

A Brief History of Bromsgrove Concerts

(The First 50 Years)

1st Season - October 22nd 1963: Bromsgrove School Concert Club in Routh Hall, Bromsgrove School, with a piano recital by Nina Milkina. Owen Brannigan Feb 11th 1964.

2nd season – 64/65: 24th October - Opened by Joseph Cooper, piano.

3rd season - 65/66: Included Anthony Hopkins talking about Music.

4th season - 66/67: 23rd October - James Blades, percussion. Osian Ellis, harp.

5th season - 67/68: 26th October - Owen Brannigan. Birmingham Brass Consort.

6th season - 68/69: Joseph Ward. Sidney Harrison.

7th season - 69/70: Michael Garrick Sextet. Chilingirian Quartet. David Munrow.

8th season - 70/71: Now Bromsgrove Concert Club, **Chair Ernest Kyte**. Venues now at North and South Bromsgrove schools.

9th season - 71/72: Programme card produced. Kings Singers 21st January 1972. Opera for All - Cinderella.

10th season - 72/73: Kings Singers again. Dorian Quartet.

11th season - 73/74: Allegri Quartet. Jack Brymer. Manoug Parikian and Malcolm Binns.

12th season - 74/75: Kings Singers again. Fitzwilliam Quartet.

13th season - 75/76: Kings Singers - yet again. Opera for All. Jubilee Jazzmen. Fitzwilliam Quartet.

- 14th season - 76/77:** Terence Judd. Guy Wolfenden. Philip Jones Brass Ensemble. Fund raising starts - Wine Tasting.
- 15th season - 77/78:** James Blades. Fitzwilliam Quartet. Opera for All. John King recital (former pupil Bromsgrove North). Summer party at Hanbury Hall. Another wine tasting.
- 16th season - 78/79:** Terence Judd. Coull Quartet.
- 17th season - 79/80:** Coull again. Summer entertainment for fund raising.
- 18th season - 80/81:** Alan Hacker. Margaret Fingerhut. Fitzwilliam Quartet. Shropshire Lad concert with Housman society. Wine tasting to raise funds for piano platform built by John McGregor Smith.
- 19th season - 81/82: Chair Harold Heywood.** Ian Brown. Coull Quartet. New London Concert at Hartlebury castle sponsored by BRMB. Pub lunch fund raising.
- 20th season - 82/83:** Lindsay Quartet. Junior concert club planned.
- 21st season - 83/84:** John Lill. Alfred Brendel. Capricorn. Gemini Brass. Fitzwilliam Quartet. Ralph Holmes.
- 22nd season - 84/85:** Cecille Ousset. Felicity Lott. Nash Ensemble. Ian Partridge and Delme Quartet with VW Shropshire Lad. Midsummer concert at Hartlebury Castle. Wine tasting. Picasso and the theatre exhibition. Young artists recital.
- 23rd season - 85/86:** John Lill. Julian Pike. Brodsky Quartet. Steam around the world fundraising.
- 24th season - 86/87: A Celebration of English Song over three weekends, 19th to 27th September 1986.** Emma Kirby, Anthony Rooley, Ian Partridge, Ex Cathedra. Season included Peter Donohoe, Delme Quartet, John Amis. The English Needlewoman lunch and illustrated talk attracted 200 people and raised £727. Saturday lunches. Grand Weed Show. Nash Ensemble 24th September postponed from last season because of snow.

- 25th season - 87/88: Chair Graham Reddie.** Shostakovich season. Arensky Trio, Stamic Quartet, John Shirley-Quirk, Medici Quartet, Ralph Kirshbaum, Mark Bebbington. Special concert 15th April to raise money. Bingham Quartet. Ex Cathedra candlelight concert.
- 26th season - 88/89:** Hidden talents exhibition and lunch fundraiser. **Beethoven quartets in three weekends by Medici Quartet.** Pre-concert talks by Dennis Matthews at 6 concerts in September/October. Plus Nigel Kennedy and John Lill.
- 27th season - 89/90: Chair Jim Page.** Brahms and music from America. Performing Rights Society (PRS and National Federation of Music Societies (NFMS) enterprise award.
- 28th season - 90/91: Brodsky Quartet play 6 Bartok quartets (and 6 Haydn and 6 Schubert quartets) in six concerts over three weekends.** Schubert celebration with Benjamin Luxon, Bernard Roberts. Plus a Schubertiad 29th June. PRS award.
- 29th season - 91/92:** Mozart quartets and quintets, Bliss centenary, Britten, 3 quartets. **Mixing Music series starts.** Smith Quartet play Steve Reich's 'Different Trains'. Open Gardens day. Family concert 6-8 pm Sunday 28th June 1992 Guesten Hall.
- 30th season - 92/93: Shostakovich Weekend with Brodsky Quartet.** **All 15 quartets in 3 days.** Season of Russian chamber music. Workshops for schools. Joanna McGregor, Peter Donohoe. Balanescu Quartet, at Mixing Music. Another PRS award. Jim Page award NFMS Sir Charles Grove prize.
- 31st season - 93/94:** Dvorak season. Solomon Trio, Stamic, Lindsay and Skampa quartets, Tasmin Little. Workshops for schools. Brodsky Quartet, Sally Beamish at Mixing Music. PRS award. Plus BT innovation award.
- 32nd season - 94/95: Janacek and the Czech String Quartet Tradition with Stamic Quartet Weekend.** Mendelssohn and music from the British Isles. Howard Skempton, Colin Matthews at Mixing Music.
- 33rd season - 95/96:** Beethoven and the Viennese tradition, (including Beethoven's last 5 quartets). Junior concert club. New NFMS piano.

- 34th season - 96/97: A Shropshire Lad in Music (jointly with Housman Society) 4th to 6th October 1996.** Schubert. Schulhoff work in each main season concert, Kocian, Schidlof and Petersen quartets, and Florestan Piano Trio. Mixing Music including Duke Quartet.
- 35th season - 97/98:** Vanbrugh, Lyric, Chilingirian and Keller quartets. English Horn Trio with Richard Watkins. Mixing Music including Rolf Hind, piano.
- 36th season - 98/99: Chair Jennie McGregor Smith. Beethoven Quartettfest Weekend with Coull Quartet, October 2nd to 4th.** Main season with a International Collection including the Guaneri Trio, Pascal Roget, Borodin, Mandelring and Vertavo Quartets. Mixing Music with the Smith and Maggini quartets and Philip Mead (piano). Also Music at Home Recorded music in members homes).
- 37th season - 1999/2000:** Focus on Mozart. Nash Ensemble, Belcea and Chilingirian quartets, Quatuor Mosaiques, John Mark Ainsley. Mixing Music with Geraldine McGreevy.
- 38th season - 2000/2001:** Kocian and Smith quartets, Angela Hewitt, Florestan Piano Trio. Thomas Bowes (violin) and Eleanor Alberga (piano), and Kathryn Stott and Federico Mondelci (saxophones) in Mixing Music.
- 39th season - 01/02:** Great Music of the Nineteenth Century, with Configure 8, Madeline Mitchell (violin), Paul Watkins (cello) and Andrew Ball (piano), Schubert Ensemble. Mixing Music included Rolf Hind, Andrew Sparling (clarinet) and Thalia Myers (piano).
- 40th season - 02/03:** Florestan Trio, Angela Hewitt, Mandelring and Brodsky Quartets. Mixing Music with Philip Cashian. Alexandra Wood and Huw Watkins. **Mixing Music on shortlist for Royal Philharmonic Society's award for Concert Series and Festivals.**
- 41st season - 03/04: Chair Paul Evans.** Sorrel Quartet, Hanover Band, Takacs Quartet, Mixing Music with Liz Johnson.
- 42nd season - 04/05: Bartok in Bromsgrove Weekend with Duke Quartet and Rolf Hind.** Skampa Quartet, Red Priest, Paul Lewis, Belcea Quartet. Mixing Music.

43rd season - 05/06: Move to Artrix. London Sinfonietta, Patricia Rozario

44th season - 06/07: Anne Queffelec, Royal Quartet, Dufay Collective,
Craig Ogden & Brodsky Quartet. **Mixing Music incorporated
into Friday season.**

45th season - 07/08: Sacconi Quartet, Andrew Kennedy, Avison and
Nash ensembles, Jerusalem and Tippett quartets.

46th season - 08/09: Coull Quartet, Ashley Wass, Joglaresa, Claire
Booth, Smith Quartet, Gemma Rosefield, Atrium Quartet, New
Noise.

47th season - 09/10: Carducci Quartet, Roderick Williams, Alexandra
Wood, Eclipse, Psappha, Maggini, Mark Bebbington.

48th season - 10/11: Chair Janet Upward. Rivoli Quartet, Leon
McCawley, Brodowski, Royal and Atrium Quartets.

49th season - 11/12: Barbirolli Quartet, Quatuor Diotima played Reich's
'Different Trains', Arael Trio, Carnival Band, Coull Quartet,
Mark Bebbington. Young Musicians Showcase.

50th season - 12/13: Carducci Quartet, James Rutherford (Shropshire
Lad with Houseman Society), Leon McCawley, Florilegium,
(Tippett Quartet concert postponed due to snow), Young
Musicians Showcase, Schubert Ensemble, Navarra Quartet.

51st season - 13/14: Brodowski Quartet, second performance of Quartet
No.5 by John Pickard. **October 18th - 50th Birthday
Concert given by the Atrium Quartet and Nicolas Stavy,**
piano. Walton's String Quartet, and piano quintets by
Shostakovich (Op 57) and Elgar (Op 84).

Note: This is a very incomplete list of many of the highlights of the first 50 years. Many wonderful concerts and individual performances are not included purely by chance. More complete data are available in our records.