

The Suffolk Villages Festival 23-25 August 2024

Friday 23 August at 7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Hadleigh IP7 5DT
Spanish Baroque Masterpieces
Psalmody, The John Jenkins Consort,
Essex Baroque Orchestra
directed by Peter Holman

Saturday 24 August at 7.30pm
Sudbury Arts Centre at St Peter's C010 2EA
Steven Devine directs music of the Bach family
Satoko Doi-Luck harpsichord
Steven Devine fortepiano

Sunday 25 August at 7pm
St Mary's Church, Stoke by Nayland CO6 4QU
The Gesualdo Six
English Motets from Dunstaple to
Orlando Gibbons

Monday 26 August at 11am
St Mary's Church, Boxford CO10 5DU
The World of the Baroque Flute
Quantz, Hotteterre, C.P.E. Bach, Couperin
and J.S. Bach
Noemi Gyori Baroque flute
Paul Nicholson harpsichord

Monday 26 August at 7pm
St Mary's Church, Hadleigh IP7 5DT
Henry Purcell: The Indian Queen
Philippa Hyde soprano
Charles Daniels tenor, Stuart O'Hara bass
Rosamund Shelley & Stephen Varcoe
speakers
Psalmody, Essex Baroque Orchestra,
directed by Peter Holman

www.suffolkvillagesfestival.com

Sponsorship and Donations

We would like to thank all those who helped us with generous concert sponsorships and donations during the 2023-24 season, which helped to keep our accounts in surplus this year.

We were delighted and grateful to have secured support for most of our events from the following:

Birkett Long Solicitors for the concert on 8 October 2023 at Stratford St Mary.

Jane Jewell for the Brodsky Quartet on 29 October in East Bergholt.

Dianne Willett and family for the concert on 26 November in memory of Courteney Willett in East Bergholt.

Grier and Partners for the talk on Sir Alfred Munnings on 21 January 2024, in the Constable Hall East Bergholt.

The Countess of Munster Musical Trust for the concert at the Constable Hall on 11 February 2024.

Thank you

Finally, many thanks to our members, volunteers and supporters, as well as special thanks to all those who made us welcome in their venues.

We look forward to welcoming old and new friends to our concerts in 2024-25.

*Birte Kelly
On behalf of the committee*

Stour Valley Arts & Music

Newsletter 2024-25 Number 26— July 2024

Welcome to the 74th season

We are starting our concert season unusually early on Sunday 8 September. When Nicky Spence, the 2022 winner of BBC Music Magazine Personality of the Year, agreed to perform for us, we had to try very hard to find a date when he was free. Hopefully you can all be there to see and hear this charismatic performer.

Our Countess of Munster Recital at Stratford St Mary will take place on **Sunday 20 October**, which is a change from the 6 October date we announced on our Bookmark. We look forward to hearing Ensemble Renard, a talented young Wind Quintet.

By popular demand, the eminent pianist Martin Roscoe is back on 17 November with a varied programme ranging from Beethoven to Szymanowski via Wagner and Liszt.

After a break for Christmas and the coldest months, we have our final two concerts in March, both in East Bergholt.

The Kammerphilharmonie Europa chamber orchestra is coming back on 9 March with their popular trumpet player, playing mostly baroque repertoire, but also music by Delius and Mozart.

The Henschel Quartet were due to join us for our 70th season in 2020, but Covid put a stop to that, and Brexit made it harder to reorganise. Some of us saw them for their 30th anniversary concert at Orford Church in June, where they performed the extraordinary Norfolk Quartet by Freda Swain, which they will play for us on Sunday 23 March, along with quartets by Beethoven and Schubert. It is bound to be yet another highlight.

Membership and Season Tickets

As before, you become a member by buying a season ticket. Membership has considerable benefits. We have occasional member-only events, but above all there is a considerable discount, which is effectively five concerts for the cost of three, with an added bonus of a lecture. Single tickets will continue to be available for sale. They can be bought online via TicketSource, ordered from the Booking Secretary, and paid for on the door in cash or by card. We will also continue to sell tickets through Grier and Partners in East Bergholt from about three weeks before each concert.

Season tickets can be bought only from the Booking Secretary, Doreen Weatherall, using the booking form and preferably paying by cheque.

The Annual Lecture

We are very pleased that we now have a professional lecturer on our committee and look forward to Paul Campion's illustrated talk on Kathleen Ferrier in which we will also hear samples of her singing.

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 whenever these can be arranged.

Young Musicians' Concerts

We were sad that we had to cancel last year's concert. Several potential performers were taking part in a big local competition on the same day and others had too much other work due to mock exams the week after the concert and cancelled their appearance.

We are hoping that the earlier date of 9 February is better than March. If you know of any young people who would benefit from a concert opportunity like this, please let us know.

A report on the 73rd season 2023-2024.

By Richard Evans

Consistent with the idea that SVAM concerts should seek new audiences at different venues, the first recital of the season took place at St Mary's Church, Stratford-St-Mary, and had a distinctly antique hue, as it featured music written by composers who were active in London during the eighteenth century. Entitled *Handel in the Strand*, the Ensemble Hesperis deployed their forces of harpsichord, violin, cello and recorder to give a varied and entertaining programme of works by Blow, Sammartini, Playford, Purcell, and Handel (among others), which was greatly enjoyed by an appreciative audience.

The Brodsky quartet made a return visit to East Bergholt at the end of October, to play works by Stravinsky, Rachmaninov (two movements for string quartet, rarely noticed and seldom played), the first quartet of Benjamin Britten, two pieces by Shostakovich, and yet another arrangement of Rachmaninov's ubiquitous *Vocalise* made by the Brodsky's viola player, Paul Cassidy. The final work of the afternoon was the string quartet of Debussy, a great favourite of concert hall and recital room, which proved to be as popular as always and was greeted with much enthusiasm.

The pianist Clare Hammond also returned to East Bergholt in November, to present a varied recital of works by Hélène de Montgeroult (the first lady professor of piano to be appointed at the Paris Conservatoire), three romances by Clara Schumann, three 'Negro Melodies' by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (a previously neglected composer now much in fashion) and pieces by Chaminade, Ravel and Isaac Albéniz. Described as a 'pianist of extraordinary gifts' Clare Hammond gave a dazzling display of musicianship and virtuosity that certainly justified the acclaim of Gramophone magazine.

In January there was a lecture delivered on the life and work of Sir Alfred Munnings, given by Jenny Hand, the director of the Munnings Art Museum in Dedham. She gave a biographical sketch of Sir Alfred's life from his early training in Norwich, his association with the Newlyn school in Cornwall, his work as a war artist, to the equestrian portraits of society figures and the Royal family, all of which was admirably explained to a knowledgeable audience at the Constable Hall.

In February a recital of music for cello and piano was given by Maxim Calver and Kumi Matsuo that included Debussy's sonata for cello and piano, the rather dark and lugubrious E minor sonata of Brahms, and Mendelssohn's

second sonata for cello and piano. Both musicians were highly accomplished, sensitive to nuance and phrasing, so it was rather a disappointment that Schumann's *Fantasiestücke* opus 73, despite being advertised, was not performed.

The Solem quartet first appeared in East Bergholt in 2021 when they played their part in Mendelssohn's rarely performed Octet, with their mentors and teachers from the Maggini quartet supplying the other half. They returned to give the final concert of the season at Stratford-St-Mary in a programme of works by Janáček (his 'Kreutzer Quartet'), the world premiere of the string quintet by Errollyn Wallen and Mendelssohn's quintet in A. They were joined by the violist Shiry Rashkovsky in both quintets.

AGM 2024

The 73rd annual general meeting of Stour Valley Arts & Music Society will be held at St. Mary's Church, East Bergholt after the concert on **Sunday 17 November**.

2023-24 members have a vote but new members (2024-25) are also welcome to attend.

CONGRATULATIONS

Ipswich Chamber Music Society is celebrating its 100th season

None of their concerts clash with ours, see <https://www.ipswichchambermusic.org.uk/>