

COSSINGTON CONCERT CIRCULAR



NEWSLETTER OF THE COSSINGTON CONCERT CIRCLE

AUGUST 2011

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'I and my fellow adjudicator Dr Ben Curry thought that all the competitors gave impressive performances, but that Sarah played a well-chosen programme with a degree of technical assurance, musical sensitivity, and ability to transmit her enjoyment of the music to the audience unusual in a musician of her age.'
Andrew Carter

top row, left to right: Andrew Carter, Antony Carr and Ben Curry
bottom row: Chris Hedges, Sarah Padday, Mitch Brine and Tom Francombe
photo by Ian Rix

Rewarding Talent

The second annual Nancy Carr Prize Competition took place at the Manor on Sunday 3 July. As the photo above shows, it was a happy, deeply musical occasion. Among those present were Nancy's husband, Antony, daughter, Helen, and her dear friend, Frankie Gray.

All four performances by the young musicians were superb, but everyone agreed that the cellist Sarah Padday deserved the prize. Tom Francombe nearly pipped her at the post with the gorgeous sound of his tuba. Mitch Brine attracted praise from every corner for the astonishing progress he has made, both on the piano and more generally as a musician. Chris Hedges, the youngest by several years, showed himself to be a strong future contender for the prize. Our adjudicators this year were Andrew Carter and Ben Curry. Andrew, speaking on behalf of both men and showing what a skilled ex-diplomat he is, offered wise observations about each performer and sent them away happy to have taken part. Sarah will return next season to present what is sure to be a memorable recital.

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*Tea party at the Manor following the performances by the competitors for the 2011 Nancy Carr Prize
photo by Ian Rix*

REPRISE

Luke Tucker

Luke Tucker, our 2010 Nancy Casrr Prize winner, amazed and delighted us with his progress since becoming a student at the Royal College of Music. His programme was carefully balanced with familiar and not-so-familiar composers. Among the latter were William Hurlstone and the Frenchmen Eugene Bozza and Marcel Bitsch – all of them bassoonists. Before beginning to play, Luke spoke passionately about his desire to illustrate the remarkable expressive qualities of his instrument. He made his case very eloquently indeed.

Carole Cerasi

Gamine, bubbling with charm when she spoke and a breath-taking virtuoso when she played, Carole Cerasi stole our hearts and minds. Her recital, richly and amusingly illustrated at the Circle meeting the night before, was a treasure trove of music by Bach, Scarlatti and their French Baroque contemporaries, meant to illustrate the repertoire and remind us of just how enjoyable a harpsichord recital can be, especially when experienced in the intimacy of St Mary's, Cossington. Our old friend Mark Ransom kindly supplied the beautiful two-manual harpsichord.

Alexandra Heeley

Clarinetist Alex Heeley and her pianist Clare Isdell brought this season's Manor Music Room Recitals to a sublime close with a concert in aid of the Nancy Carr Gift. A lovely lyrical player, Alex charmed us with works by Burgmüller, Cahuzac (a French clarinetist) and Joseph Horowitz as well as Schumann and Stravinsky. We're enormously grateful to her.



top: Luke Tucker with his pianist, Susie Summers

*below: Carole Cerasi
photos by Ian Beech*

Preview

An Evening of Cabaret Music

Katie Bray mezzo soprano
William Vann piano

17 September, 6.30 for 7

Hill House

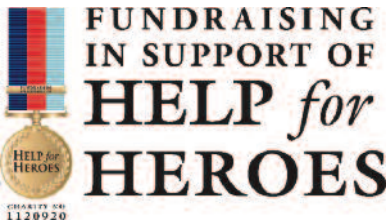
Shapwick

A pre-booked 'cabaret supper' will immediately follow the recital.

Dickie and Bobbie Sharp have kindly offered Hill House as the venue for

An Evening of Cabaret Music

They've asked if we might raise funds on the night for **Help for Heroes**, which we'll do with an exceptional raffle.



As in past years, proceeds from the Countess of Munster Musical Trust sponsored concert will go to our **Fund for Young Musicians**.



Katie Bray and William will perform a full programme of cabaret songs, including Kurt Weill's 'Je ne t'aime pas', Harold Arlen's 'The Man That Got Away' - made famous by Judy Garland in A Star is Born - and Louis Gugliemi's 'La vie en rose'.

The concert will begin at 7 pm, with wine and soft drinks available to purchase beforehand. The raffle draw will take place at the end of the interval. Kate Hunt is our chef for the post-concert, candle-lit supper.

TICKETS for the concert + cabaret supper (£35) or the concert alone (£15) are available from Marian Curry (01278 683777).



The mezzo soprano **Katie Bray** is this year's Countess of Munster Musical Trust Recital Scheme Artist. Katie read Music at Manchester before heading to London to the Royal Academy of Music where she is on the opera course; she was recently awarded First Prize in the Academy's prestigious Richard Lewis singing competition. This summer, she is performing the role of Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro* with British Youth Opera at the Peacock Theatre. Forthcoming concerts include a Songmakers' Almanac recital with Graham Johnson and a Countess of Munster Young Artists recital in the Wigmore Hall.

Cabaret music is one of her special interests, so she's much looking forward to talking about it at the Circle evening on 16 September.

William Vann is at the forefront of the current generation of young British accompanists. A Cambridge choral scholar and graduate in Law, William studied at the Royal Academy of Music where in 2008 he won the Gerald Moore Award for young accompanists. He is a Yeoman of the Worshipful Company of Musicians, a Young Songmaker and has been a Britten-Pears Young Artist.

CABARET RAFFLE

Cossington Concerts is eager to raise as much as possible on the night for Help for Heroes. Our goal is £1000.

To ensure that we achieve this, we have gathered together some super raffle prizes:

- one week in a stunning Spanish villa with pool for up to 10 people
(ref: www.holiday-rentals.com [property 55736]; special terms and conditions apply)
- a framed painting (oil) by Camilla Clark: 'Tor and Levels'
- IT support for 3 months
- a mixed case of wine
- a pair of tickets to our 19 November concert and reception
- a professional cut and blow-dry
- a cream tea for four

TICKETS: 5 for £10 (£2 each) Registered under the Gambling Act 2005 with Sedgemoor District Council.

Final Curtain



photo by Ian Rix

Dr Wendy McPhee has sadly announced that this is to be Theatre Set-Up's last season. Her health and the rising costs of touring have finally taken their toll.

The company, a registered charity, has been touring the UK since 1976 and mainland Europe since 1993. The productions have a 30-year old reputation for being clear,

light, and accessible to a wide range of people of all age groups, including those whose first language is not English.

In September Wendy will sell what she calls 'a job lot' of all the assets of the company. They include costumes, outdoor sound and lighting equipment, props, bespoke Tudor-style tents, musical instruments and even a Mercedes Benz Springer. For further information, phone 07802 723970 or 0208 886 9572.

We'll miss them!

A Grand for the Hall

As you all know, Cossington Concerts is providing the new Cossington Village Hall with a piano, thanks to many generous donations from individuals and groups within the Polden Hills and, notably, some of our Wider Circle members.

The search for the perfect upright took a surprising turn when we received a telephone call from a retired piano teacher in Catcott, Donald Kuhn, enquiring whether we had found an instrument. If not, might we consider his beloved 40-year-old Kawai boudoir grand? Stephen Bell and Julie Anne Sadie went to see it and were extremely impressed with its quality. Next we sent our trusty tuner, Kerry Tozer of Highbridge, to assess it, and he, too, was impressed. Following a presentation to the Village Hall Management Committee, Julie took along two members of the Committee, Derek Gibson and Chairman Geoff Cross, who were thrilled at the prospect of acquiring it for the Hall.

We've now purchased it and have enough money left to acquire an adjustable stool, a specially tailored, padded cover and a frame on which the piano can ride round the Hall in safety. Kerry will carry out some routine maintenance and then it will be ready to install in the Hall in November. Mr Kuhn will join donors, Circle members, the Village Hall Management Committee and Cossington Concert Trustees for the official presentation at the reception following the inaugural concert on 19 November. See you all there!



Cyrus and Mary Clark Patrons

The Cossington Concert Trust

David Goode *Chairman*

Derek Logan *Secretary*

Alan Miller *Treasurer*

Julie Anne Sadie *Artistic Director*

Stephen Bell *Fund for Young Musicians*

Marian Curry *Membership and Tickets*

Alison Buchanan, Sheila Hamilton and Liz Wasdell

Trustees

The Manor Cossington Bridgwater Somerset TA7 8JR

The Cossington Concert Trust is registered in England

as a limited company (no. 4358724) and a charity (no. 1092995).

www.cossingtonconcerts.com

Would you like to become more involved ?

01278 723655

Diary Dates

Saturday MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

6 August

The Manor Garden Theatre

6.30 pm

picnicking from 5 pm

Friday

Circle Meeting

16 September

Katie Bray introduces Cabaret

7.30 pm

The Manor

Saturday

An Evening of Cabaret Music

17 September

Katie Bray & William Vann

6.30 for 7.0 pm

Hill House, Shapwick

with candlelit supper to follow

Saturday

The Ardeo Quartet & Alexander Karpeyev

19 November

Cossington Village Hall

7.30 pm

post-concert gala reception

with the presentation of the piano

TICKETS & INFORMATION

Marian Curry 01278 683777