes

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the forthcoming series (October 2019 to February 2020), 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 another fine young string quartet, the **Halcyon Quartet**, opening a series, with a rousing programme of Haydn, Britten and Dvořák.

Jazz has been a fairly recent but hugely popular addition to the Thames Concerts diet over recent years, and I am delighted that the two highly-respected singer-pianists **Liane Carroll** and **Ian Shaw** will be partnered together on **Saturday 2nd November** in a programme not to be missed.

Saturday 23rd November sees the first ever appearance in a Thames Concerts series of a solo lute recital, given by one of the world’s finest lutenists **Elizabeth Kenny**, in a programme of Weiss and selections from the glorious Saizenay and Balcaress lute books. St Andrew’s will provide the perfect atmosphere for this intimate performance.

An organ recital has long been a feature of every series, and taking us into 2020 is the esteemed organist **Katherine Dienes-Williams** on **Saturday 18th January** in a programme that puts the wonderful Hunter organ through its paces, and includes a complete performance of Widor’s *2nd Symphony*, plus music by Bach and Liszt. Dienes-Williams is Organist and Master of the Choristers at Guildford Cathedral.

The fifth concert in the series on **Saturday 15th February** showcases the harp as a solo instrument in the capable hands of award-winning young harpist **Oliver Wass**, in an eclectic programme including works by D Scarlatti, Bernstein, Ravel, Debussy and Prokofiev.

The series will be brought to a close on **Saturday 29th February** in a concert of rich and varied classics for flute and piano, played by **Emma Halnan** and **Daniel King Smith**.

Our admission-free Saturday morning coffee concerts continue following their successful introduction in 2015: **19th October (Hinchley Wood School)**, **21st December (Kingston Music Service)**, **18th January (Tiffin Boys’ School)** and **15th February (mezzo-soprano Patricia Hammond, with me at the piano)**, 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.

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
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