

Everyone Matters

~ Music for a while shall all your cares beguile ~

Patron: Howard Shelley, OBE

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Editorial Ramblings

2016 was a year for sharing music and music-making across the generations. We gave a total of more than forty concerts in care settings in 2016, and young performers and amateur musicians played and sang in ensembles alongside our professionals in no fewer than sixteen of these. “It was a very enjoyable two days”, wrote one talented young prize-winner from the Croydon Performing Arts Festival, “and it really made people happy”. We certainly worked very hard, with intensive rehearsals each morning to prepare for concerts later in the day. Needless to say, extensive preparation took place beforehand, with repertoire discussed, special arrangements made, practice parts distributed, and then the excitement of bringing it all together to share with our audiences.

Many of our concerts in care settings in Croydon, Bromley and Hitchin continued to build on long-term relationships that help to manage expectations on both sides. It is very rewarding that so many nursing homes now seem to regard us as old friends, and the response forms often request us to return “as frequently as possible”. The concert “was a brilliant experience”, wrote the Activity Co-ordinator of Elmside in Hitchin, “and we loved the way everyone interacted with the residents”. I always enjoy our “musical menus” project that allows us to interact with our audience from the moment we arrive; we distribute large-print sheets of items on offer and start chatting about what music we should perform while still setting up. Once the concert starts audience participation is often quite spontaneous as people respond to the infectious rhythms of dances or marches, or to well-loved songs whose tunes never seem to fade from the memory.

Thanks to patient help from our trustee May I have discovered how to do some spreadsheet basics, and in an attempt to get a bit more tech-savvy I attended the Tech4Good Day generously hosted for charities on 6 April by Microsoft. I knew I was in for a highly technical day when, having accepted two separate passes from opposite ends of the same desk to enter first the building and then the conference itself, I jumped into a lift without realising that you had first to press a destination button on the outside, and so was whisked past floor 5 to a level with a superb view but requiring me to work out how to get back down. Over lunch I met Fazilette Khan, Director of the **GreenSeas Trust** dedicated to cleaning the world’s oceans of plastics. We agreed to keep in touch, and in September we collaborated on an audio-visual concert programme on the theme of “water” for our September 2016 intergenerational project with Langley Park School for Boys.



Richard at English National Opera
(photo by Clive Barda)

We offered a day of workshops in August for the children of Rutherford School, with a grant from the Good Luck Charitable Trust that will enable us to provide further projects for children with special needs during 2017.

We had lots of fun throughout the year with **Music Matters** and **Musical Offerings**, often linking concerts in nursing homes to these lecture-recitals. Richard Suart presented his specially devised programme “Generally G&S or I should Ko-Ko” in two community settings in Croydon as well as for our lecture-recital regulars. My only regret was that these hilarious and heart-warming performances of Gilbert and Sullivan were not sung by Richard in full Major-General regalia!

Margaret Archibald, December 2016

Words and Music Uniting the Generations

A project in memory of John Morris

John was one of our most supportive Friends. From the earliest days of Music Matters when he was still working for the BBC he would regularly borrow CDs for us to play on the hi-fi system that he lent us each Tuesday evening, and it was only much later that I realised he had, after his retirement, also bought quite a lot of recordings for us to use. He had enormous energy that he threw into supporting local classical music ventures around Croydon, and he worked tirelessly as a volunteer



organiser for the **Croydon Performing Arts Festival**. Thanks to the generosity of John's many friends who contributed towards a memorial fund for a project in his name, we invited young performers from the 2016 Festival to rehearse and perform alongside our professional musicians in Croydon care

centres. Five versatile young musicians took part, and the programmes of music, devised for some pretty unlikely combinations of instruments, represented the diversity of talent on offer. Flautist Daniel Jacob-Ormson and trumpeter Nick Smith spent two days with me on clarinet and Julia on 'cello presenting a programme that leaned towards the Baroque; I then shared a further two days with trombonist Ian Fasham, working with Carol Leader who played flute and piano, and Joseph Mackley



on saxophone, voice, horn and piano! The two ensembles gave a total of seven performances in Croydon care settings, and an added bonus at the last concert was the guest appearance of Malathy Nithiyananthan with her veena (pictured). Funds remain to enable us to continue a similar project mentoring young musicians in John's name in the near future, and we keep in touch with John's widow Cheryl about its details.

How you can help - memorials and celebrations

If you would like to set up a fund for a dedicated project that stands as a memorial to the life of someone you loved, or that celebrates a significant anniversary, please get in touch. We will aim to collaborate with you in devising a project that reflects the life and aspirations of that special person.

GreenSeas



Mid-September 2016 saw us at Langley Park School for Boys in a performance project that seems likely to become an annual event, thanks to the superb collaboration of Director of Music David Bullen and his colleagues. Supported by a special fund donated by one of our Friends in memory of her aunt, this year the project was given an

exciting extra dimension thanks to a new collaboration with the GreenSeas Trust, a charity dedicated to cleaning the world's oceans of plastics and other debris. The music for our programme was chosen entirely on a "water" theme, and two full days of intensive rehearsals with performances in three Bromley care homes reached a climax at a final cocktail event in the school's magnificent concert hall. Fazilette Khan, founder of the



GreenSeas Trust, shared her inspiration with invited Friends, parents and siblings as part of a concert and slide-show that reached its climax in a sequence of movements from Handel's "Water Music" set against a projected

backdrop of scenes from GreenSeas' work out at sea and on the beaches.

Cocktails "Jolly Roger" and "Beachcomber" were served alongside a more neutral fruit cup, and all with the enthusiastic support of the headmaster. Coloma Court Care Home's Activity Coordinator Joy Corbett emailed "thank you so very much for the wonderful concert... [that] highlighted the problems...clearing up our oceans for the animals in the sea".





Dancing and Marching

During the second week of September 2016 we launched “**Music on Wheels**”, a project supported by the **New Initiatives** scheme of the **Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames**. Our aim was to invite nursing homes and day centres to

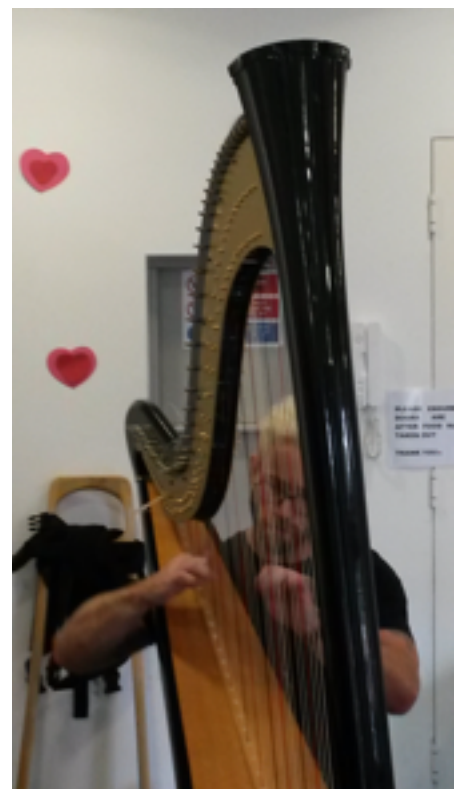
collaborate with us in advance, inviting our prospective audiences to request music that they would especially like us to perform for them. Inevitably some venues came on board with this idea more than others. At its most successful we discovered one gentleman who used to be a drummer in the Queen’s 7th Royal Hussars and for whom we devised “**Marches and More**”, a programme led by former Grenadier Guard Alan Shellard dressed in red and gold,



featuring marches and other lively music. This programme was much enjoyed both at Amy Woodgate House and at the Bradbury Active Age Centre, with enthusiastic audience participation on snare drum and ‘Turkish style’ percussion. We created another new programme “**Dancing Around the World**” in which violinist Nicoline Kraamwinkel led toe-tapping music from North and South America, Eastern and Western Europe, and Russia.

A Harp for Rutherford

The **Good Luck Charitable Trust** supported us once again with a generous grant made in March 2016. This enabled us to answer a request from **Rutherford School** to provide a day of music workshops in early August, along similar lines to the day we had offered the previous year, for children attending the school’s Summer Club. Harpist Alexander Thomas took over at short notice to lead a day of workshops that enabled every child to experience the sound of the harp at close quarters, to touch the instrument and to feel its vibrations, and to take part on suitable percussion in much of the music. We worked with a succession of small groups over the course of the day, the intimacy of the setting and the support of the care staff enabling us to adapt to each new group of children, all with profound and multiple learning difficulties and complex needs. Much of the grant from the Good Luck Charitable Trust remains and will be spent on projects in the near future.



Benslow beats

Our collaboration with **Benslow Music Trust** continued to develop with courses in September and November 2016. Our links with Benslow's local care settings now extend to five homes, four in Hitchin and one in Letchworth. As in 2015, an extra day was added to the David Campbell Clarinet Weekend in September with a small self-selected group of clarinet players staying one extra night in order to rehearse a programme for performance in two Hitchin nursing homes. It was particularly touching to find a gentleman at Highbury Rise Residential Home who shared reminiscences of his childhood in Thornton Heath with one of our players who had also lived there when she was younger. The November course welcomed three loyal clarinet players and three new recruits, percussionist Bill Bates who not only added rhythmic zest to the ensemble but made special arrangements to suit our line-up, flute player Judy Wang who had travelled all the way from Taiwan especially to join our course and Jane Richardson who switched effortlessly from 'cello to keyboard to voice. As usual, I seemed to need lots of luggage, as witness Judy's efforts to help me load the car.



Gift Aid

Everyone Matters is registered for Gift Aid; thank you, HMRC, for helping us make even better use of our Friends' generous donations!

Recycling

Don't forget that *Everyone Matters* has signed up for ...



To recycle your items for free simply click on this link: [Recycle 4 Everyone Matters](https://www.recycle4everyone.org.uk). Please send your old inkjet cartridges to us, or ask us for a recycling envelope (sorry, no mobiles).

Cakes and Cocktails

Friends' events at 21 Stone Road experimented with some new ideas. "Cocktail Choice" in January offered guests not only cocktails but their choice from a musical "bran tub", with the chance of drawing either an item of music for Julia and Margaret to perform or a musical forfeit; the occasion elicited much hilarity, especially the forfeits! The "Concert and Cake Auction" in June was supported by a group of amateur musicians who gathered to rehearse and perform in aid of *Everyone Matters*; the auction became unviable when we discovered that we'd chosen the busiest day of the summer, but it was not a hardship to eat the home-made cakes instead, the players enjoyed some happy music-making, and we still raised several hundred pounds for future projects.

Music Matters

The lights of Whitgift House Chapel shine across the lawn to the Brighton Road on Tuesday nights, telling music lovers that another evening of live performance, anecdotes and discovery is under way. The chance to see and hear the performers in such an intimate and beautiful setting, and to share a chat and a laugh with them over refreshments, makes the events memorable.



January focused on brass, Ian Fasham filling his car with trombones large and larger, and Pip Eastop demystifying the conical bore of his historic horn. February and March led on to woodwind,



Joel Raymond on oboes, Rachel Brown playing glorious Bach on her baroque flute, and Katie Clemmow joining me to explore the oboe and clarinet in partnership across the centuries. The autumn season was even more diverse: Jorge Jimenez performed his fascinating “Contrapunctus - polyphony for solo violin”, Steve Bingham accompanied by a raft of electronic devices wooed his listeners as he layered musical strands through live-looping on his electric violin and his electric bass violin, Alan

George of the Fitzwilliam Quartet helped us try to understand the Beethoven who could create the “Grosse Fuge” and the late string quartets, and Gerald Place, accompanying himself on the viola da gamba, brought the Shakespeare anniversary year to a close with songs that might have been heard in first performances of the plays at the original Globe Theatre.

My own answer to *The Great British Bake Off* was making cakes each month for **Musical Offerings** in the Church Room at St Mark’s Church in Bromley. This series of lecture recitals, run in parallel to Music Matters in Croydon, has won us new Friends in Bromley and has greatly enhanced my prowess at cakes and scones. Even when a pigeon trapped behind our sitting room gas fire (released by emergency gas engineers to fly back into our apple tree!) caused my very old cooker to be condemned, Rob and I still managed to compile fruit flans that were as delicious as they were pretty, and scones mixed at home baked superbly in the church kitchen’s own oven.



Artists of the future

Music Matters is soon to welcome the return of two favourite young artists who will join their musician parents to perform for us, Royal College of Music harpist Rosanna Rolton and 'cellist Tim Posner who is currently studying in Hanover. Rosanna and her mum Nicoline have been eagerly requested by Fairlight and Fallowfield Nursing Home in Chislehurst to make a return visit there; Julia and Tim have promised to set aside their whole day to perform in care homes too.



Nicoline and Rosanna performing at Musical Offerings

Dates for your Diary

Music Matters Tuesdays 7.30 - 9.30p.m. Spring Season 2017 (entry by subscription or on the door) in The Chapel at Whitgift House, 76, Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6AB

Tuesday 10 January: Paul Sherman

Jan Dismas Zelenka, the extraordinary life, music and times of a Bohemian baroque composer

Tuesday 24 January: Alison Hayhurst

The new-fangled flute (1847-style)

Tuesday 7 February: Margaret Archibald

Birds in music

Tuesday 21 February: Nicoline Kraamwinkel and Rosanna Rolton

51 Strings - Music for Violin and Harp Explored

Tuesday 7 March: Julia Desbruslais and Tim Posner

'Cellists' Choice

Tuesday 21 March: Gala Night - Chamber Music Special with Nicoline Kraamwinkel, Martin Smith, Mickey Posner and Julia Desbruslais string quartet and Margaret Archibald clarinet

Brahms Quintet in B minor, Op.115 explored and performed

Tuesday 4 April: William Carter

From the Royal Courts of Europe - Renaissance and Baroque music for the lute and guitar

Sunday Special at 21, Stone Road, Bromley on 5 February (full details to follow)

Masterclass Showcase with John Flinders accompanying young and amateur clarinet players in music by Mendelssohn, Brahms, Debussy, Finzi and others, with refreshments

People

Patron: Howard Shelley, OBE; Artistic Director: Margaret Archibald

Trustees: Janet Eggleden, Joy Lawrence, May Maqsood, Peter Smith

Music Therapy Advisor: Stephen Haylett; Gift Aid Advisor: Geoffrey Lawrence

Associates: Margaret Kesterton, Ann Morisy, Rob Archibald

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