



Festival Newsletter, February 2019

I am delighted to give you news about this year's Festival and our musicians.

The 2019 programme is an intriguing mix; mostly familiar names but not necessarily associated with the standard string quartet repertoire. However, Louis Spohr, whose double quartet features in the last concert, may not be a household name. Spohr (1784 – 1859) was a German composer, violinist and conductor very much admired in his day but sadly neglected until a revival of interest in the late 20th century. His prolific output includes violin concertos, operas, symphonies, string quartets and four double quartets. He also invented the violin chin rest. 20th century music this year is represented by Karol Szymanowski (1882 – 1937), generally regarded as one of the greatest Polish composers; his first string quartet features in concert 2.

2019 concert dates and programme

We schedule the Festival around our musicians' other engagements; this year, therefore, we start with a Saturday concert instead of Friday. Your comments on having concerts on consecutive evenings are most welcome – do send me an email with your views.

We will welcome four guests from the South Bank Sinfonia (SBS) for the final concert. Founded in 2002, the SBS is a vibrant orchestra offering one year fellowships to some of the world's most promising graduate musicians. For several years the Allegri have played at the Anghiari Festival, Tuscany, at the invitation of the SBS and will be there the week before our own Festival. *Please note, the first concert this year is on a Saturday.*

The Llanfyllin Festival programme is as follows:

Saturday 27 July

Haydn String quartet No. 42 in C, Op. 54 No. 2
Mendelssohn Four pieces for string quartet, Op. 81
Beethoven String quartet No.14 in C sharp minor, Op. 131

Sunday 28 July

Haydn String quartet in D, Op. 71 No. 2
Szymanowski String quartet No. 1 in C, Op. 37
Tchaikovsky String Quartet No. 3 in E flat minor, Op. 30

Friday 2 August

Sibelius String quartet "Voces Intimae", Op. 56
Gershwin Lullaby for string quartet
Beethoven String quartet No. 8 in E minor, Op. 59 No. 2 (2nd Razumovsky)

Sunday 4 August (With guest musicians from the South Bank Sinfonia)

Mozart String quartet No.17 in B flat, K. 458 "Hunt"
Spohr Double quartet (Op. Number to be announced shortly)
Mendelssohn Octet in E flat, Op. 20

Observant audience members may have noted last year that the Allegri cellist (Ness) was pregnant. She continued playing well into October, and in November gave birth to a girl, Cleo. You can see pictures of a delighted mother on her Facebook page. Ness will be playing for us this year, but whether the baby is coming too we have yet to find out.

Tickets: book Early Bird tickets for price savings

For the 4th year running, ticket prices are unchanged.

Early Bird tickets, available until the 15th 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.

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%.

How to buy Early Bird tickets

You have the option of ordering Early Bird tickets by post or online.

- By post: Send your booking form 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 April.***
- Online: go to the Festival website <http://www.llanfyllinfestival.org.uk> and click on Buy tickets. This takes you to the WeGotTickets website. There is a booking fee when you book online.

Full price tickets will be available to purchase from shops in Welshpool, Llanfyllin, Llanrhaeadr and Oswestry later in the year.

Festival Supporters' Scheme: Friends, Benefactors, Sponsors

Although some of our concerts have a capacity audience, we cannot cover all our costs from ticket sales. Therefore, we really appreciate the financial contribution made by members of our supporters scheme.

We are especially grateful to The Derek Hill Foundation, the Martineau Family Charity, and Sponsor Judy Greaves, sculptor, for their continued support. To find out more about Judy's work, visit her website www.judygreaves.co.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 – our thanks to those of you who already pay by standing order.

Friends' membership is £25, per person, and as well as a feel-good factor from helping the Festival you can benefit from a reserved seat at concerts, a complimentary programme, and an invitation to the Supporters' party after one of the concerts.

Gift Aid

If you are a standard rate tax payer, ticking the Gift Aid box on the booking 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. **Please note that payments for tickets are not eligible for Gift Aid.**

Publicity flyers

Leaflets with the programme, ticket prices and booking form will be distributed in the spring; if you would like a batch to distribute to friends, colleagues, or musical venues I will be happy to send them to you – please e-mail me with the number of leaflets you would like.

Advertisers welcome

If you run a local business and would like to advertise in the Festival concert programme please contact me at the email address at the end of this newsletter.

St Myllin's Church

The Friends of St Myllin's, founded last year aims to raise funds to maintain the church as a community asset i.e. to contribute to maintenance and repair costs of the building. Funds raised are solely for St Myllin's itself, and are not forwarded to the Church in Wales or used for religious purposes. For more information about the Friends of St Myllin's contact Simon Baynes, e-mail baynes@bodfach.com. To contribute towards the continuance of the church as a place of worship please contact Rev Hermione Morris, hjmorris66@gmail.com. A copy of the Friends news letter No. 4 is appended below and a link to their website is provided from the LFA website.

Our music festival has held concerts in this beautiful church since the 1970s and we strongly support these measures which are being taken to keep it open.

I look forward to welcoming you to Llanfyllin this summer. Meanwhile, don't forget the Whittington Festival, May 21 - 26, on the theme "Czech mates – a week of Bohemian music".

Margaret Clennett, Chairman, Llanfyllin Festival Association
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The booking form for concerts is also available on our website
<http://www.llanfyllinfestival.org.uk>



Friends of St Myllin's Church

Newsletter No. 4
JANUARY 2019

Welcome to the fourth Newsletter of the **Friends of St. Myllin's Church** reporting on the Annual General Meeting held on 23rd January.

We have been very active in our first year with the Launch Coffee morning in April, providing catering at Bodfach Hall Open Garden in May, Clearing the Churchyard in June, contributing to St Myllin's Christmas Tree Festival in November and the Christmas Concert with the Guilsfield Singers in December. We also had stands at St Myllin's Day, The Llanfyllin Music Festival, The Llanfyllin Show and the Workhouse Open Weekend. We now have an Internet presence with a web site and a Facebook page. We succeeded in gaining a lot of publicity in the local and regional press.

By 31st December we had raised £5,629 and we are very grateful to everybody who has contributed so far. We are in the process of appointing auditors.

The founding Trustees – Simon Baynes, Keith Blacker, Richard Kretchmer, Ruth Weston and John Eddy – were all re-elected.

The activities already planned for this year are:

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| 6 th April | Anniversary Coffee morning with musicians from Llanfyllin High School |
| 1 st June | Preparing the Churchyard for St Myllin's Day |
| 15 th June | St Myllin's Day Concert with Pen-y-bont Fawr Male Voice Choir |
| 21 st September | Preparing the Churchyard for winter |

We will continue to be present on St Myllin's Day, at the Music Festival and at other town events.

The Church Committee is still awaiting the report on the Church Buildings from the Diocesan Surveyor. This will point to work that needs to be carried out and for which the Committee will seek help from the Friends. We have already received indications that they would like to renew the notice board by the Lych Gate and are looking at ways to improve Church access for wheelchairs, pushchairs and those who find the slope too steep.

Kind regards,

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