

PIANO TRIO SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

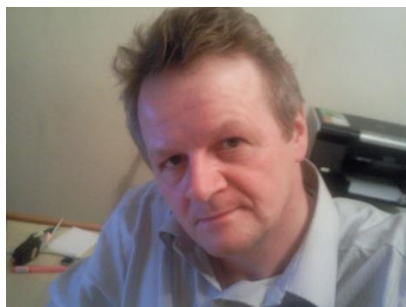
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NOVEMBER CONCERTS IN HISTORIC VENUE



The historic Chapter House in Gloucester Cathedral will be hosting two concerts in which the Piano Trio Society has collaborated with Gloucester Music Society to present the world premières of two new piano trios performed by two of our member trios.

The first concert takes place on Saturday 5 November at 3.00pm when the Fidelio Trio will perform the trio by Adrian Williams which was commissioned by our Society to commemorate our 21st anniversary. The trio is dedicated to our late Vice President Dr Christopher Wynn Parry MBE who died last year, and we will be joined by members of his family at this special event. Also on the programme are trios by Moeran and Stanford.



Adrian Williams

PIANO TRIO SOCIETY MEMBERS IN SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION

Several years ago we introduced one of our composer members, Christopher Brammeld, to the young Bedrisk Trio and this resulted in a happy collaboration in which the trio made a private recording of Brammeld's new trio.



The new trio will receive its première by the Bedrisk Trio on Saturday 26 November at 3.00pm also in the Chapter House at Gloucester Cathedral as part of the 87th season of Gloucester Music Society. Tickets are £17, concessions £16, students £5 and are available on the door (cash only) or may be obtained from the website:

www.gloucestermusicsociety.org.uk



The Fidelio Trio © Hugo Glendinning

PIANO TRIO SOCIETY

Piano Trio Profile.....Manchester Piano Trio



Jeremy Young - piano

Adi Brett - violin

Nicholas Trygstad - cello

The Manchester Piano Trio was formed in 2001 and has become one of Britain's most established and popular chamber ensembles, making regular appearances at venues such as Bridgewater Hall and St John's Smith Square. Since being represented by the Countess of Munster Recital Scheme and the Making Music Recital Scheme the trio has become a regular favourite throughout the UK.

Jeremy Young performs throughout the world as a chamber musician and soloist with performances taking him as far afield as Beijing, Macau, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan much of the USA and Europe. Jeremy studied at the Purcell School of Music, the Royal Academy of Music and also at the Royal Northern College of Music where he is now a senior Professor of Piano and Head of the International Chamber Music Studio. He acts as an external examiner for institutions including the Royal Academy of Music, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and Manchester University. In 2007 Jeremy was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM) for distinguishing himself in his field. Jeremy is the co-founder and artistic director of the Alfriston Summer Music Festival in Sussex.

Adi Brett studied at the Purcell School of Music and after studying with Yossi Zivoni, she gained a scholarship to the Royal Northern College of Music, where she won numerous prizes for chamber music and for solo performances as well as leading all of the College orchestras, later studying with Lorand Fenyves at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, Canada. On her return from Canada, Adi played in the Hallé orchestra for eight years before deciding to pursue a freelance career. Since then she has been guest leader for The RLPO, BBC Philharmonic and Scottish Orchestras and was appointed Leader of Manchester Camerata in 2014. Adi is a founder member of the Manchester Piano Trio, and Violin tutor at Junior RNCM. She plays a 1752 Guadagnini violin on extended loan to Manchester Camerata by philanthropist Jonathan Moulds CBE.

Nicholas Trygstad is a native of Minnesota USA, coming to the UK to study at the Royal Northern College of Music with Hannah Roberts and Ralph Kirshbaum. Upon completion of his studies he was offered the position of Principal Cello with the Orchestra of Scottish Opera and soon afterwards became Principal Cello of the Hallé. He has been a Guest Principal of the Scottish Chamber, BBC Scottish Symphony, St Paul Chamber and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestras and the Orchestra of Opera North. In addition to his orchestral career Nick plays regularly in solo recitals and chamber music collaborations around the UK, and has appeared as a concerto soloist with the Hallé, the Orchestra of Opera North and the Northern Chamber Orchestra. A passionate teacher, Nick also gives masterclasses, orchestral excerpt classes and coaches youth orchestras across the UK and Europe.

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Piano Trio People.....

Trio Martinů has continued a busy touring schedule. In addition to tours in Europe, including a concert at the famous Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the trio is in increasing demand in UK. Following recent performances in Glasgow and at Conway Hall, the trio will be performing a number of concerts in the North of England. The 2017/2018 season will feature a tour of the Netherlands.

The last few months have also been extremely hectic for the **Fidelio Trio**, which took the programme '*Beyond Borders*', a collaboration with composer Piers Hellawell and poet Sinéad Morrissey, on tour in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. This was followed by an extensive tour in Asia plus preparation for a number of premières, including our own commission from Adrian Williams on 5 November.

The Lawson Trio appeared at the Buxton Festival with a new lecture recital '*The Musical Legacy of Lili and Nadia Boulanger*' which included music by both Boulanger sisters, as well as Philip Glass, Aaron Copland, Astor Piazzolla, Virgil Thomson and Elliott Carter. The trio will be resuming concerts in January after a break for maternity leave.

After a successful series of concerts at Burgh House, Piano Trio Society committee member **Julia Morneweg**, reminds us that the final concert of the ChamberMusicBox series, of which she is Artistic Director, will take place on 20 November at 2.15pm and will include varied programme of music for wind, strings and voice.

We wrote in our last Newsletter about the fascinating programme entitled "Dame Ethel Smyth – Impressions of An Extraordinary Life" featuring our members the **Galos Piano Trio** with soprano Sarah Gabriel. We are pleased to hear that the programme received its London première on Sunday 23 October 2016.

The **Bedriská Trio** will be performing at the National Physical Laboratory Musical Society on 10 November and their programme includes repertoire for their concert at Gloucester on 26 November. The society has a much admired Steinway grand piano made in 1911, which is located in a small Scientific Museum in Bushy House (Teddington).

In addition to a number of concerts around UK, the **English Piano Trio** includes a series of concerts at Colston Hall in Bristol which feature Stephen Johnson talking about piano trios including those by Rimsky Korsakov, Tchaikovsky, and Shostakovich.

Internationales Musikfestival Koblenz was the venue for the first performance of "Sleepwalking" for soprano vocalist, cello and piano by composer member **Howard Blake**. The Festival also commissioned Howard to compose a piano quintet having the same instrumentation as Schubert's "Trout" Quintet and this resulted in Fantasy Quintet for Piano Quintet and Soprano. The material is adapted from the music for 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' originally composed by Howard for the Royal Shakespeare Company's feature-film of Shakespeare's play (1995) and this performance also celebrates the 400th anniversary of the Bard (1616-2016) and is in 13 linked movements.

The **Barbican Trio** hosted another memorable Frinton Festival in June if the following comment is anything to go by! "Thank you for all the good music at Frinton this year, it was a very rich and enjoyable festival, and also so good to have had a few days by the sea...All in all it was such a staggering amount of repertoire presented in only a few days - and also so much new and good music."

We are pleased to report that **Melvyn Cooper** and **Alberto Portugheis** have become joint Vice Chair of Beethoven Piano Society of Europe. We hope this will ensure continued co-operation between the two societies.

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Welcome to new members.....



We are delighted to welcome **Heleen Verleur** to our membership. Heleen is from Amsterdam and is a teacher and composer and we are pleased to hear of her work involving early learners for whom she has written a number of approachable and enjoyable piano trios. As Heleen says: "The purpose of these series of books is to give beginning musicians more opportunities for playing together. Beginning piano players usually have few chances for being in an ensemble. This is unfortunate, for playing together is such fun, almost like playing in a pop band. I hope this book will contribute to the formation of many trio ensembles with all kind of mixes of young and adult players, so that they can experience the joy of performing together. In the near future I hope to add to this collection of trios. My ambition was to write music that is neither difficult to memorize nor hard to perform. But my main aim was to create pieces that are attractive to play, expressed in a modern musical language and with a clear musical line. An old Dutch expression applies to this music: "Een kind kan de was doen" ("a child can do the laundry"), or, it is child's play. Indeed, these pieces are intended for everyone with a playful spirit,

including parents who would like to perform together with their children. When you play together, you really have to listen to your musical friends ... and to yourself. Trio music is a three-part unity, all voices speaking to and through each other, at the same time creating a whole and making you feel connected."

Piano Trios books 1 & 2 have recently been published by Alfred UK and for further information please look at Heleen's website: **www.heleenverleur.org** This is something we have discussed in committee on a number of occasions and we would be glad to hear from our members of other material suitable for early learners.

We are pleased also to welcome composer member **Dr James Hayward** a member of the Lakeland Composers group. Born in Preston, a passion for classical music grew in his late teens and he took extra-mural lessons in the Music Department while reading Psychology at Reading University. Finding his capability as a composer in his early twenties he studied composition privately with Fabian Watkinson in London in the 1980s and later developed skills in computerised sequencing and scoring of music.



He moved back to the North West from London in 1998 and has since lived in Arnside with a fine view of the Lake District fells. Composing music is an essential activity complementing his main career which has been in the area of information systems management and research in education and health care. Since joining the Lakeland Composers he has presented a number of works for small ensembles some which derive from his appreciation of the Lake District and North Country. His first Piano Trio was played by Trio Aquilon at the Ribchester Festival in June and he is working on a second Piano Trio that has two distinctly different Nocturnes as its second and 4th movements. This year he has completed a song cycle for Soprano, Cello and Piano comprising 4 poems from the volume 'Aspects' by Ursula Vaughan Williams (1984), having harboured motivation for setting this verse in recent years, so last September he accepted the call from a group in Macedonia which had previously performed his Cello and Violin Sonatas.

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Another new member is the distinguished pianist **Nadia Lasserson** to whom we offer a warm welcome.



Nadia is an experienced performer with a wide repertoire of Concertos and Chamber Music and has played in many prestigious venues in UK and abroad, having made her debut in the Festival Hall at the age of sixteen. As an accompanist, she is in much demand for Masterclasses and Workshops. Nadia has a wide experience of teaching and working with young musicians. She believes it is important that all her pupils are exposed to ensemble playing (both piano ensembles and chamber music) from the very early stages and these topics have led her to present workshops on the subject in the UK and abroad. She has toured India with masterclasses and lecture/recitals. Her publication "Piano Needn't be Lonely" – a guide to over 600 pieces of Chamber Music and Multipiano Repertoire – is now in its third edition. As well as running a private teaching practice in South London, she is currently on the teaching staff of Trinity College of Music and the Royal College of Music Junior Departments. Since 1991, she has been the Organising Secretary of EPTA – European Piano teachers' Association- which her mother, Carola Grindea, founded in 1978.

She has produced a CD which includes all new works composed especially for "PIANO 40" (an ensemble for 8 hands on 2 pianos) of which Nadia is the Founder. The ensemble's main objective is to extend the repertoire for this neglected medium and to date no less than 31 works have been composed and performed in Piano 40's sold-out South Bank Concerts.

Sadly we have very few Scottish members so we are especially pleased to welcome **Kelvin Paisley** who hails from Aberdeenshire. Kelvin is a keen amateur pianist who studied with the late George Hadjinikos and who enjoys attending music courses such as those at Benslow. Like many members in more remote areas, he finds getting together with friends for regular chamber music sessions very challenging!

Concerts at St Peter's Church, Notting Hill



We were extremely sorry when Richard Carruthers told us that he would no longer be arranging the concerts at Notting Hill, which have become such an important aspect of our work for a number of years. However we are pleased to announce that he has been succeeded by pianist Dominic John who has offered us a number of dates for further lunchtime concerts in March and April next year. These have been snapped up rapidly and we will be announcing further details in due course.

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Portrait of Adrian Williams - pianist and composer.



Described by Yehudi Menuhin as a "master of intricate patterns and forms" Adrian Williams showed precocious talent at the piano as a young child. He began composing at the age of eleven, his early promise resulting in consultations with Lennox Berkeley followed by composition and piano studies at the Royal College of Music where his teachers included Bernard Stevens, Alan Ridout and John Lill. During his RCM studies Williams received recognition for his first mature orchestral work, *Symphonic Studies*, an achievement acknowledged by the RCM director Sir David Willcocks who conducted the work with the RCM orchestra. His final year at the College was marked by two accolades, a Leverhulme scholarship and the coveted Menuhin Prize for Composition.

The years that followed saw a period as Composer in Residence at Charterhouse School during which his music underwent a stylistic reassessment. The outcome was a tougher harmonic language that although more adventurous in its range and scope, retained an underlying melodic vein that has always remained central to his music. During the eighties a move to the Welsh Borders saw Williams find his spiritual home, along with the peace of mind and creative impetus for many of his most vital works. Amongst them is the piece spawned by his winning the Guinness Prize for Composition, the cantata after Louis MacNeice *Not Yet Born, Images of a Mind* for cello and piano, the Cantata after Alun Lewis *The Ways of Going* and *Dies Irae*, the latter a BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra commission that in its power of expression, recalls the *Sinfonia da Requiem* of Britten, a composer that remains one of Williams' most significant influences. It was during his early years in the Welsh borders that Williams became the founding light of the Presteigne Festival, an enterprising event that continues to thrive and maintains a strong commitment to contemporary music.

The multi-faceted, even eclectic nature of Adrian Williams' music has also seen him forge a successful career in music for film and television, a field he continues to be active in, whilst his absorption of influences as diverse as English song and elements of jazz and minimalism has seen his catalogue of major works grow to demonstrate a richly compelling creative voice. He has long wanted to write a piano trio and was delighted to receive an invitation to do so by the Piano Trio Society.

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Dr Christopher Wynn Parry MBE

Our newly commissioned piano trio from Adrian Williams is dedicated to Dr Christopher Wynn Parry, known to us as Kit, who died, aged 90 on 24 February 2015. Kit was a consultant rheumatologist who pioneered rehabilitation medicine in the Armed Services and became a specialist in upper limb problems developed by performing musicians.

Rehabilitation medicine was developed in the Armed Forces during the Second World War by Reginald Watson-Jones and others because of the need to restore injured servicemen to health and, where possible, return them to active service. By 1948, when Kit began working at RAF Chessington and RAF Headley Court, the specialty was still in its infancy. Kit developed rehabilitation in the RAF and as a branch of medicine more generally, setting up integrated programmes involving surgeons, physicians, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and physical training instructors, and Chessington became a centre of rehabilitation for all the Armed Services. Gradually he expanded the range of treatable conditions from simple fractures to head injuries and severe neurological damage. Civilian doctors soon became interested and Kit helped to extend knowledge of the expertise to the NHS.

In 1975 he left the services to become director of rehabilitation at the National Orthopaedic Hospital at Stanmore, where he remained until his retirement and where he set up a model of good practice for such services in the NHS as a whole. In 1975 he established a pain clinic, one of the first in the world to study pain associated with peripheral nerve injuries.



The Prince of Wales, President of the Royal College of Music, conferring honorary membership of the Royal College of Music on Dr Kit Wynn Parry in 2011.

Kit had always loved music; as a student at Oxford he had performed vocal music by Monteverdi, Machaut and Byrd. He became friends with the conductor Charles Mackerras, and through this friendship began advising musicians about their injuries, particularly to their hands, about which he co-wrote a book, *The Musician's Hand* (1998). After his retirement he was instrumental in setting up the British Association of Performing Arts Medicine (BAPAM), which has established centres up and down the country. In 1998 he published a study of more than 1,000 musicians seen at BAPAM clinics showing that some 40 per cent were suffering some sort of pain, common faults being failure to take breaks, poor posture and inefficient practice techniques. He played an important role in the development of the Royal College of Music's Centre for Performance Science. He was made an honorary member of the RCM in 2011. Kit travelled extensively to spread knowledge of rehabilitation techniques; he published widely on this subject and on the treatment of pain. His talks on "Health and the Musician" were widely welcomed by students taking part in our Piano Trio Days. He was appointed MBE in 1954, aged 29, for his work at Chessington.

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The Overseas Masters Winter Piano Academy (OMWPA) - December 2016



Photo: Sussie Ahlburg

The Overseas Masters Winter Piano Academy (OMWPA) www.omwpa.com, was established in December 2010 by Malaysian concert pianist and Piano Trio Society committee member Bobby Chen (pictured left). It takes place every two years at the prestigious Yehudi Menuhin School where Bobby was a former student from 1991 to 1998.

OMWPA course participants receive individual piano lessons, group classes, lectures, evening recitals given by some of the tutors, and a 'London' experience which visits to famous London museums and music shops, and tickets for concerts at the Royal Albert Hall and the Royal Festival Hall. At their graduation, each student performs at the Gala Concert on a full size handmade concert grand piano from Italy. Course tutors are all music professors attached professionally to the Royal College of Music, Royal Academy of Music, Royal Northern College of Music, Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Trinity Laban, Chetham's School of Music, and the Yehudi Menuhin School. As well as receiving allocated lessons, each student can also attend lessons given to other students. Students are advised that the purpose of the course is twofold: to broaden individual musical horizons and to explore musical possibilities which they had not

realised existed as well as imbibing a concentrated potion of learning which exists abroad. The course will also enable students to make contacts with other talents from back home, to ask questions of the outstanding tutors, and to investigate the suitability of London/UK for future musical studies.

The course, which takes place from 14 - 22 December, offers not only playing the piano, but also composing, conducting, improvising and chamber music. There are performances and lectures from international artists, and students are encouraged to explore the often contradictory musical traditions of East and West. The Piano Trio Society hopes to be involved in the forthcoming event with a short evening concert being given by one of its members.



We hope you will let us have any articles of interest for further Newsletters and keep in touch with items of news, including recordings, special concerts, new works etc. These should be sent to:

The Editor: Christine Talbot-Cooper

Email: info@pianotriosociety.org.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)1242 620736