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February Newsletter 2020

Changes to the concert on 20 March 2020

Back in November we had a message from the Fitzwilliam String Quartet about a temporary change to their line-up, covering the period of our final concert. For this the players will be:

Lucy Russell	violin
Andrew Roberts	violin (replacing Marcus Barcham-Stevens)
Alan George	viola
Sally Pendelbury	cello

The intended programme would have replicated the concert they gave for us in 1980. However, this is no longer possible. The programme will now be as follows:

Wolf	Italian Serenade
Shostakovich	String Quartet No 12 (instead of String Quartet No 2)

Interval

Beethoven	String Quartet in C Sharp Minor Op 131 (instead of Op 132)
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A new set of notes will be available on concert night.

Archives

The committee has been in touch with the archivists at Worcestershire Libraries about depositing our archives with them. Materials have been collected together and sorted. We have received some funding to publish a new history of Bromsgrove Concerts. Many of you have a long, loyal history of enjoying our concerts. We value your experience and would like to record as much as we can in the archive and/or in the new history. Please send your contributions to Bernard Hall-Mancey, our Secretary (at bernardhallmancey@gmail.com).

Appeal to encourage young people to attend our concerts

We are committed to making our music available to young people, to inspire them to listen to and even play chamber music. We are members of the Cavatina Chamber Music Trust, which enables us not only to allow young people under the age of 25 to attend free of charge, but also to claim back £7.50 for each young person attending. Please do tell your family and friends about this and, if you can, bring a young person with you to one of our concerts. You never know, they might fall in love with the music we are staging and become the future regular members of our audiences.

Pre-concert events and fringe events

On 28 February 2020 at 7.15pm, at a pre-concert event, Richard Jenkinson and the OSJ Ensemble will demonstrate features of the music in the concert programme, including the Malcolm Arnold *Divertimento*. The performance of this piece is supported by a grant from the RVW Trust. The event is aimed at children and young people under 25 years old, but is open to all ticket holders. There will be subsidised tickets for teachers for this concert.

On 20 March 2020 at 7.15pm, Alan George of the Fitzwilliam String Quartet will give a 30-minute talk on Beethoven, as a pre-concert event to celebrate Beethoven's 250th anniversary.

We are grateful for the support of the following trusts for these fringe events and activities: David Morgan Trust, WED trust, Festive Classics, Margaret Westwood Memorial Charity.

Planning for the 2020–21 season

Unfortunately Artrix is not making the hall available to us for hire on Friday nights during the 2020–21 season. It has offered us Tuesdays as an alternative. The 2020-21 season will therefore be at Artrix on Tuesdays. **The first concert is on Tuesday, 6 October 2020 at 8 pm.** The artists will be the Carducci String Quartet. The penultimate concert will be on Tuesday, 2 March 2021, when we will celebrate the centenary of Robert Simpson's birth. The Tippet Quartet will play his Quartet No 1. The detailed planning of the other six concerts in the season is well under way and we will be letting you have some more details by the time of the last concert on 20 March, and full details by the date of the AGM in June.

We know that some members of our loyal audience do other things on Tuesdays and will not be able to attend. We would prefer to have our concerts on Fridays. We have visited another possible venue. It has all the facilities we need, but no grand piano. We are hoping to put on a **free concert during the Easter school holidays.** About 150 invited people will test the acoustic and ensure that the musical experience is as good as in the Artrix auditorium. After consulting with those attending, the committee will decide on the preferred venue.

Grants and donations

The committee has spent many hours applying to grant-giving trusts for funds to support the concert season. In addition to the trusts which are helping us to expand our audience and our work with young people, we are grateful to the Elmley Foundation, the Hinrichsen Foundation, the RVW Trust and the Grimmitt Trust for their support for contemporary repertoire and for our core activity. We support and receive aid from other music organisations in Bromsgrove.

We are grateful to a small number of anonymous donors and to club members who added donations to their subscription orders. Their donations this year, along with £1,900 of gift aid, come to a larger sum than that received from trusts.

Here is some more information about our funders:

Elmley Foundation: promotes the appreciation, knowledge and study of the arts and of artistic achievement in Herefordshire and Worcestershire

Hinrichsen Foundation: a charity mainly devoted to the promotion of new music

RVW Trust: supports the performance of classical, contemporary works

David Morgan Music Trust: for those living or attending school in the Bromsgrove district

Grimmitt Trust: supports the interests and wellbeing of communities through cultural activities

W E Dunn Charity: their work includes support for arts/culture/heritage in communities

Margaret Westwood Memorial Trust: music and cultural activities to benefit young people under 25 in Worcestershire.



If you are aware of any other funding bodies that we could approach, we would be most grateful. Of course, if we are able to increase our audience numbers in future, our reliance on these organisations will reduce. So we hope that you will continue to attend our concerts and encourage like-minded music lovers to join you. As we say, 'Bringing music alive and music lovers together' in Bromsgrove.

We still need about £1600 to break even this year, so please help us by buying from the second-hand CD stall or sending a donation to our Secretary.