

Thames Concerts 2021/22 Series – Artistic Director’s notes



It gives me great pleasure to present this series of concerts (October 2021 to February 2022), showcasing a vibrant mix of talent. The Covid-related challenges to the whole music industry impacted heavily on our last series, as with many others, but we were proud to be able to offer generous cancellation fees to our affected performers. Our concerts will continue to take place in a safe, regulated environment, the home of the series, St Andrew’s Church, Surbiton, and I am delighted that the popular Farmers’ Market Day coffee concerts also return during this 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.

The **Behn String Quartet** open the series, performing for us on **Saturday 16th October**, with music by Beethoven, Hensel, Mendelssohn, and Schubert. This concert was due to take place as part of the last series but had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 restrictions. I am delighted that this talented young quartet can perform for us this year.

On **Saturday 13th November** we see Musicians’ Company Young Artist **Ben Tarlton** (cello), with his duo partner **Ljubica Stojanovic** (piano), in a programme of great works for cello and piano by Schubert, Beethoven, Dutilleux and Brahms.

Saturday 4th December sees the welcome return of outstanding soprano **Joanne Lunn**, joined with distinguished local counter-tenor **Robin Blaze**. Music from Mahler, Britten, Tippett, and local composer Kevin Jones will sit alongside wonderful scenes from Handel’s *Theodora*, *Jephtha* and *Judas Maccabaeus*. I am delighted to join them at the piano for this performance.

An organ recital has long been a feature of every series and taking us into 2022 is the esteemed organist **D’Arcy Trinkwon** on **Saturday 15th January**. D’Arcy last performed in a Thames Concerts series in 2015. Known for his vividly dramatic and thoughtful programming, this internationally-renowned performer will again put the outstanding pipe organ at St Andrew’s through its paces in music by Bach, Rheinberger, Saint-Saëns and others. This concert was due to take place as part of the last series but had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 restrictions.

The fifth evening concert in the series on **Saturday 29th January** sees another Musicians’ Company Young Artist, the superb young trumpeter **Matilda Lloyd**, joined by esteemed accompanist **Martin Cousin**. These two performers present a classic to contemporary programme, with monumental staples of the repertoire by Hindemith and Honegger alongside atmospheric works by Enesco, Rueff and Larry Bitensky, interspersed with piano works by Chopin and Brahms. This will be the first trumpet and piano recital in a Thames Concerts series for many, many years.

The series will be brought to a close on **Saturday 19th February** with a visit from the versatile **London Sylvan Ensemble**. The group presents a Romantic programme including music by J Strauss, Dvořák and Gounod, conducted by Thames Concerts’ distinguished Vice-President **Tom Higgins**. This concert was due to take place as part of the last series but had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 restrictions.

Finally, we will be treated to performances from students at **Tiffin School** (16th October), **Kingston Music Service** (18th December) and **Kingston Grammar School** (15th January) in the popular admission-free morning coffee concerts, all at 10.30am, taking place on the Surbiton Farmers’ Market days.

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.

Ben Costello
17.viii.20