

In February, Matilda Lloyd (trumpet), and Richard Gowers (organ), gave an intriguing concert of works by Bach, Eben, Telemann and Purcell, which was quite a revelation.

The season ended in March with a visit from the Vienna Piano Trio, in a programme of works by Mozart, Rachmaninov, and Schumann.

News from our artists

The famous Brodsky Quartet is celebrating its 50th Anniversary, and if you think that the musicians do not look quite old enough, part of the explanation is that they started their quartet at the age of ten.

Their cellist, Jaqueline Thomas, has written a memoir of the first ten years of the quartet entitled, intriguingly: 'Jacksons, Monk & Rowe and the Brodsky Quartet – the formative years'.

The book is to be published in October, but is available from the Publishers' website now. Details about the book and her husband and fellow Brodsky member, Paul Cassidy's books 'Get Beethoven' and 'Got Beethoven' can be found on the SVAM website's News Page: www.svam.org.uk/news

Sponsorship and Donations

We should like to thank all those who helped us with concert sponsorship and donations during the 2021-22 season, which meant that the deficit for a very expensive programme of special celebration concerts was less than expected.

This season we are delighted and grateful to have secured support for every concert from the following:

Birkett Long Solicitors for the concert on 9 October

The Countess of Munster Musical Trust for 23 October Violin and Piano recital
Jane Jewell for Martin Roscoe on 20 November

Alan Swerdlow and Jeremy Greenwood for the Echéa Quartet on 26 February
Grier and Partners for the Mithras Trio on 12 March.

Thank you

Finally, many thanks to our amazing members and audience and very special thanks to all those who make us welcome in their venues as well as to our committee members and other volunteers.

We look forward to welcoming old and new friends in 2022-23.

Birte Kelly

Welcome to the 72nd Season

It was a great relief to us get through our special season of postponed celebration concerts in 2021-22 without any cancellations. We had good audiences despite the understandable caution of many of our members and regulars.

The feedback from our concerts was tremendous. In addition to the regular winter season, we put on a garden concert and drinks party for members including many who joined the previous year to support us. This was in August 2021 and was featured in last year's Newsletter. There is a separate report about the season in this newsletter.

Courteney Willett

We are sad to announce the death of Courteney Willett on 13th March 2022. Courteney was an excellent musician, and had an extensive knowledge of classical music. He was always generous with his support and happy to help and advise us long after he retired from the committee as an outstanding concert secretary.

Our new membership model

Last year was all about Covid security and never knowing if we would have new restrictions imposed. We therefore suspended season tickets but gave paid up members the possibility of booking discounted tickets as early or late as they liked. It seemed that picking whichever concert you preferred was popular, but many also asked about season tickets. This year we have therefore set up a hybrid model. Members and non-members alike can buy either season tickets OR single event tickets. The difference is that members get a discount. The tax rules allow us to claim discounts on both donations and membership fees, but the value of discounts for membership should not exceed 25%. That is the reason for the way the various prices have been calculated. Unlike 2019-20 and before, we no longer offer a cheaper deal for double membership. It seems unfair to singles, and we have almost given up posting stuff, so there is no admin saving. Those who choose membership and do not buy a season ticket can buy their tickets at any time from the booking

secretary or online with a discount via TicketSource.

We will also return to ticket sales on the door and continue to offer tickets at the office of Grier and Partners in East Bergholt from three weeks before each concert.

Social distancing and other precautions

We are hoping that things will be back to normal but, if they are not, we accept that some safety measures may be reintroduced, whether mandatory or advisory, and we also ask everybody to respect those who wish to maintain distance and wear masks.

Refreshments and intervals

We are planning full length concerts again and hope that we can reintroduce interval refreshments. We may, however, need to look at recruiting helpers for this. Please let us know if you would be willing to provide or help with catering.

Our 2022-23 Programme

The programme of concerts and one lecture is briefly set out in our folded Programme Brochure. As you will see, there is our usual mixture of established concert artists and younger emerging

artists and ensembles. Last year we had more of the former category than usual, but this year, the balance is more towards newcomers. We have identified several new young artists, who have all won major competitions and are embarking on highly acclaimed professional careers. This applies to our Countess of Munster artist and her duo partner as well as to the two young ensembles who finish our season on 26 February in East Bergholt and 12 March in Dedham. For the other concerts, many of you have already come across the Kammerphilharmonie Europa, who bring their small orchestra to places across all of Europe. Last, but not least, we are excited to welcome Martin Roscoe who is sufficiently famous in classical music circles to need no further introduction.

Venues and Times

We look forward to our first concert at the beautiful Stour Valley church of Stratford St Mary. Our concert there will be held at 3pm, an hour earlier than our usual time at the request of the musicians. For the concert, there will be parking on the field by the church with access via a gate into the churchyard and through the South Door. The North Door on to the road will also be open. Our season will finish with a concert in Dedham which we will hold an hour later at 5pm, to make it easier for concert goers to park in the High Street

where the 2 hour parking limit finishes at 6pm. All other events are at 4pm on Sundays at East Bergholt.

SVAM Education Projects

The society has a dedicated fund to support education projects, and we are committed to ensuring that children benefit from this through workshops and performance opportunities.

Last season, the Meraki Duo gave a workshop at Dedham Primary School on 17 January 2022, the day after their recital for us. We will attempt to hold further school workshops during the 2022-23 season.

Our **Young Musicians' Concerts** have been very popular for as long as they have run, and this season we are planning a post-pandemic relaunch on Sunday 5 March 2023. The concert is an extra event, not included in the season ticket but open to all, and tickets are just £6 including afternoon tea.

A report on the 2021-2022 season

By Richard Evans

The seventy-first season of music and events promoted by the Stour Valley Arts and Music Society took place as advertised, without alarm.

The Brodsky quartet made their debut at East Bergholt with a varied programme of works by Purcell, Puccini, Tanaka, Shostakovich and Schubert, to such audience acclaim that it is very much hoped that the group will soon make a return visit.

In October the Maggini and Solem quartets combined to give a joint recital of works by Ireland, and John Metcalf, *Towards Silence: A Winter Journey* for string quartet, while the second half of the recital was devoted to a performance of Mendelssohn's Octet. In November Susan Owens, formerly Curator of Paintings at the Victoria and Albert Museum, gave a lecture entitled *Spirit of Place: Artists, Writers and the British Landscape*.

Later in the month the pianist, Charles Owen, gave a recital of works by Schumann (*Kinderszenen*), Schubert (Four Impromptus, D935), and two works by Chopin (the Nocturne opus 15 no 2, and the Barcarolle, opus 60).

The Countess of Munster recitals returned in January when the Meraki Duo of Meera Maharaj (flute), and James Girling (guitar), gave a varied sample from their repertoire to an appreciative audience at the Constable Hall.