

Llanfyllin Music Festival Newsletter, February 2016

Those of you at last year's concerts will remember that Martyn Jackson stepped in as first violin at a few days' notice, due to Ofer Falk's injury. Although there had to be some last minute programme changes, the audience agreed that the concerts were full of vitality and dynamism, with a very high standard of musicianship. The Allegri Quartet has recently announced that Martyn has now officially joined the Quartet; we offer him a warm welcome, and wish Ofer well in his future career.

2016 concert dates and programme

Concerts will be on the middle two weekends of July, in St Myllin's Church.

The programme is as follows:

Friday 15 July

Beethoven: String Quartet No. 6, Op. 18 No 6
Janáček: String Quartet No. 2 "Intimate letters"
Brahms: String Quartet No 1, Op. 51 No. 1

Sunday 17 July

Mendelssohn: String Quartet No. 6, Op. 80
Roth: Quartet No. 2
Beethoven: String Quartet No 7, Op 59. No 1 (1st Razumovsky quartet)

Friday 22 July

Haydn: String Quartet No 28, Op. 20 No. 1 "Sun"
Britten: String Quartet No. 3 Op. 94
Beethoven: Quartet No 15, Op. 132

Sunday 24 July

Mozart: String quartet No. 19, K. 465 "Dissonance"
Puccini: Crisantemi
Schubert: String Quintet in C, Op. 163 "Cello"

The Allegri played Roth's 4th quartet for us last year, and comments about it during the interval were certainly enthusiastic, even from people who (like me) claim not to be fans of "new music". Roth's quartets are very accessible and have pleasing harmonies. If you have avoided his music in the past, do come this time and find out for yourself that some modern music can be a pleasure to listen to.

Tickets: book Early Bird tickets for price savings

Ticket prices are being held at the same rate as last year.

Early Bird tickets, available until the end of May, are £15. The price after that date will be £19, (concessions £17) so be sure to book in time to benefit from the reduction.

Early Bird tickets are only available by post from the Festival Ticket Officer. Write to Llanfyllin Music Festival Ticket Officer, Farthings, Fox Lane, West Felton, Oswestry, SY11 4JU and include your cheque (payable to Llanfyllin Festival Association) and SAE. Please note that the tickets may not be sent out (or your cheque banked) till late March.

Even more discount when you book all four concerts

If you book an Early Bird ticket for all four concerts at the same time the cost is £54, a saving of some 10%.

Tickets will be available from other outlets later in the year.

Festival Supporters' Scheme: Friends, Benefactors, Sponsors

We are very grateful to the individuals and organisations who have signed up to the Supporters' Scheme launched a couple of years ago, and I do hope you will all continue to support us. Now that grant funding is nearly impossible to obtain for the concerts we arrange, the support of individuals and local companies or charities is of vital importance.

Sponsors for 2015 included Judy Greaves, sculptor www.judygreaves.co.uk

Benefactors for 2015 included Sorrell's Solicitors www.sorrells.org.uk

You can contribute to the Festival by becoming a Friend, Benefactor or Sponsor. Details of the subscription scheme are attached, together with a form to post back to the Festival Treasurer. Even better, if you are able to commit to a Standing Order your contribution will help in future years too.

Donations and grants are the only way in which we can keep the Festival going, so I do hope you will be able to support us in this tangible way as we work towards the 2016 Festival and our 50th anniversary in 2021. Donations of any sum will be gratefully received, whether or not you choose to sign up as Friend, Benefactor or Sponsor.

We are immensely grateful to the Derek Hill Trust which has continued to support us with grant funding over the years. Without its support, the Festival would not be running today. We are also appreciative of grants from the Martineau Trust and the Concertina Trust – the latter will be used to provide transport to concerts from the Welshpool area for senior citizens (more details in the spring).

Gift Aid

If you are a standard rate tax payer, ticking the Gift Aid box on the Friends form will enable us to reclaim tax for the Festival at no cost to you. This means your donation or Supporter's subscription is enhanced by 25%, courtesy of HMRC.

Publicity flyers

Leaflets with the programme, ticket prices and booking form will be distributed in the spring to people on the postal mailing list; if you would like a batch to distribute to friends, colleagues or musical organisations events I will be happy to send them to you. As a member of the e-mail list, you will receive details and a booking form by e-mail in the spring.

New Committee members welcome

Over the past couple of years several valued committee members have had to resign for personal reasons or pressure of work. We would be delighted to welcome new members, especially (but not necessarily) with skills in IT, publicity, or fundraising. There are 5 meetings per year, held in Llanfyllin, with communication between meetings by e-mail. If you are interested, please contact me for more information.

I look forward to welcoming you to Llanfyllin this summer. Meanwhile, don't forget the Whittington Festival this May, when the featured composer is Mozart. Visit the Whittington Festival website <http://www.whittingtonmusicfestival.org.uk> for details.

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