

# NEWSLETTER 40 AUTUMN 2023



## PETERSFIELD MUSICAL FESTIVAL

### Welcome from the Chairman

Welcome to the start of our new season. We have already enjoyed our annual choral workshop and are now looking forward to a broad range of music in the 2024 Festival with Philip Young continuing at the helm as our Musical Director.



*Pam Buckley,  
Festival Chairman*

I am delighted to report that during the course of the year, new trustees and volunteers have come forward whom we welcome here. We do, however, now need to find Front of House managers to replace our wonderful supporters, Phill and Anne Humphries and John and Sarah Whitaker who have stood down after many years of welcoming performers and audience. Do get in touch if you or someone you know may be interested.

Cllr J C Crissey has chosen four local charities to raise money for during his year as Mayor of Petersfield. We are honoured that Petersfield Musical Festival is one of them. Two fund-raising events have already taken place: a 20-mile ramble from Petersfield Town Football Club in September and the screening of two films just before Halloween at the Festival Hall. The other charities benefitting from the Mayor's fundraising are the 1927 (Petersfield) Squadron ATC, Dementia Friendly Petersfield and the Kings Arms Youth Project. Do look out for the Mayor's fund-raising events and support them when you can. As the Mayor says, 'In their own way, these wonderful charities make a huge and positive impact on the welfare of our town.'

From discussions with the Mayor, I know he is particularly impressed with how much we encourage young people to express themselves through music and support them financially through the Michael Hurd Fund for Young Musicians. Do encourage any youngsters you

## Petersfield Musical Festival gratefully acknowledges support from



Lanzante



know to enter this year's Festival of Young Composers competition and make a note in your diary to attend the adjudication day at The Petersfield School Studio on 4 February. It promises to be an inspirational occasion, listening to the young composers' pieces and hearing advice and encouragement from our judges.

Thanks to Sarah Hard for writing this newsletter, Charlotte Beck for handling the layout and

to Simon O'Hea for coordinating the email distribution. The committee is gradually taking on the many tasks Philip has handled so skilfully.



Read on to find out more about our 2024 programme, what happened at the AGM and for details of the combined choir rehearsals to which we warmly invite singers.

## PMF appoints two new trustees

PMF is delighted to announce the election of two new trustees, Charlotte Beck and Richard Stoneman.

Charlotte has a degree in French, a Masters in Creative Writing and was formerly a teacher. She is a keen choral singer and has been involved with publicity

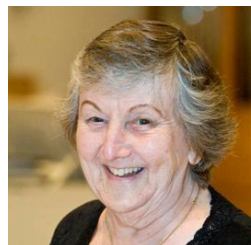


Charlotte Beck

and marketing for Guildford Choral and Southern Pro Musica. She will be responsible for managing the Festival programme, posters and leaflets.

Richard Stoneman is now our Treasurer Elect, due to succeed Rob Walker following the 2024 AGM. Richard is a qualified accountant who loves music and attending concerts and is a welcome addition to PMF's committee.

## Remembering Ann Pinhey



Ann Pinhey

Ann Pinhey, who was at the forefront of music in Petersfield over many decades has sadly died, aged 90. Ann was never without at least one choir or vocal group under her direction. She regularly gave concerts in St Laurence's and St Peter's churches. A particular highlight for Ann was conducting Bach's

two Passions with Petersfield Chamber Choir and an orchestra of local musicians.

Under Ann's leadership, the Thursday Singers sang in Festival choral concerts in the 1990s. The Meon Consort provided the music for Festival Services in the 1980s, and Musica Sacra in 1992. Ann conducted Petersfield Chamber Choir in the centenary Gala Concert in 2001 and in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee concert in 2012. As a regular contributor to the

Petersfield Herald and Petersfield Post, Ann wrote many reviews of Festival concerts. In an interview with Music in Portsmouth she said: 'It is difficult being a music critic for a local paper, as you often have to review the performances of people you know. I do have high standards and people are at liberty to disagree with me.'

In the 2023 New Year Honours, Ann was awarded a BEM (British Empire Medal) for services to music, choirs and charities. She made a principle of not charging for her concerts, asking only for donations to charities in particular the Rosemary Foundation hospice at home. In total her concerts raised over £80,000.

Ann programmed a concert for the 2024 Festival by the multi-talented gemini consort which will now go ahead in her memory on Sunday 17th March at 7.30 pm in St Peter's Church directed by her successor, Lucy Humphris.



*There will be a substantial collection of Ann Pinhey's CDs at the combined rehearsals (see page 8). Ann's son Matthew is keen for them to go to good homes, possibly in exchange for a small donation to her beloved Rosemary Foundation.*

[rosemary-foundation.org.uk](http://rosemary-foundation.org.uk)

# Festival of Young Composers 2024

*Sarah Hard previews the up-coming competition*



*Sarah Hard*

The Festival of Young Composers, which is run in association with the Michael Hurd Fund for Young Musicians, will take place at The Petersfield School on 4 February 2024; the deadline for submission of scores is 4 December 2023. Contestants must be aged 19 or under, and live or attend school or college anywhere in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, or within 25 miles of Petersfield. Prizes of up to £200 will be awarded in each of three age categories.

Since the first biennial composers' Festival in 2009, 48 young creatives have risen to the challenge. Their music is either played live or presented in recorded form to a public audience on the performance day, and over £2,500 has been distributed in prize money to support the musical studies of the winners. Compositions have ranged from solo songs and piano music to a capella choral works, as well as a wide variety of instrumental ensembles. All entries must be written for a maximum of twelve instruments or voices. Each year selected winning entries have been performed during the Petersfield Musical Festival Youth Concerts, a potential springboard into the wider world. Previous winners of the competition have gone on to enjoy successful careers in the music profession. For example, Tim Braithwaite (prize winner 2010) graduated from the specialised Masters in Early Music Theory course at Het Koninklijk Conservatorium in The Hague and is currently enjoying a vibrant international performing career as both a countertenor and baritone, working with groups such as Amsterdam Baroque. 'Winning the Petersfield Festival of Young composers was an extremely influential experience in my early development,' says Tim, who goes on to praise the opportunity it offers to perform in front of a panel of esteemed judges.

Thomas Baynes (prize winner 2018) is a composer of concert, film, and multimedia music. As a media composer Thomas has composed and produced works for the Redcat Creative music library with releases on Universal and APM labels. Since then Thomas has gone on to assist composer Nick Holywell-Walker on internationally renowned BBC One drama *Silent Witness*. Thomas's *Changing Our Sound*, won first prize in the performing arts section of Royal Holloway's

Petersfield Musical Festival is hosting its eighth competition for young composers, giving an ideal opportunity for imaginative musicians to share their creations with new audiences and receive expert feedback from a panel of judges.

United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) response competition.

Shoshana Yugin-Power (prize winner in 2016 and 2022) is a remarkable all-round musician. She won Winchester Symphony Orchestra's Young Soloist Competition in 2022. Her winning entry *The Return to School* in the [BBC Young Composer 30 Second Composition Challenge](#) was one of the entries chosen to be show-cased on the BBC Proms website. Shoshana's piece was performed by the BBC Symphony Orchestra flautist in 2020.

The Festival of Young Composers encourages young composers to create music that is both ambitious and practical – just how practical is put to the test on the day of performance next February. Performers benefit from the expert insights and tips from the adjudicators - Jonathan Willcocks, composer and conductor and formerly Director of the Junior Department, Royal Academy of Music; Philip Young, Musical Director of PMF and formerly Director of Studies at Bedales School; Dr Jill Jarman, contemporary classical composer, jazz pianist and Lecturer in Music, University of Chichester. The adjudicators study the written scores in advance and all entrants receive detailed written constructive feedback on how to improve particular aspects of their work.

Sue Bint, Michael Hurd Fund administrator, believes strongly in the importance of fostering musical creativity as a way of transforming relationships, promoting communication and providing relaxation in our fast-paced world. 'This competition gives young musicians an occasion to present their compositions to a wider audience. They also gain constructive feedback from a panel of experienced composers. I feel strongly that young people need to be given as many opportunities as possible to expand their musical imaginations and reap the many benefits of self-expression,' she said.

There will be two categories of composition: A - with live performance and B - with a recorded performance. Both will be played on 4 February. The competition caters for composers in three age categories: 19 and under, 17 and under and 14 and under.



Full details of the Festival of Young Composers and the entry form can be found at [petersfieldmusicalfestival.org.uk](http://petersfieldmusicalfestival.org.uk). Please submit entries to Sue Bint, 11 Eleanor Close, Passfield, GU30 7TX, email [bintsw1@btinternet.com](mailto:bintsw1@btinternet.com) by 4 December 2023.

# Exploring Bob Chilcott's international outlook

PMF's workshop had us dancing in the street, writes **Marcia Fielden**



Workshop with  
Jeremy Backhouse and  
Mark Dancer

The workshop this year was a slightly different venture from the norm. Instead of studying works to be sung in the Festival, as is our usual custom, we spent a day singing from the Bob Chilcott Songbook, which contains both traditional songs and original pieces.

Our conductor for the day was Jeremy Backhouse, conductor of both the 140-strong Vivace Chorus in Guildford, and the Vasari Singers, one of the UK's leading Chamber Choirs. We hoped thereby to attract singers from outside the Festival's usual pool, and we were not disappointed. There were people from Vivace, and also from the Renaissance Choir, to name just two.

Jeremy, quietly spoken and with a beaming smile, opened the day's singing with *Danny Boy*, on the grounds that we would all know the tune. We soon got to grips with Chilcott's attractive version, and quickly got a thumbs-up from Jeremy.

Our next venture was to sing a delightful composition of Chilcott's, *Aka-Tonbo*, all in Japanese. The music

fitted the language beautifully (it was a nostalgic song featuring red dragonflies!) We enjoyed it very much and it, too, soon got a thumbs up. After a fortifying coffee, when we all mingled happily, we tackled a rather difficult jig, in rapid 6/8, *Dance in the Street*. Chilcott wrote it for the Vasari Singers so it was unsurprising that it took us somewhat longer to master! A lyrical setting of *All through the Night* followed, which of course was very familiar.

There was a charming setting of Wordsworth's *Composed upon Westminster Bridge*, a Chilcott original, which we liked very much, followed by the *Skye Boat Song*. Jeremy's cheerful patience saw us through a return to *Dance in the Street* (almost up to speed.) The continual contrast between the familiar and the new was exactly right.

I found it just a little disappointing that the book did not contain a traditional English song – we sang for the Scots, the Welsh and the Irish, but it was a shame there was, for example, no *John Peel* or *Brigg Fair à la Chilcott*! However, the day was a huge success, and at its end we sang through all the songs we'd studied. *Dance in the Street* was the finale to a very happy workshop.

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## Report from the Festival's AGM

Thirty committee members, Friends, singers and members of the public attended the AGM on 21 September 2023

The Treasurer, Rob Walker, reported that the charity was in a healthy financial position, underpinned by a successful Festival earlier in the year, the second tranche of the EHDC Supporting Communities Fund and generous donations by the Friends.

Chairman Pam Buckley noted several highlights of 2022/23: a successful choral workshop on Mozart's *Mass in C Minor*, the launch of PMF's new website, an increased social media presence and excellent press coverage of our activities over the year. Two of the 2023 Festival concerts were sold-out, and many enjoyed near full capacity.

Sue Bint, administrator of the Michael Hurd Fund for Young Musicians, reported that the Fund made six grants of up to £250 to individuals towards the cost of courses, lessons and instruments.

Pam noted that many tasks were taken on by a fantastic team of volunteers, several not on the Committee, all of whom play a vital role in making the Festival happen. She thanked them all, along with the Committee

members, for their time and energy. She welcomed the new trustees and urged more volunteers to come forward to help with the huge logistical challenge of realizing the Festival. Pam concluded by presenting an exciting and varied musical programme for 2024.

Stephen Rae (Rogate Choral Society) asked how music is chosen for the choral concerts, what the process is and if singers can be involved in any way. Philip Young explained that the Music Committee meets the three Choral Society conductors and Paul Spicer each November, and music is proposed about 15 months in advance. Conductors are welcome to discuss the proposals with their choir committee or members, and the proposals may be changed in the light of these discussions. A final proposal is put to the main committee at its meeting at the end of January. A number of issues need to be considered when selecting choral music, including variety, balance, suitability and affordability. Choirs or individual choral members are welcome to make contact with members of the Music Committee at any time to make suggestions.

# Festival 2024

*Sarah Hard looks ahead to what's on the menu at the 2024 Festival*

The 2024 Festival offers a huge array of musical styles and forms, from a boy band tribute trio to full-scale symphonies and the flagship choral concerts. The following events will all be performed at the Festival Hall unless otherwise stated.

## Friday 15 March 7.30pm Encore with Legends



Encore Choirs are thriving community choirs in Petersfield and Alton, run by their enthusiastic director and vocal coach, Josh Robinson. Meeting weekly under the motto 'Let the power of singing connect us all', and singing in a range of styles from pop, rock, and soul to musical theatre, the choirs are open to all and aim to bring joy, fun and a memorable experience to both singers and listeners. Their guests, the boy band tribute trio Legends, have often brought their acclaimed high-energy choreographed performances to events in Petersfield Square and the Half Moon's summer festival.



*Legends*

## Saturday 16 March 7.30pm Mozart: Mass in C minor Symphony no. 40 in G minor Paul Spicer, conductor



When Mozart married Constanze Weber – famously in defiance of his father's wishes – he vowed to write a Mass in thankfulness. The Mass – like Mozart's later *Requiem* – was never finished, but what we have is already a masterpiece of huge proportions, with

monumental choruses for double choir, intricate contrapuntal movements and soaring operatic solos. This is the first time that the Festival has programmed the full *Mass in C minor*. The programme also includes Mozart's famous *Sturm und Drang Symphony No. 40* and features Southern Pro Musica, conducted by Paul Spicer.

## Sunday 17 March 3-4pm Children's Concert Fit for a King - A right royal recital Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra Stephen Scotchmer, conductor

Royalty of all kinds can be expected at Basingstoke Chamber Orchestra's Family Concert, from the Queen of Sheba to *Frozen's* Elsa and Anna, via Handel's *Water Music* (first played in a barge on the Thames for King George 1), William Walton's *Crown Imperial* march (from the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II) and much more.

Children are encouraged to come dressed as their favourite king, queen, prince or princess.



**Sunday 17 March 7.30pm**  
**St Peter's Church**  
**the gemini consort**



the  
gemini  
consort

This concert in memory of Ann Pinhey, the consort's founder and former director, will be directed by her successor Lucy Humphris, a former student at Churcher's College and now a rising star in the world of

trumpet playing. The multi-talented members of the group will present a mixed programme of vocal and instrumental music for chamber choir and soloists, including Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*.

**Monday 18th March &**  
**Wednesday 20 March 7pm**  
**Youth Concerts**



*Youth Concert 2023*

With a choir of around two hundred 8–11-year-olds, together with a hundred or more instrumentalists from local senior schools, the Festival's Youth Concerts provide a focus and showcase for music-making in schools in the Petersfield area. Items for choir and combined school wind and jazz bands will be complemented by the string players of the Petersfield Area Schools String Orchestra and performances of original compositions from the Festival of Young Composers (see page 3).



**Tuesday 19 March 1pm**  
**St Peter's Church**  
**Lunchtime recital**

Biennial lunchtime recitals by recipients of grants from the Michael Hurd Fund for Young Musicians have become a popular feature of the Festival. The 2024 recital will be given by cellist Rebecca McNaught accompanied by Emily Hoh, and soprano Rachel Newberry accompanied by Mark Dancer.

**Wednesday 20 March, 7.30pm**  
**St Peter's Church**  
**Organ recital**  
**by Richard Pearce**

Richard Pearce lives in Liss, and has a distinguished international career as organist, pianist and accompanist. He records and broadcasts regularly with the BBC Singers and performs at many leading venues, including the Promenade concerts at the Royal Albert Hall. Richard has appeared for the Festival in the Queen's Jubilee concert in 2012 (when he played Samuel Sebastian Wesley's 'outrageously over-the-top' *Variations on God Save the King*) and with violinist Sara Deborah Timossi in a memorable violin and piano recital at St Peter's Church in 2016.



*Richard Pearce*

**Thursday 21 March 7.30pm**  
**Petersfield Orchestra**

**Rachmaninov:**  
**Piano Concerto No.2**  
**Smetana: Blanik**  
**Dvorak: Symphony No 8**  
**Robert Browning, conductor**



*Jamie Cochrane*  
*Piano*

In this showpiece concert, Robin Browning conducts the Petersfield Orchestra in three classic works from eastern Europe.

Smetana's *Blaník*, the last of his six tone poems depicting his native Bohemia, evokes the mountain beneath which, according to legend, St Wenceslas sleeps with his army of knights. Jamie Cochrane will be the soloist in Rachmaninov's *Second Piano Concerto* with its powerful, brooding opening and world-famous slow movement. Dvořák's *Eighth Symphony* was written to celebrate his election to the Bohemian Academy of Science, Literature and Arts. Combining an optimistic mood with Dvořák's love of the countryside, the music has been described as 'a colourful tapestry of human and natural imagery.'

**Friday 22 March 7.30pm**  
**The Music of Art Blakey**  
**National Youth Jazz**  
**Orchestra Sextet**

One of the giants of jazz, drummer Art Blakey with his Jazz Messengers enjoyed international celebrity and launched the careers of numerous jazz musicians from the 1950s to the 1980s. The National Youth Jazz Orchestra's sextet draws on some of our most talented young jazz players to perform a selection of music from this 20th century legend.

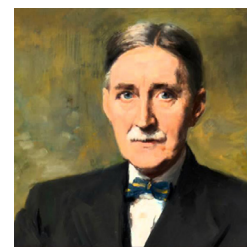
Blakey would have approved; he told a live audience, 'I'm gonna stay with the youngsters. When these get too old, get some younger ones. Keeps the mind active.'

**Saturday 23 March 7.30pm**  
**A Century of English Music**

**Elgar: Serenade for strings**  
**Dyson: Hierusalem**  
**Ireland: Downland Suite**  
**Rutter: Magnificat**  
**Paul Spicer, conductor**

Sir George Dyson was a composer, teacher, broadcaster and author, and the driving force behind the National Federation of Music Societies (now Making Music), to which the Festival is affiliated. His story is told in a major biography written by the conductor of this concert, Paul Spicer. Regular singers with the Festival will remember our performances with Paul of Dyson's colourful *Agincourt* (originally written for the Festival's 50th anniversary) and *Canterbury Pilgrims*. John Rutter has played a leading part in the British choral scene for many decades, and has written some of the best-loved modern choral music. His *Magnificat*, which adds a medieval carol to the uplifting words of the Annunciation, is one of his most engaging works.

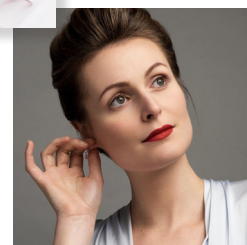
Milly Forrest is the soprano solo, accompanied by Nova Foresta Classical Players and backed by the Festival chorus with Petersfield and Rogate Choral Societies.



*Sir George Dyson*



*Paul Spicer*



*Milly Forrest*  
*Soprano*



**Saturday 2 December 9.30am - 3.00pm**  
**The Petersfield School**  
**Petersfield Christmas Market**

Sue Upton has raised hundreds of pounds for the Festival through her stall at the Easter and Christmas markets. She will be running a stall again at the Christmas Market on Saturday 2 December at The Petersfield School, Cranford Road GU32 3LU.

*Please donate good quality saleable goods to Sue at the combined rehearsals or contact her about your donation on: 01730 302492*

## Combined choral rehearsals

From **Sally Maybury**, Choir Secretary

We are looking forward to welcoming all our singers to this year's rehearsals and concerts – both our regular choral society members and independent singers who join as part of the Festival Chorus. All singers are expected to attend the combined rehearsals.

The sections to be rehearsed are listed below. Please look at them before the rehearsal – it can make all the difference! Please note the car park behind the Methodist Church is not available for parking at combined rehearsals.



*Combined choirs 2023: A concert featuring Stanford and Puccini*

### **Mozart: Mass in C Minor** **At Petersfield Methodist Church\***

Friday 10 November 7.30pm  
*Kyrie, Gloria, Gratias* (If time, start *Qui Tollis*)

Saturday 27 January 10.30am  
*Qui Tollis, Jesu Christe/Cum Sancto Spiritu*

Thursday 8 February 7.30 pm  
*Credo, Sanctus/Osanna*

Saturday 2 March 2pm  
*Sanctus/Osanna & Osanna for Benedictus*

### **At Petersfield Festival Hall\*\***

Thursday 14 March 7pm  
 Final piano rehearsal

Saturday 16 March 2pm  
 Full rehearsal.  
 Performance 7.30pm

### **Dyson: Hierusalem** **Rutter: Magnificat** **Petersfield Methodist Church\***

Saturday 11 November 10.30am  
 Dyson Fig 4-13, Rutter Nos 1 & 2

Saturday 27 January 2pm  
 Dyson Fig 8-18, Rutter Nos 3 & 4

Friday 9 February 7.30pm  
 Dyson Fig 15-end, Rutter Nos 5 & 6

Saturday 2 March 10.30 am  
 Dyson Revision from beginning, Rutter No 7 and revision

### **At Petersfield Festival Hall\*\***

Tuesday 19 March 7pm  
 Dyson/Rutter final piano rehearsal

Saturday 23 March 2pm  
 Dyson/Rutter full rehearsal  
 Performance 7.30pm

\*Petersfield Methodist Church: Station Road, Petersfield GU32 3EB

\*\*Petersfield Festival Hall, Heath Road, Petersfield GU31 4EA

*If you cannot attend a rehearsal, or need further information please let Sally know by email at [cmaybury@btinternet.com](mailto:cmaybury@btinternet.com)*