



# maidenhead music

## Concert Secretary's Report for Season 2023/24

Looking back on our last season I feel that we had a particularly enjoyable and diverse set of concerts.

We started in September with an excellent concert from The Berkeley Ensemble that included a centenary performance of William Walton's *Facade* with two actors, Jonathan Gunthorpe and Sarah Gabriel. Performances of *Facade* are rare as it is difficult to muster the appropriate forces and so it was a shame the concert was not better attended.

The October and November concerts featured music from all around the world. The Coull Quartet's *European Tour* featured music by Bridge, Turina, Ravel, Verdi, Beethoven, Schubert, Kodaly and Dvorak and then Margaret Fingerhut's *Around the World in 88 Piano Keys* included African and Australian music and American ragtime as well as some of the European masters of the piano such as Liszt and Albeniz. Both concerts were extremely well received.

For the Rising Stars concert in January, this year held at Lea Barn, Maidenhead Music members welcomed flautist Daisy Harrison and violinist Maya Broman Crawford-Phillips. It is wonderful to see such talent coming through and we were very pleased to see Maya going on to play beautifully in BBC Young Musician 2024 and reach the semifinal.

The 2024 concerts started with Bone-afide, a quartet of trombones. This was real entertainment and (for me) highlights the value of buying a season ticket. Each year we aim to present a diverse selection of music and it means you go to concerts you might otherwise not have chosen - and find they are very enjoyable!

The March concert was a traditional chamber music concert with two of the great works for piano and strings, the Schumann piano quartet and Fauré's first piano quartet. Both are amazing - for listener and player alike - and the joy of playing them came through from the group Perpetuo.

In April we had a real treat with internationally-renowned viola player, Lawrence Power, and his long term duo partner pianist Simon Crawford-Phillips. They presented a programme entitled *Song, Dance and Theatre* that concluded with a beautiful transcription of Berlioz *The Death of Ophelia* moving straight into the arrangement of Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* for viola and piano. The audience was entranced.

Finally, in May we were swept along in a rumbustious evening entitled *Truly Madly Baroque* with Red Priest. This was our best attended concert of the season and we are delighted that Red Priest, having announced this would be their last season, has a new lease of life and is continuing.

For 2024/25 we have an equally diverse and I hope enjoyable set of concerts for you. We have already enjoyed Barefoot Opera's *La Traviata* and I am very much looking forward to this evening with the Korros Ensemble of flute, clarinet and harp. The last concert of this year is from a guitar duo and then in 2025 we have a piano trio, a string quintet, a baroque vocal and instrumental group and finally The Heath Quartet.

In addition we are very pleased that our Rising Stars concert is truly a second generation event - Gabriel Power (pianist) is the son of Lawrence who played for us in April, and he will be playing with Maya Broman Crawford-Phillips, the daughter of Simon, Lawrence's pianist partner!

Deborah Behrman

31st October 2024