

The Lenthall Concerts

Season 2016-17

Howard Skempton (accordion)

Esther Cavett (piano)

Michael Bochmann (violin)

Thomas Lunt (violin)

Emma Rednall (cello)

Wednesday, November 30th 2016

Burford School

WITNEY WINTER CONCERTS

Friday, December 9th 7.30pm

**Wood Green School, Woodstock Road,
Witney**

Piva

The Twelve Days of Christmas - Music and Mayhem
from Shakespeare's Time

Performing seasonal music from the time of Shakespeare, this renowned early music group will take you on a journey back to Tudor times to celebrate the yuletide season in true Elizabethan style. Playing over 30 authentic instruments such as hurdy-gurdy, bagpipes, shawms and recorders, Piva will wash away the Victorian influences and take you back to the origins of many of our familiar Christmas customs and carols.

Tickets £12/£11 (under 18 £1)

**from Rapture in the Woolgate shopping centre;
Greenway Antiques, Corn Street; online; or at the door**

Concessions apply for senior citizens and students

www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk

THE LENTHALL CONCERTS

Artistic Director: Michael Bochmann

Coming next:

Wednesday, January 18th 2017

Carducci Quartet Tom Poster (piano)

Quartet in B flat K458

Mozart

("The Hunt")

Quartet no.11 in F minor op.122

Shostakovich

Piano Quintet in F minor op/14

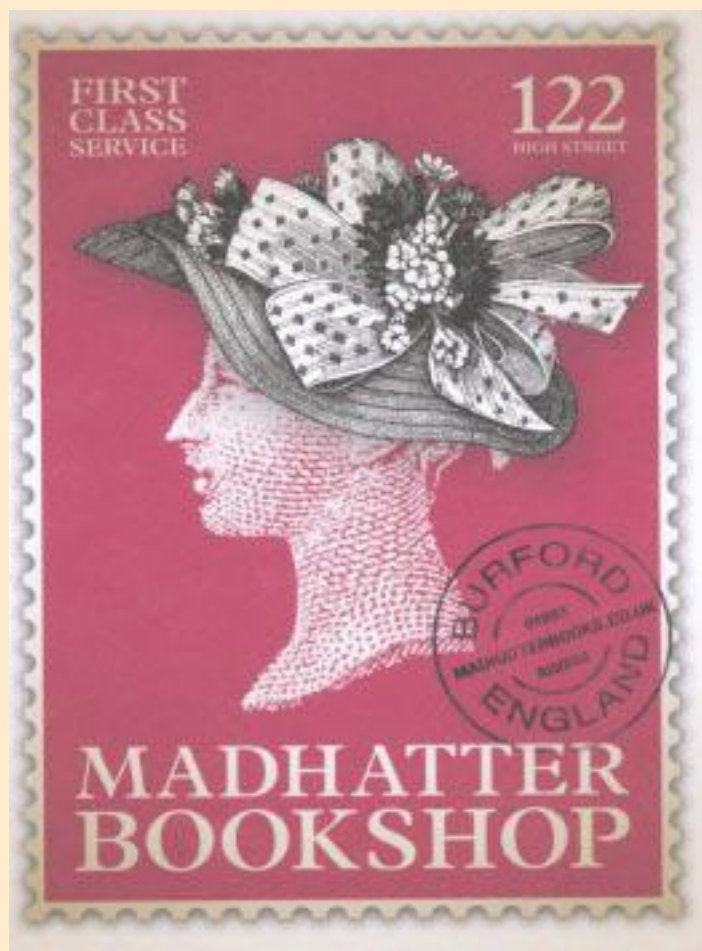
Brahms

The internationally acclaimed quartet return to the Lenthall Concerts with one of Mozart's sunniest quartets and one by a composer they have become particularly associated with. They are joined by another Lenthall favourite for one of the great piano quintets.

Tickets: £15 at the door; £13 in advance from:

— **The Lenthall Concerts** (01993 822279)

— **Madhatter Bookshop, 122 Burford High Street**
(01993 822539)



Cheltenham

Chamber Music

Pittville Music Room

Wednesday 7th December at 7.30pm

Clare Hammond (piano)

Bach - Toccata and Fugue in D minor BWV 913

Beethoven - Sonata no.8 in C minor op.13

Dutilleux - Au gré des ondes

Medtner - Sonata Romantica op.53

Boulanger - D'un Vieux Jardin and D'un Jardin Clair

Stravinsky - Petrushka Suite

Clare Hammond is recognised for the virtuosity and authority of her performances. The Guardian described her as a "dazzling athlete" following her Barbican debut in 2015, while in 2014 she gave debut performances at 7 festivals across Europe, including the "Chopin and his Europe" Festival in Warsaw

Single tickets £23 and £18 from Town Hall Box Office (Tel: 0844 576 2210)

Programme

Sonata in D major for violin and piano no4 op1 no13

George Frideric Handel
(1685-1759)

Affetuoso
Allegro
Larghetto
Allegro

Handel's manuscript for this, one of a set of six written in the 1720s and 1730s, survives to this day, which gives it the stamp of authority above that of the several editions of the work which appeared in London and Amsterdam. It has the slow-fast-slow-fast structure of the *sonata da chiesa* (Italian for "church sonata"), in which form music was frequently written in the baroque period to correspond with the Gradual-Offertory-Elevation-Communion of the mass, but there is no suggestion of a religious connection here. The marking of the first movement (translated as "affectionate") is somehow demonstrated in the violin's first entry, where the fourth note, instead of completing the D major chord, goes to a rather tasty ninth, which sets a mood which is maintained throughout. The *allegro* which follows has all the jauntiness of "*The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*", and was in fact used by Handel as the basis for the opening for the second act of his oratorio "*Solomon*" some years later. The third movement makes a stately, rather sad progress in both parts, but the celebratory mood is restored in the finale, which also came out of Handel's bottom drawer when he composed the oratorio "*Jephtha*".

Four pieces for solo accordion

Howard Skempton
(b.1947)

Howard Skempton will introduce the pieces.

Sonatina in G op.100

Antonin Dvorak
(1841-1904)

Allegro risoluto
Larghetto
Molto vivace
Allegro

In 1892 Dvorak succumbed to the well-funded blandishments of Mrs Jeanette Thurber, the wife of a successful New York grocer, and became the Director of the Conservatoire she had founded at 128 East 17th Street. He took with him his wife and two of his six children and

settled happily into American society and musical circles. Always receptive of the music around him, and possibly because he had a few black students in his classes, his music took on some of the colours of the indigenous music around him, the most stirring example being the "New World" symphony, completed in 1893. Soon afterwards he left for a brief stay in Spillville, a colony of Czech expats in Iowa, from which he made excursions to Chicago to conduct his own works at the World's Fair. During one of these he visited the Minnehaha Falls near St Pauls, Minnesota and was so moved by the beauty of the place that he jotted down (on his cuff, reputedly) the tune that he later used in the slow movement of this sonatina. It is a charming work, which Dvorak wrote for two of his children, the fifteen-year-old Ottilie and the ten-year-old Antonín, to play; although he assured his publisher, Simrock, that grown-ups would enjoy playing it too.



Mrs Jeanette Thurber

"Risoluto" certainly describes the demanding opening phrase, although it is immediately followed by a graceful response recalling some of the other Dvorak compositions composed at the time. This dialogue continues throughout the movement. The larghetto is a lullaby-like song for the violin, with a tiny more animated passage to stop us from dozing off, and the dancing third movement is Dvorak at his most felicitous. In the finale Dvorak, always the supreme melodist, gives us a feast of good tunes.

Interval

Israeli Folk Songs

*Ernest Kaye
(1922-2012)*

Ernest Kaye was one of a small number of composers (Borodin comes to mind) whose main occupation was something quite other than music. He was, in fact, an electronic engineer and part of the team which created the country's first business computer, Leo, or the Lyons Electronic Office, which excited those of us who were around in the early Fifties. At about the same time he won his LRAM at the Royal Academy and began to write music. Some of his pieces were published by the OUP, including sets of piano pieces for children, and this suite, originally written for flute or oboe, cello and piano.

Nigun

Ernest Bloch

(1880-1959)



Ernest Bloch

Although he was born in Geneva, Bloch lived for much of his professional life in the United States, and became firmly associated with music which has strongly Jewish characteristics - indeed, his publisher, Schirmer, conceived a logo for his works which incorporated the Star of David. *Nigun* is the central piece of a triptych for violin and piano entitled "*Baal Shem*". It was written in 1923 and was inspired by Jewish spiritual life, celebrating the Hassidim sect who wanted to reach God through the joy of singing and dancing. "*Nigun*" in Hebrew means, simply, "melody" but with strong religious connotations, and the its sound is unmistakably

that of a threnody, with the violin pouring out an impassioned line. It is difficult to imagine any other instrument having the same ability to match the sorrowful human voice.

Five pieces

Howard Skempton

Howard Skempton will introduce these pieces

Czardas

Vittorio Monti

(1868-1922)

Monti was born in Naples and after studying at the *Conservatorio di San Pietro a Majella* embarked on a career as composer, violinist, mandolinist and conductor. His works contain ballets and operettas but nothing as famous as this piece, which has been commandeered by every gypsy orchestra within range and plagiarised by everyone from Danny Kaye to Lady Gaga. Such is the fate of pieces as open-hearted and tuneful as this.

Programme notes by Christopher Yapp

THE LENTHALL CONCERTS

Artistic Director: Michael Bochmann

Secretary: Penny Barraclough

President: Christopher Yapp

Concert Administrator: Christina Scherer

Chair: Ann Holland

Publicity: Nicola Hillman

Vice-Chairman: vacant

Member: Penelope Leaf

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Burford Institute of Music

The Lenthall season is presented in conjunction with the Burford Institute of Music. The Institute offers a programme of opportunities to those who are interested in, or have a talent for, music. The aim of the Institute is to share our expertise and enthusiasm with others across the North Cotswold Area and to provide students with outstanding musical opportunities. The Institute provides a central venue for primary pupils in the area to come together each week to attend music lessons after school and then play together as an ensemble. This initiative, established in conjunction with the Oxfordshire Music Service, enables any child to have a go at an instrument that interests them at an early age and also gives them the opportunity to share the enjoyment of playing music with others right from the start.

Esther Cavett

Esther Cavett had a first career as an academic musician. She was awarded a Henry Fellowship for doctoral research at Yale University and subsequently became a lecturer in music at Oxford University and was invited to become an honorary Associate of the Royal Academy of Music. She studied the piano with Guy Jonson at The Royal Academy of Music and also with Susan Bradshaw and Thalia Myers. She then qualified as a lawyer, spending over 20 years in the City including over a decade as capital markets partner in her law firm, but always retained her musical interests. She now combines a legal consultancy role at her firm with executive coaching and performing and teaching music.

She is Vice Chair of the Board and Member of the Board and Company of Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance.



Howard Skempton

Howard Skempton is a professional composer whose works have been published by Oxford University Press since 1994. His best known work is "Lento" (1990), commissioned by the BBC for the BBC Symphony Orchestra and was performed at 2010 BBC Proms. Much of his music is available on CD. The Oxford University Press website includes discography, a biography and details of recent compositions. He is an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music.

'Only the Sound Remains' was shortlisted for the 2011 Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards. The piece, a large scale composition for viola and chamber ensemble, was written for the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, and had its premiere in 2010. Howard has had previous success at the Awards with his string quartet, Tendrils, written for the 2004 Huddersfield Festival. It won the Royal Philharmonic Society award for chamber-scale composition. Tendrils also won the Chamber Music category in the BBC Radio 3's British Composer Awards. 'The Moon is Flashing' won the 2008 award in the vocal category.

Howard has continued to compose choral music, including an Advent antiphon for Merton College Oxford and anthems for Chester and Wells Cathedrals



photo: Katie Vandyck

Michael Bochmann

Brought up in Turkey and England, Michael Bochmann has been well known in British musical life for several decades. He has performed in the USA, all over Europe and in India. While still a student Michael was a finalist and winner of the British Prize in the 1972 Carl Flesch International Violin Competition. A year later, he was a prizewinner in the Jacques Thibaud Competition in Paris. At only 19, he made his first solo broadcasts for the BBC. During his time as a student at the Royal Academy of Music in London he was a pupil of the famous teacher Frederick Grinke. Later he received lessons from Sándor Végh and Henryk Szeryng. In February 1990 Michael partnered Sir Yehudi Menuhin in the Bach Double Violin Concerto in a most successful tour of 16 concerts throughout the USA and Canada.

Michael is very active as a teacher and is a professor of violin and chamber music at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London. He is Artistic Director of the Water City Arts Programme. He also gives private lessons, master classes and residential courses at his home in Gloucestershire.





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ON THE LAWN



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