

Thames Concerts 2022/23 Series – Artistic Director’s notes



It gives me great pleasure to present this series of concerts (October 2022 to February 2023), showcasing a vibrant mix of talent. As we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic, our concerts continue to take place in a safe, regulated environment, the home of the series, St Andrew’s Church, Surbiton. At the time of writing St Andrew’s is closed for important structural work, but it is hoped that this will be completed before the series starts. If not, concerts will take place at the nearby St Mark’s Church, Surbiton (KT6 4LS). Updates will be found online.

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 excellent value bar) opening at 6.45pm.

The outstanding saxophonist **Manu Brazo** opens the series, performing on **Saturday 15 October**, with his regular pianist **Prajna Indrawati**, in a programme of diverse music from across the globe by Debussy, Martino, de Falla, Vaughan Williams and others.

On **Saturday 12 November** we welcome **Hugh Cutting**, the first countertenor to win the Ferrier Award, in 2021. Hugh has devised a themed programme entitled *Untethered Soul* of German lieder, English art song, opera, and French mélodie. He will be joined by respected young mezzo-soprano **Rebecca Leggett**, and I am delighted to be at the piano for this performance.

Saturday 10 December sees the welcome return of recent Royal Over-Seas League strings finalist **Ben Tarlton** (cello). Audience members will recall Ben’s stunning performance for us last year. For this concert he performs spellbinding music for solo cello by Bach, Britten, Crumb and Saariaho, and gives the London premiere of a work composed for him by talented young composer Zygmund de Somogyi.

An organ recital has long been a feature of every series and taking us into 2023 is the esteemed organist **Francesca Massey** on **Saturday 14 January**. This internationally-respected performer will put the outstanding pipe organ at St Andrew’s through its paces in music by Bach, Reger, Duruflé, and Widor’s superb *Symphonie Gothique*, on the Church’s fine Hunter organ.

The fifth evening concert in the series on **Saturday 4 February** sees two Musicians’ Company Young Artists, Lotte Betts-Dean (mezzo-soprano) and Michael Butten (guitar), an award-winning duo in an exquisite programme of songs by Dowland, Purcell, Britten, Maxwell Davies and others.

The series will close on **Saturday 18 February** with a visit from the versatile **Ducasse Trio** who last performed for Thames Concerts back in 2017. The trio (pianist Fiachra Garvey, clarinettist William Slingsby-Duncombe and violinist Charlotte Maclet) continues to go from strength to strength, and presents for us music by Debussy, Khachaturian, Brahms, Bartók, and Stravinsky’s remarkable *L’histoire du soldat*.

Finally, we will be treated to performances from students at **Tiffin Girls’ School** (15 October), **Kingston Music Service** (17 December) and **The Hollyfield School** (14 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
12.viii.22