



Witney Music Society
2015-6

50th
*Anniversary
Season*

All concerts promoted and arranged by
Witney Music Society

Registered Charity No. 1041940

Friday 9 October 2015 at 7.30pm at Wood Green School

MARTIN JONES piano



Photo: Malcolm Crowthers

Czerny Grand Capriccio Op. 172

Mendelssohn Variations serieuses Op. 54

Grainger *In a Nutshell Suite*

Guastavino Las Niñas

Tierra Linda

Ravel Valses nobles et sentimentales

J Strauss II arr Friedman *Fruhlingsstimmen*

After a long absence, **Martin Jones** – who took part in Witney Music Society's first season – makes a welcome return with a delightful programme of piano works from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Witney-born Martin Jones was a chorister at Magdalen College School then studied at the Royal Academy of Music. He has been one of Britain's most highly regarded pianists since first coming to international attention in 1968 when he made his London debut at the Queen Elizabeth Hall and his New York debut at Carnegie Hall. Since then he has continued to be in demand for recitals and concerto performances on both sides of the Atlantic. He is also a prolific recording artist and his many discs for Nimbus Records include the complete solo piano works of Mendelssohn, Brahms, Debussy, Grainger, Szymanowski, Stravinsky and Korngold.

Friday 13 November 2015 at 7.30pm at High Street Methodist Church

ARONOWITZ ENSEMBLE



Dvořák *Cypresses for string quartet (selections)*

Beethoven Sonata in D major for cello and piano,
Op. 102 No. 2 (Guy Johnston and
Tom Poster)

Brahms Piano quintet in F minor, Op. 34

The **Aronowitz Ensemble** of outstanding young artists was formed in 2004 and since then has maintained a busy schedule of broadcasts, recordings, and engagements across the UK and beyond. The ensemble performs a wide range of repertoire – familiar, neglected and new – in different combinations; this concert features five of the artists, playing works for duo, quartet and quintet.

The programme opens with Dvořák's arrangement for string quartet of several songs from his series *Cypresses*. These lyrical early works are followed by Beethoven's final sonata for cello and piano, an innovative composition that is characteristic of his visionary late period. The concert ends with Brahms's majestic piano quintet which is widely regarded as his greatest chamber music work.

Friday 11 December 2015 at 7.30pm at Wood Green School

KATHERINE BIRTLES flute JOSE MENOR piano



Schubert Arpeggione Sonata in A minor, D. 821

Poulenc Flute Sonata, FP 164

Harty *In Ireland*

Griffes *Poem (arr.)*

Prokofiev Sonata in D major, Op. 94

Scott *Salt of the Earth (arr.)*

Katherine Birtles completed a Masters degree in Music Performance with distinction at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music, before which she had gained a Bachelor of Music first class honours degree at Birmingham Conservatoire. Katherine was the 2014 winner of the All Flutes Plus scholarship to the Oxford Flute Summer School. She is a member of the Westgate Wind Quintet.

José Menor, who was born in Spain, completed his Masters degree at the Royal College of Music and his Artist Diploma at the Yale University School of Music. He is currently a Junior Fellow at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music. José has appeared in concerts internationally, both as a soloist and in concerto performances and is also an avid chamber musician, collaborating with many ensembles.

Original works for flute by Poulenc, Hamilton Harty and Prokofiev are interspersed with transcriptions and arrangements of works originally written for other instruments, including the arpeggione and the tuba.

Friday 8 January 2016 at 7.30pm at Wood Green School

ALISON ROSE soprano MATTHEW FLETCHER piano



Wolf Selection of Goethe and Mörike Lieder

Schubert Selection of Lieder

Strauss Selection of Lieder

Purcell Evening Hymn, Sweeter than Roses

Walton 3 songs to poems by Edith Sitwell

Britten Early one morning, O can ye sew cushions?

O Waly, Waly

How sweet the answer;

The brisk young widow

Alison Rose studied at the Royal Northern College of Music and then on the Masters programme at the Royal Academy of Music, graduating with first class honours and the prestigious DipRAM. Alison is the winner of the 2015 Maggie Teyte Prize and is currently studying on the opera course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She has appeared in operatic roles with several companies and has given concert and recital performances across the UK.

Matthew Fletcher studied at the Royal Academy of Music, where he subsequently held the Hodgson Fellowship. He also holds a double first class degree in music from Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he was organ scholar. He has won numerous awards for piano accompaniment and is in demand as a recitalist both in the UK and abroad. Matthew is also a repetiteur and vocal coach, and works with many rising stars of opera and song recitals.

Friday 12 February 2016 at 7.30pm at Wood Green School

ALESSANDRO RUISI violin DINA DUISEN piano



Mozart Violin sonata No. 26 in B-flat major, K.378

Beethoven Sonata in C minor, Op. 30 No. 2

Franck Sonata in A major for violin and piano

Alessandro Ruisi graduated with a first class honours degree from the Royal College of Music and was subsequently awarded a scholarship for postgraduate study there. He is first violinist of the prize-winning Ruisi Quartet. Alessandro has also performed and recorded with several orchestras.

Dina Duisen, who was born in Kazakhstan, gained her Master of Arts degree with distinction at the Royal Academy of Music and has won major prizes at many piano competitions. She regularly gives solo recitals and also plays chamber music in the Duisen Duo with her violinist brother Ordabek and performs repertoire for two pianos in the Duisen-Khamis duo.

In this programme, a Mozart mature violin sonata is followed by a turbulent piece from Beethoven's middle period. The final work, possibly César Franck's most well-known composition, is widely regarded as one of the finest violin sonatas.



Friday 11 March 2016 at 7.30pm at Wood Green School

PHOENIX PIANO TRIO

Sholto Kynoch, piano | Jonathan Stone, violin | Christian Elliott, cello



Leipzig in the 1840s

Clara Schumann Piano Trio in G, Op. 17

Niels Gade Novelletten for piano trio, Op. 29

Mendelssohn Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor

The **Phoenix Piano Trio**, which was formed in 2010, has rapidly established itself as one of today's leading ensembles. Jonathan Stone is an acclaimed chamber musician, soloist and orchestral leader and is a member of the celebrated Doric String Quartet; Christian Elliott is a member of the Zehetmair Quartet and is also a composer and a frequent guest principal cellist with many UK orchestras; Sholto Kynoch is a sought-after pianist who specialises in chamber music and song accompaniment and is also the founder and artistic director of the renowned Oxford Lieder Festival.

Clara and Robert Schumann married in 1840 and settled in Leipzig, which was being transformed by Mendelssohn into one of the most important music cities in Europe. With encouragement from Mendelssohn, Niels Gade also moved there from his home in Copenhagen. This programme brings together three fine compositions that were created in this extraordinary environment.