

Thames Concerts Series 2020/21 – Artistic Director’s notes



It gives me great pleasure to present this series of concerts (October 2020 to February 2021), showcasing a vibrant mix of talent. Despite ongoing challenges to the whole music industry relating to the Covid-19 situation, we are proud that our concerts will continue to take place in a safe, regulated environment, the home of the series, St Andrew’s Church, Surbiton. Regrettably, with the ongoing uncertainty, we will not be able to promote any of the popular Farmers’ Market Day coffee concerts during this series. I am also delighted to announce the appointment of distinguished baritone and composer Roderick Williams OBE as the new President of Thames Concerts. We look forward to his involvement in a future series.

Thames Concerts’ position as the premier long-term 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, with doors (and the bar) opening at 6.45pm.

Saturday 17th October welcomes a fine young saxophonist **Jonathan Radford** to start the series, accompanied by superb pianist **Ashley Fripp**, well-known to Thames Concerts audiences. This talented young duo play Schumann, Bernstein, Piazzolla, Debussy and others.

The **Behn String Quartet** perform for us on **Saturday 14th November**, marking the Beethoven anniversary with his Op.18 No.4, plus beautiful quartets by Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn and Bach.

Saturday 5th December sees the welcome return of **Cantabile (The London Quartet)**. This internationally-renowned group will take us on a seasonal ride through a variety of vocal styles, ranging from classical through to pop, jazz and musical theatre. I am delighted once again to join them on piano, with bassist Mike Pratt.

An organ recital has long been a feature of every series and taking us into 2021 is the esteemed organist **D’Arcy Trinkwon** on **Saturday 16th January**. D’Arcy last performed in a Thames Concerts Series in 2015. Known for his vividly dramatic and thoughtful programming, this distinguished performer will again put the outstanding organ at St Andrew’s through its paces in music by Bach, Rheinberger, Saint-Saëns and others.

The fifth concert in the series on **Saturday 30th January** brings a baroque ensemble to the series, **Endelienta Baroque**, under their director, local musician Seb Gillot. This talented young ensemble presents a sumptuous programme of French Baroque vocal and instrumental music.

The series will be brought to a close on **Saturday 13th February** with a visit from the **London Sylvan Ensemble**. The group presents a Romantic programme including music by J Strauss, Dvořák and Gounod, conducted by Thames Concerts’ Vice-President Tom Higgins.

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. We do not anticipate any problems, but please do check on the website(s) when planning to attend an event in view of the present (and often changing) Covid-19 restrictions.

Ben Costello
02.ix.20