

Friends of the Music Newsletter January 2020

New Year greetings to all the Friends of the Music for 2020. Music in Holy Trinity during the autumn of 2019 was, as always, exhilarating and uplifting.

Lunchtime concerts have continued to flourish. Soundbites has introduced us to a wide variety of music and performers: from the youngsters from Bridgetown Primary School and KES (of whom the sixth-form performers have provided some remarkable programmes of music) to highly polished and experienced musicians who are prepared to come to play for half an hour in the hospitable acoustic of Holy Trinity. We have welcomed individuals, and groups - the largest being the U3A Café orchestra of 27 players! Rebecca Mills has negotiated with conservatoires, colleges and free-lance musicians and produced another wide-ranging programme for the spring.

5-Feb	Kathryn Ellis	soprano
12-Feb	Paul Carr	organ
19-Feb	Fumi Otsuki	violin
26-Feb	Douglas Keilitz	organ
4-Mar	Musicians from King Edward VI Sixth Form	
11-Mar	Musicians from King Edward VI Sixth Form	
18-Mar	Roman Kosyakov	piano
25-Mar	Olga Eckert and Beth	violin and piano
1-Apr	Brigitta Sveda	piano
8-Apr	Tom Pickles	cello and piano
15-Apr	Kassia trio	sax and piano
22-Apr	Eastside Saxophone Quartet	
29-Apr	Eve Abram Flute Trio	

Trinity Voices, which introduces primary age children to choral singing, has continued to flourish and the congregation is always appreciative of their singing at the end of morning services - always with concentration and enthusiasm. Many of them move into the main choir in due course, and continue singing with both groups.

The choir bloomed under the directorship of Rebecca Mills, the Interim Director of Music, who gently and determinedly moulded the junior members into an even more coherent body, while encouraging the adults into a thoughtful approach to some wonderful new music. There were many major services at this time of year - Advent, Christmas and Epiphany - together with extra-mural events: Christmas services in Luddington and Clifford Chambers, carols at Warwick Castle and the Christmas market in Stratford. And, of course, weddings, funerals and memorials, most of which involve all levels of the choir.

The permanent choir was, from time to time, strengthened by the addition of 'occasional' singers, who brought their own skills and integrated smoothly into the general level and temperament of the 'old-timers'. The choir is fortunate to be able to call on their skills. A range of organists has accompanied the services, from the experience and wisdom of Stephen Dodsworth in his last months as Assistant Director

of Music, to the blooming musicianship of Oliver Edwardes, and Amelia Parkin; and we were fortunate to have many fine external organists to cover other services, particularly Jim Fellowes, a past-chorister, now a post-graduate student at Oxford University, who played for many of the Christmas services.

The music group still continue to play twice a month at the Trinity Centre @ 10 service in the hall and have played in the All Age services. There have been opportunities for some children to play and sing at these services. Thanks to fundraising efforts, such as the recent Charleston with Me event and kind donations, including from the Friends of Music, the P.A and audio visual equipment for the hall has been ordered, and should be installed soon. This will allow the group to set up for services easily, and for other people to run the sound system during services, which currently falls to members of the music group. It is hoped to find a guitarist and bass player in order to complete the group over the coming year.

The Friends purchased a new Kawai grand piano in memory of Rohan Stewart-Macdonald, most generously funded by his mother Linn and friends and colleagues. The piano was gifted by the Friends to Holy Trinity, and was formally launched on the evening of January 11th with a recital by Lynn Arnold of Bach's Goldberg Variations. Lynn, who had been a pupil of Rohan's at Cambridge, played the entire work - 72 minutes long - without interval in a candle-lit church, to a spellbound audience who barely stirred in their seats. It was a memorable evening.

We look forward to welcoming our new Director of Music, Douglas Keilitz, in February, and would like to express our great appreciation to Rebecca Mills for her sterling work as Interim Director.

Subscriptions to the Friends of the Music are now due. They can be paid to the treasurer, Martin Stanley, after a Soundbites concert, or left at the office in the Parish Centre.