



# NEWSLETTER

March 2011

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL SOCIETY

VOL. 30, NO. 1

## New Music at Cheltenham

It probably won't come as a surprise to any avid followers of BBC Young Musician of the Year that a festival devoting a strand to percussion is packed full of new music, since Colin Currie, one of this year's most high-profile percussionists was the very first "young musician with mallets" to be admitted to a final (in 1994 - pipped to the post by none other than Festival favourite Natalie Clein!). Colin will perform with his self-titled group and Synergy vocals in the seminal percussion work, *Drumming*.

In fact, it is fitting that alongside a percussion strand, we celebrate the 75th birthday of the composer who has written a number of classics of the percussion repertoire: Steve Reich. Some call him the grandfather of minimalism, but as the screening of a recent documentary following his world tour last year attests, he has got no intention of letting his reputation as one of the great innovators of the 20th and 21st centuries slip.

Reich shares this 75th anniversary with a remarkable British talent, Sir Richard Rodney Bennett, whose range of repertoire reaches out to a whole host of tastes. In this festival we'll hear the very English verve of his string writing, his lyrical and carefully-crafted *Saxophone Quartet*, his luscious choral writing, and his own love of lighter repertoire, as he performs the *Irving Berlin Songbook* with jazz singer Claire Martin.

There are plenty of works from living composers scattered through the festival: from Mark Anthony Turnage (the return of the restless opera *Greek*), Gabriel Jackson, Robert Saxton, Michael Berkeley, Richard Causton, Joe Duddell, Arvo Pärt, Jonathan Dove, Elliot Carter, Jonny Greenwood, David Matthews and Graham Fitkin. But with only a short space to tell you about all this fantastic music, here are the really unique events: premieres and UK firsts at Cheltenham this year.

### Wednesday 29th June:

Ian Venables sets Andrew Motion's *Elegy on the Death of the Queen Mother* in the very first concert of the festival. *Remember This* will be a clear inheritor of Vaughan Williams' pastoral style; (*On Wenlock Edge* sits alongside this premiere).

### Thursday 30th June:

Charlotte Bray specifically chose our excellent Festival Academy Soloists as the recipients of her latest work, *Replay*. Inspired by our music and maths theme this year, she takes spherical geometry (No? Me neither!) as her starting point.

### Friday 1st July:

A festival commission supported by the PRS for Music Foundation, Joseph Phibbs has written a new percussion concerto for Dame Evelyn Glennie which really does feature everything but the kitchen sink - including a packet of cornflakes and a cocktail shaker!

### Sunday 3rd July:

A very special UK premiere of some new arrangements of Steve Reich's *Counterpoints*. These have been arranged for solo percussion in consultation with Reich himself by the swiftly-rising Japanese star Kuniko Kato.

### Wednesday 6th July:

A new work, *Rondes d'Automne*, for Spohr's unusual nonet line-up from Martin Butler. Martin's music is full of dancing rhythms and bursting with colour.

### Friday 8th July:

Arlene Sierra, composition lecturer at Cardiff University, knows the Carducci Quartet very well; they have been ensemble-in-residence at the music department since 2008. The UK premiere of *Insects in Amber* is likely to make the most of the quartet's fiery passion and expressive playing.

### Friday 8th July:

Saxophone quartet Flotilla premiere a new work from local Forest-of-Dean boy Gavin Higgins. This commission has been generously funded by the Festival Society, and I'm sure will be a brilliant addition to the repertoire if the recent broadcast of his short orchestral piece *Dancing at the Edge of Hell* is anything to go by. Gavin is one to watch: he's the very first composer to be made a Fellow of the Rambert Dance Company, and his music demonstrates exquisite craftsmanship and a delicate balance of tension and motion.

### Sunday 10th July:

Edward Ruston has teamed up with wordsmith Dagny Gioulami for a reworking of the Pandora myth. *Pandora, Organic Machine* takes place in the same concert as a new arrangement of Walton's *Façade* by Iain Farrington.

Alexis Paterson

Alexis has joined the staff of the Cheltenham Music Festival as Music Festival Manager. She has recently completed a PhD in Philosophy and Musicology at Cardiff University.

# Young Artists Set Out To Impress

There is so much young talent packed into this year's festival. Local performers will be as outstanding as ever, from Gloucester Youth Orchestra or the massed choristers of Tewkesbury and Gloucester to the winners of the Keith Nutland Award and Gloucestershire Young Musician (both on Monday 4th July). Three out of four of our rush hour concerts feature young artists - we have the return of sell out eye-candy (!) Milos Karadaglic with material from his debut album, saxophone group Flotilla with an eclectic mix of music and a trio of Radio 3 New Generation Artists. Cheltenham brings the players in this trio together for the first time: German violinist Veronika Eberle, who has been praised for the "poise and maturity" of her playing; the "technical prowess" of cellist Nicolas Altstaedt; and Francesco Piemontesi - a pianist who has been praised for his "glorious range of colour". Joining us for not one, but two, concerts (Pittville on Tuesday 5th July and the Parabola Arts Centre on Wednesday 6th) they are sure to delight audiences with their flair and virtuosity.

Among the soloists there are several youthful debuts. Percussionist Rhys Matthews gives a tantalising introduction to our percussion strand on the very first day of the festival with a mixture of popular classics transcribed for marimba and some more contemporary *amuse-bouches* - including a

piece for flowerpots. Gifted Norwegian trumpeter Tine Ting Helseth will leave Cirencester Parish Church resounding brightly with her award-winning (Best Newcomer in 2007 at the Norwegian Grammys), lyrical tone on Thursday 30th; and the sweetly sonorous combination of violinist Tamsin Waley-Cohen and cellist Gemma Rosefield are bound to entrance their audience in the more intimate setting of Bredon Church the following day with a brilliantly varied programme that will show off the range of their artistry.

And of course, last but not most certainly not least, Cheltenham's very own Festival Academy are giving some brilliant concerts. They support Evelyn Glennie as she gives the world premiere of a Festival commission from Joseph Phibbs (Friday 1st July), and then they join James Rhodes for his very first concerto performance (*Bach A major Concerto BWV1055*) on Sunday 3rd. Auditions for this very talented band are taking place as you read this, and we're sure that we'll have an outstanding "class of 2011". As in previous years, they will be mentored and tutored by some excellent role models, who showcase their own talents when they are joined by Huw Watkins for an evening of Robert Saxton, Charlotte Bray and Fauré.

*Alexis Paterson*

## Point and Counterpoint

### Meurig Bowen Responds to Your Comments on the 2010 Festival

Once again thank you, Festival Society members, for your typically wide range of views on the 2010 Festival. I look forward to meeting Lucia Puccini some day - I trust she is as well-dressed as her apparent sartorial interests suggest.

So, a select response to some of your comments. DD commented on the programme notes for Monteverdi's *Vespers*. Yes, I try to avoid commissioning writers who get too technical and those who don't think of the non-specialist reader. In this case, I asked one of the country's leading Monteverdi scholars, and the publisher of the performing edition for the Tewkesbury concert. It sounds as if he was a little too scholarly.....

A couple of people commented on over-running of some events and the need to rush, on a couple of occasions, to the next performance. We couldn't have predicted the Tewkesbury delay, when an ambulance was called for a medical emergency mid-performance; but we did certainly register that we have to be even more generous in our estimates of applause/get-out of car parks etc when we calculate performance durations. My apologies to those who were affected by these occasional timing problems.

### Catering and Content

MW, happily, expressed satisfaction with the alternative catering arrangements at the Pump Room. Clearly, not having the marquee in 2010 was a big decision for us, so if this was a generally-held view, that is a pleasing outcome. We will continue to keep pressure on the Town Hall/Pump Room caterers (Foster's) to ensure that the best possible service is provided.

MW also expressed a concern that there would not be 'too much dilution of the core music programme' with 'cross-over events' and associated talks. For me, it is not a case of dilution - rather, the elucidation and amplification of the festival's musical core. We got a lot of very positive feedback for 'Sound Mind' and other such events, and I am more keen than ever to investigate how a pure musical experience can be enhanced by complementary activity.

Not entirely divorced from this was WLH's concern that the presence of 'two popular concerts' (Rodgers & Hammerstein, Philharmonia/Alfie Boe) was an example of 'dumbing down in the arts', and that the primary reason for such performances was to make 'sufficient profits'. Actually, both those orchestral concerts were very costly undertakings, and even with capacity audiences those profits, alas, remain elusive. Such offerings lose less money, however, than 'unpopular' concerts. I am all for including challenging, adventurous elements in the Cheltenham programme; but I don't enjoy looking at a half-empty Town Hall either - it genuinely hurts. If the performance is first-rate, like the one with John Wilson and the CBSO undoubtedly was, what is wrong, I wonder, with a 'popular concert'? The thing that we call Classical Music, as a cultural force in contemporary society, is in too much trouble for us to be able to subscribe enthusiastically to the idea that 'if it hurts, it must be good for you'. In case you take from this that I am increasingly drawn towards lightweight entertainment, let us remember that other writers in the August newsletter mildly criticised the gloomy 2010 theme!

## New Seating, a New Venue

WLH commented favourably on our installation this year of tiered seating in the Town Hall. We were very happy with this experiment. Some commented on the legroom, and we will be looking at improvements with this for 2011.

Finally, I was struck by the lack of newsletter comment on Cheltenham's new venue, the Parabola Arts Centre. A number of people mentioned the Patricia Routledge/Myra Hess event there - which was, indeed, a true gem of an event. But the physical nature of this important new performing space wasn't mentioned at all. We are aware that the air conditioning (or lack of it) was a problem. The staff at

Cheltenham Ladies' College have sorted it, so it won't be an issue next year with the ten or so events planned for Parabola.

*Meurig Bowen, Music Festival Director*

*We apologise to everyone concerned for the late appearance of this article which should have appeared in the December issue. Members who have informed the Membership Secretary of their email addresses will already have received it electronically as a CFS Newsletter Plus item. If you would prefer to receive future issues of this newsletter by email, please inform the Membership Secretary accordingly.*

## Educational Projects at Music Festival 2011

### Festival Education Manager Philippa Claridge Introduces the Highlights

#### *Festival Academy at The National Star College*

The Festival Academy musicians, Star College creative and performing arts students, and conductor William Carslake will take part in a series of creative workshops culminating in an evening of music, drama, dance and art, held in the new and refurbished arts facilities of the Star College campus at Ullenwood. This is the seventh year of project work between the College and Cheltenham Music Festival, and the partnership continues to flourish - always celebrating individuality, integration and expression through collaborative performance.

#### *The Bandwagon*

The Bandwagon is a thrilling concept; an innovative approach to providing young children with a vibrant, exciting experience of classical music, it brings the music to them. The Bandwagon is a bus carrying a "pop-up" ensemble of young, talented, multi-genre musicians from Gloucestershire senior schools. Bandwagon 2011 is an

expanded version of last year's highly successful pilot, and will be led by three acclaimed music educators: professional conductor William Carslake, jazz guitarist Sid Peacock, and brilliant percussionist Sacha Johnson.

The visits will follow a "flash mob" model - unexpected and fun. For many children this is likely to be their first experience of seeing and hearing an orchestra playing live and will be the polar opposite of the more usual "orchestra on stage" approach.

#### *And More.....*

As in previous years, free tickets will be available to schools for selected concerts, and percussionist Sacha Johnson will be giving percussion workshop for classes around the county. Sacha will also join Bandwagon, Festival Academy and James Rhodes in our schools concert, which will include the creation of a piece of "LIVE minimalism".

## Jazzing It Up

Two important events take place at the end of April: a Royal Wedding and the Cheltenham Jazz Festival. The wedding is on 29th, while the five day Festival runs from Wednesday 27th April until Monday 2nd May 2011.

Jamie Cullum leads the starry line-up which includes Cleo Lane, Kit Downes, Django Bates, Andrey Triana and Norwegian group Susanna. Radio 2 fans will be keen to hear Michael Parkinson introduce a special edition of Friday Night is Music Night celebrating the music of Count Basie,

Duke Ellington and more. If you haven't received an invitation to the Royal Wedding, don't be glum; you can join the party at Jazz on the Square instead!

Tickets are now on sale at the new Cheltenham Festivals box office on the top floor at the Regent Arcade. Alternatively, you can book online ([www.cheltenhamfestivals.com](http://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com)) or by phone (01242 505444).

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## Could You Lend a Hand....?

\* with hospitality for visiting artists

\* with distributing publicity material locally

\* with offers of help at the Festival

**Contact Alexis Paterson on 01242 775854**

\* with snacks for the Members' Reception

**Contact Jo Miller on 01242 527364**

# Treasurer's Report for Annual General Meeting, 2011

The accompanying accounts summarise the Society's finances for 2010. They have been independently examined and approved by Andrew Ellis.

Our subscription income has continued to fall, this year by some 8.5%, which is not such a severe fall as in the previous year. This continuing decline is basically due to the fact that we are no longer recruiting new members, and a proportion of our existing members fail to renew each year for a variety of reasons. The reduction in our income from subscriptions, donations and Gift Aid, taken together, totalled some £1,150. However, given that we made a substantial surplus in 2009, we felt able to maintain our 2010 grants to the Festival at the 2009 level, totalling £12,000.

Members will see that our surplus was therefore cut to a mere £50 or so. Hidden in this figure is a solid contribution from social events, thanks to the hard work of Jill Bacon and her team. Our opera trips, organised by Robert Padgett jointly with the Opera Society produced a surplus of £652. I would like to thank Robert for his help and hard work.

Our administrative costs continue to fall slightly, in line with our falling membership.

The Reserve Fund is used solely for educational grants, which historically have been of £1000 annually, which more or less matches the income to the fund. In 2008 and 2009, we gave £2000, but last year the Committee felt that we should revert to the sustainable figure of £1000.

The bulk of our funds are still held in COIF Charity Funds. £20,000, allocated to the Reserve Fund, is in their Fixed Interest Fund, which still pays 5.4% per annum. Our remaining balance, almost entirely allocated to the Income and Expenditure account, fluctuates between £10,000 and £18,000, and is held in their Deposit Fund, on which the interest rate has increased marginally to 0.65%. I have looked around without success for a better home for these funds. I would be prepared to consider committing up to £8,000 or so for a period of years, but this is not sufficient to attract a significantly better rate of interest.

I expect to be present at the AGM to present the accounts in person, and I will be pleased to answer any questions members may have.

*Richard Smith, Hon Treasurer  
10 February 2011*

## Cheltenham Festival Society Committee

(Charity No 281044)

### *Chairman:*

Jim Harrison, Hetton Lawn, Hetton Gardens, Charlton Kings GL53 8HU. Tel: 01242 238705.  
E-mail: james.harrison@virgin.net.

### *Honorary Secretary:*

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E-mail: mary@walton-mackenzie.com.

### *Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary:*

Richard J Smith, 32 Keynsham Road, Cheltenham GL53 7PX. Tel: 01242 578172.  
E-mail: r.j.smith.70@cantab.net.

### *Social Secretary:*

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### *Newsletter Editor:*

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### *Committee members:*

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- Mrs Jo Miller: 01242 527364, jo.osborn.miller@btinternet.com;
- \* Robert Padgett: 01242 571802, robertpadgett@btinternet.com.;
- \* John Wilson: 01242 580344; mail@manuscripts.co.uk;
- Brian Carvell: 01242 231475; brian.carvell@tiscali.co.uk.

Members whose names are asterisked are standing down at the AGM.

# CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL SOCIETY

## Income and Expenditure Account for the year to 31 Dec 2010

## Balance Sheet as at 31 Dec 2010

	2010	2009		2010	2009
<b>Income</b>			<b>Assets</b>		
Subscriptions and Donations	£9,452.23	£10,324.23	COIF Fixed Interest Fund (Market Value)	£20,000.00	£20,000.00
Tax Refund	£2,282.16	£2,562.65	COIF Deposit Account	(£18,731.84)	(£18,622.72)
Bank and COIF Interest	£73.40	£193.93	Bank Current Account	£10,690.37	£10,553.21
Outings	£2,689.00	£1,967.80	Advance Payments for Social Events	£4,398.89	£3,140.68
Social Events	£2,316.10	£1,828.10		£22.00	£18.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£16,812.89</b>	<b>£16,876.71</b>	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>£35,111.26</b>	<b>£33,711.89</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			<b>Liabilities</b>		
Cheltenham Festivals - Concert sponsorship	£11,000.00	£10,000.00	Advance Subscriptions	£2,929.00	£1,801.00
Cheltenham Festivals - Educational grants	£503.53	£556.11	Advance Receipts for Social Events	£160.00	
Postage & Telephone	£1,036.06	£1,266.02	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>£3,089.00</b>	<b>£1,801.00</b>
Printing & Stationery	£25.74	£54.96	<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>£32,022.26</b>	<b>£31,910.89</b>
Sundries	£2,037.00	£1,812.00	<b>Represented by</b>		
Outings	£2,162.95	£1,387.19	Income & Expenditure Account	£11,598.41	£11,550.80
Social Events	£16,765.28	£16,076.28	Reserve Fund	£20,423.85	£20,360.09
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£16,765.28</b>	<b>£16,076.28</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£32,022.26</b>	<b>£31,910.89</b>
Surplus for year	£47.61	£800.43			
Balance brought forward	£11,550.80	£10,750.37			
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>£11,598.41</b>	<b>£11,550.80</b>			

## Reserve Fund Account for the year to 31 Dec 2010

	2010	2009
<b>Income &amp; Expenditure</b>		
COIF Interest	£2.04	£5.33
Investment Income	£1,061.72	£1,061.72
Cheltenham Festivals - Educational Grants	-£1,000.00	-£1,000.00
Surplus (deficit) for year	£63.76	£67.05
Balance brought forward	£20,360.09	£20,293.04
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>£20,423.85</b>	<b>£20,360.09</b>

These Accounts were independently examined on 1 February 2011

*A J Edlin FCA*

# Trips for Members

*Wednesday 20th April*

## **HIGHGROVE GARDENS**

Home of Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall

We will leave Cheltenham Racecourse Park and Ride at 9.30am on a Marchant's Coach. Some of you may find it more convenient to join the coach at Bradley Road, Charlton Kings at approx 9.45am. We will have a short stop in Tetbury before proceeding to Highgrove where we shall arrive at 11.40am for a 12.05 tour of the Gardens.

We shall leave Highgrove at approx 2.30pm and arrive back in Cheltenham by 3.30. Numbers are restricted to 25, so please book early and, in any case, before 21st March to avoid disappointment. Cost: £26 (inclusive of coach and entry fee).

*Saturday 25th June*

## **HOLYWELL MUSIC ROOM RECITAL & OXFORD**

We will leave Cheltenham Racecourse Park and Ride For Oxford at 11.30am and pick up at London Road opposite The London Inn at 11.45am.

You will have a free afternoon in the city to have lunch, shop, see the sights and visit places of interest, such as the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford Botanical Gardens, and Blackwell's famous Bookshop.

We meet at 7.40 pm at the historic 18th century Holywell Music Room in Holywell Street in the centre of Oxford for a recital organised by the Oxford Lieder Festival at 8pm. Rising star soprano Raphaela Papadakis is singing a programme of Schubert together with Poulenc's Banalites, Thomas Ades' extraordinary Life Story (a setting of words by Tennessee Williams) and a selection from Schoenberg's humorous, yet lyrical and romantic, Cabaret Songs. For further details about Raphaela and her programme please refer to [www.oxfordlieder.co.uk](http://www.oxfordlieder.co.uk)

We return to Cheltenham immediately after the concert. Price: £30 inclusive.

*Jill Bacon*

## Dates for your Diary

*Monday 28th March 2010 at 7.30*

### **CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL SOCIETY AGM**

followed by Music Festival Preview by Meurig Bowen  
Venue: Lower Ground Floor, HSBC Building, 109 Bath Road (corner of Bath Road and Suffolk Road, Suffolk Road entrance)

*(For details please see page 8.)*

*Monday 4th April - Monday 11th April (inclusive)*

### **MEMBERS' PRIORITY BOOKING PERIOD FOR MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Please ensure you have renewed your membership of Cheltenham Festival Society for 2011 before you book and contact Richard Smith, our Membership Secretary, on 01242 578172 if you have any queries.

*Wednesday 20th April*

### **TRIP TO HIGHGROVE GARDENS, TETBURY**

*(see above)*

*Wednesday 27th April to Monday 2nd May*

### **CHELTENHAM JAZZ FESTIVAL**

*Booking has already opened for this event*

*Friday 20th May at 7.30*

### **TONY PALMER ON HOLST**

followed by his film documentary on Holst.  
Bacon Theatre, Dean Close College  
*(Friends of the Holst Museum event)*

*Tuesday 7th June to Sunday 12th June*

### **CHELTENHAM SCIENCE FESTIVAL**

*Saturday 25th June*

### **TRIP TO OXFORD AND HOLYWELL MUSIC ROOM**

A chance to combine sightseeing with a recital.

*(see above)*

*Wednesday 29 June to Sunday 10th July*

### **CHELTENHAM MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Pittville Pump Room, Town Hall and various other venues around Cheltenham and Gloucestershire.

*Thursday 7th July at 5.30pm*

### **FESTIVAL RECEPTION FOR MEMBERS**

An opportunity to exchange your impressions of the Festival with others over a glass of wine.

Venue: St. Andrew's Garden Room, Montpellier Street  
*Members will receive an invitation in due course.*

*Sunday 10th July at 1 pm*

### **BENEFACTORS' LUNCH**

Venue: Cheltenham Racecourse

*Benefactors will receive details in due course.*

# Music in Prospect

The Cotswolds will be in celebratory mood this summer as two of its leading Festivals celebrate important anniversaries. **Chipping Campden Music Festival** is now in its 10th year and has a glittering array of musicians performing at St James' Church over the fortnight May 8th-21st. They include Charles Rosen, Mark Padmore, Alison Balsom, Boris Berezovsky, the Borodin Quartet, Tenebrae together with local residents Julian Lloyd Webber and Paul Lewis. ([www.campdenmusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.campdenmusicfestival.co.uk))

**Longborough Festival Opera** can trace its origins back to Banks Fee Opera which staged its first performances in two decades ago. The new season starts off on June 16th with *Così fan tutte* conducted by Gianluca Marciano and produced by Jenny Miller. Unfortunately Verdi's *Falstaff* which starts on July 5th clashes with the Cheltenham Music Festival, but everyone should be free to attend Wagner's *Siegfried* starting on July 25th - though I understand tickets are selling like hotcakes. Longborough is also gearing Wagner's bicentenary in 2013 when it plans to stage the whole *Ring Cycle*. Start saving your pennies now. ([www.lfo.org.uk](http://www.lfo.org.uk))

Within Cheltenham itself the **Cheltenham Concert Series** culminates with a concert by the Philharmonia (May 25). The personable James Lisney will be back to perform more **Masterworks** at Pittville Pump Room either alone or in company (April 13, May 11, June 27), and opera lovers with a liking for tragedy and romance have the prospect of Bel Canto's Opera's semistaged production of *La Traviata* - also at the Pump Room (June 14th and 17th).

Our friends at the Holst Birthplace Museum have an interesting programme of events, including *An Evening of English Song* featuring composers associated with Gloucestershire on Friday April 15th in the Thirlestaine

Gallery of Cheltenham College at 7.30. They are also organising the first large screen showing of a new documentary of *Holst* by Tony Palmer introduced by its director on Friday May 20th at the Bacon Theatre, Dean Close at 7 pm; and a Concert for a Summer Afternoon at Cranham Church on Sunday June 5th at 3 pm when the Parry Ensemble and Frances Copp will perform Holst's *Four Songs for voice and violin*. ([www.holstmuseum.org.uk](http://www.holstmuseum.org.uk))

If you can't wait to hear the Carducci Quartet perform at the Festival why not pop over to their very own festival in Highnam Church (May 27th-29th). There's a Dutch chamber choir Scherzando giving a coffee concert in Cheltenham Parish Church on Saturday 4th June at 11 am and the **Cotswold Early Music Festival** ([www.cotswoldemf.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldemf.co.uk)) follows soon after. Don't miss the **Cirencester Organ Festival** starting on June 18th when Dame Gillian Weir and others will put the newly restored organ in the Parish Church of St John the Baptist through its paces. For details go to [www.cirencesterorganfestival.co.uk](http://www.cirencesterorganfestival.co.uk).

Then it will be the turn of the **Cheltenham Music Festival** described elsewhere. If you enjoy strolling round Pittville Park between Pump Room concerts you'll have the advantage this time of the Borough Council's new *Pittville Park Self-guided Tree Walk* (available from the Pump Room) which which draws attention to such specimens as the Caucasian Wing Nut Tree and the Himalayan Birch.

If you prefer guided walks, the Music Festival has linked up with Cheltenham Civic Society for two walks - one around the Town Centre looking at memorials to famous residents of the town, and another from the Town Hall to the Pump Room which will focus on architectural gems which you may have overlooked. For full details consult the Festival brochure.

## Opera Trips

There will be a recital by two singers from English Touring Opera from 12.00 to 1.15 on Thursday 7 April at St Andrew's Church, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham. **Shuna Sendall** (soprano) and **Helen Johnson** (mezzo) will sing arias and duets from operas by Bellini, Mascagni, Monteverdi, Mozart, Puccini and Verdi. They will also talk about their careers and answer questions. Shuna won the BBC Radio 2 Kiri Te Kanawa Prize in 2010. There will be tea and coffee from 11.30 am and soup and roll (£2) and ploughman's (£2) after the recital.

Tickets are available at £5 from Showcase Dancewear and Fancy Dress, 13-15 Montpellier Arcade, Montpellier Street (01242 224144) or at the door. For more details of the programme see [www.cheltenhamoperasociety.org.uk](http://www.cheltenhamoperasociety.org.uk)

There will also be trips to the WNO in Cardiff to see

- \* *Don Giovanni* (Mozart) Wednesday 5 October 2011
- \* *Beatrice and Benedict* (Berlioz) on Friday 17 February 2012
- \* *Tristan und Isolde* (Wagner) Saturday 19 May 2012.

As usual there will be talks about these operas before we go and dates will be in a later newsletter.

If you would like to go to any of these operas and you have not already given him your details, please send your address, phone number and e-mail address to Robert Padgett, 14 Century Court, Montpellier Grove, Cheltenham GL50 2XR, 01242 571802, [robertpadgett@btinternet.com](mailto:robertpadgett@btinternet.com).

# Cheltenham Festival Society AGM & Music Festival Preview

Lower Ground Floor, HSBC Building, 209 Bath Road, Cheltenham  
Suffolk Road Entrance.

Monday 28th March 2011 at 7.30pm

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Cheltenham Festival Society on Monday 28th March.

## AGENDA

1. Welcome to members.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of the 2010 AGM
4. Matters Arising.
5. Chairman's Report.
6. Treasurer's Report and Accounts.  
(You will find these on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter)
7. Appointment of Mr Andrew Ellis as independent examiner of the accounts.
8. Election of Officers:  
Chairman,  
Honorary Secretary,  
Honorary Treasurer,  
Honorary Membership Secretary.
9. Election of committee members.
10. Proposal to amend the Society's Constitution to bring it up-to-date and to take account of current and expected developments.  
(A copy of the Constitution is enclosed showing the proposals for the revised wording and giving notes on the rationale for these changes.)
11. Appeal for assistance at the Festival.
12. Newsletter.
13. Any other business.

Following the meeting refreshments will be served and there will be a preview of the forthcoming Festival by Festival Director Meurig Bowen.

## NOTES

Nominations for the posts of honorary officers should be lodged with the Honorary Secretary, Mary Mackenzie, Rivendell, Hill Lane, Elmley Castle, Worcestershire WR10 3HU. Tel: 01386 710517. E-mail: mary@walton-mackenzie.com. Every nomination should reach the Hon Sec at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Nomination papers should include the name of the person proposed for nomination with his/her signature indicating his/her willingness to stand together with the names and signatures of the proposer and seconder. Two nomination forms are enclosed with this mailing.

The current Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer/Membership Secretary have indicated their willingness to continue in office for a further year. There are three vacancies for committee members.

If you are able to provide canapes to accompany the wine and soft drinks served at the meeting, Jo Miller would be very pleased to hear from you (01242 527364).

For a list of current members of the committee please turn to page 4.

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The Editor welcomes contributions to this newsletter - whether in the form of letters, articles or comments. Your comments on the forthcoming Music Festival will feature prominently in the August 2011 issue. Please make sure that your contribution arrives before Sunday 24th July. Address: 43 Arle Road, Cheltenham GL51 8JY; Email: rogerjones@phonecoop.coop.

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