



# NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF THE CHELTENHAM MUSIC FESTIVAL  
February 2019 VOL 39 No. 1 [www.cmfs.org.uk](http://www.cmfs.org.uk)

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

This has been a poignant time for all who knew Graham Lockwood who died before Christmas. Many friends will know what Graham did for the Society, the Festival, the Holst Museum and the Cheltenham Arts scene in general. You will have received information from Jennifer Stapleton about the Lockwood family's wish to celebrate Graham's life at a special event in the Pittville Pump Room on Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2.30pm in words and music. Many have replied to say they would like to attend. Please let me know if there are any further requests so the anticipated numbers can be properly catered for.

It was through my wife, Liz, who had met Graham through being a volunteer at the Holst Museum that I was introduced to Graham. Instantly, it was evident that Graham was a gentleman of enormous integrity and goodwill, so I was pleased to witness at first hand how Graham conducted CMFS Committee meetings, always thoroughly prepared, with a firm but gentle touch, supportive of new ideas but clear in his own mind of how any issues should be resolved. I will greatly miss his advice and friendship.

Plans for the 2019 Music Festival are now well advanced, and the complete programme should be released very soon. The opening concert in the Pump Room on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July will be dedicated to Graham Lockwood, and the New Club has been booked for a CMFS Friends Lunch, followed by the annual AGM on Tuesday July 9<sup>th</sup>: further details to follow.

Before July the series of Young Musicians Concerts continues, organised by CMFS in collaboration with Chapel Arts. Most Friday lunchtimes at 1.00pm in school term time, free concerts are given by schools from all over Gloucestershire at which anyone is most welcome. There is a cafeteria at Chapel Arts which serves snacks and drinks, and most concerts coincide with Art Exhibitions organised by Ian James in this magnificent venue. In addition, there are some Friday evening and Sunday lunchtime concerts, with tickets available from Chapel Arts. The first of these is on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6.00p.m. - a Piano Duo Concert featuring Aida Lahiou and Adam Heron, who was a keyboard finalist at the 2018 BBC Young Musician of the Year. Details of subsequent concerts are listed on the "Coming Events" page of this Newsletter.

For Opera lovers there is still an opportunity to be part of a CMFS Friends Gala Evening to attend Verdi's *Macbeth*, performed by the English National Touring Opera, at the Everyman Theatre on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30p.m.. The best seats and refreshments in the Directors' Lounge are all part of the package. Please contact me directly in you would like to join the group,



May you enjoy many happy musical adventures and experiences during 2019. Thank you for being a CMFS Friend.

*Andrew Auster*

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## **New Recruits Needed for CMFS Committee**

At the AGM in July, two stalwarts of the CMFS are retiring from the committee after many years devoted work. Mary MacKenzie, who has been our Secretary (as well as a central player in the splendid teas at CMFS events!) feels that after ten years it is time to hand over the Minute book. Jennifer Stapleton, our long serving Treasurer and Membership Secretary, who together with husband Phil is our Webmaster, is also calling it a day.

This means that CMFS urgently needs to find individuals willing to take over these key roles. Should you (or someone you know) be potentially interested, we would really love to hear from you. To discuss, even in principle, please do contact Andrew Auster directly, by phone or email (details in box on last page).

## Memories of Graham Lockwood



When Graham Lockwood died in December, Cheltenham lost its single most influential and generous supporter of Music. He and his wife Eileen visited and gave financial support to the Music Festival for several years before relocating from Gerrards Cross to live in the town. They were attracted to do so by the Festivals, and the broader programme of music and culture. Graham chose not to be simply an audience member or even “just” a generous donor, he threw his very extensive energy and expertise into maintaining the programme of the Arts by way of joining the appropriate committees and, when the time came, chairing many of them.

Those of us who were lucky enough to be members of those committees, many of us needing little persuasion to do so by Graham, will vouch for the clarity with which he approached each organisation, establishing objectives, how and by whom these would be achieved. Graham tip-toed along that fragile bridge between strong and accountable leadership and genuine collaboration, giving appropriate credit to everyone who had made a contribution to the success of the enterprise.

It is no coincidence that in his wonderful book, *Concordant Cheltenham*, Graham recognised the role of the promoters as near equals to the performers for the careful judgement of taste and financial risk they were required to make in perpetuating the popularity of such an extensive programme of music from 1716 to 1944. Graham himself continued the tradition as Chair of Cheltenham Festivals and the many other roles unselfishly fulfilled in more recent years. It is now up to those who have learned from him to do justice to his legacy and maintain Cheltenham as such an outstanding Festival Town and centre for the Arts.

*Edward Gillespie: Trustee of Cheltenham Festivals and Chair of the Music Festival*

In his quiet, thoughtful, diplomatic and determined way, Graham’s cultural impact on Cheltenham was immense. Through his Chairmanships, financial generosity, prolific concert attendance and, latterly, authorship of two Cheltenham related books, the Holst Birthplace Museum, Cheltenham Festivals, the Wilson and Cheltenham Arts Council were all the beneficiaries of that unswerving commitment to Cheltenham’s cultural life. His readiness, over many years, to serve and to give was quite remarkable, and something many of us will be grateful for.



For ten years and more as the Director of the Cheltenham Music Festival I greatly valued his personal support and encouragement, always appreciating his wisdom, guidance and unfading enthusiasm for high quality music and performance. The way Graham went about things – with integrity, discipline and humility – is something I admired from the start and learnt from at every stage of my own Music Festival journey.

*Meurig Bowen: Director of the Cheltenham Music Festival 2008 - 2017*

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### CMFS Dates for Booking 2019 Music Festival

On Friday March 8<sup>th</sup> the full programme will be announced, and the brochure made available.

The booking slot for CMFS friends is on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. This is for Telephone bookings only. The Box Office Phone number is 01242 850 270. While our actual “slot” is from 10am until 1pm Camilla tells me that the lines will be open until 5pm, so don’t panic if you are a bit late!

In response to many requests there WILL be a “pop up” physical Box Office this year. It will open in John Lewis from 10am to 5pm pm Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March for people who prefer to book in person. This is the only confirmed time/date at the time of writing. For updates Friends should phone the Box Office number nearer the time, or check the website.

## Cheltenham Festival People : comings and goings in 2019



After eighteen years Arlene McGlynn, the Head of Individual Giving for Cheltenham Festivals is leaving us in early March. Arlene started working with the Festivals as a sponsorship assistant in 2001 and, apart from two breaks for maternity leave, has worked in various fundraising roles ever since. While her role stretches across all of the Festivals CMFS Friends will know it is the Music Festival which places the biggest demands on the balance sheet. The Music Festival relies heavily on individual rather than corporate donors, so the work of Arlene and her team is crucial to maintaining the quality of the musical experiences we enjoy. With both her sons now in secondary school, and a milestone birthday this February, Arlene says this feels

like the right time to pause for a little and think how best to spend the next stage of her life. However she is not leaving Cheltenham altogether, and promises to look out for old friends at concerts... and in the bar! She will be missed.

Jessica Lowes, Patrons and Trusts Administrator for Cheltenham Festivals, is also leaving us, but only temporarily. She will be going on maternity leave as of February 14<sup>th</sup> but will return thereafter. Fiona Magowan (on the right in photo) has been appointed as Jessica's maternity cover, and asks CMFS Friends to please come and say hello when you run into her at the Festival.



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### The Music Festival and Education; bringing Music to the next generation

Friends will no doubt remember that, as part of the introduction each concert last year, we were reminded that Education is an important part of the Festivals function as a Charity. I confess this was an aspect of the Music Festival's work I knew very little about, so to fill in the gaps of my own knowledge – and hopefully pass on a few snippets of interest to Friends, I had a chat with Philippa (Pip) Claridge, who is the Education Manager for Cheltenham Jazz & Music Festivals. Pip brings to this role a varied background as a teacher, including work overseas in South East Asia, sourcing European funding for the training of women returning to work - and learning enough about computers to teach others about Information Technology! Needing a change, she came to work for Cheltenham Festivals, first in the Development Department, then moving to the Education Department.



Anyone whose children are (or have been) in the state school system will know the days when every school had a dedicated music teacher are no more. Instead, from 2013 there are "Music Hubs" intended to reach out to all schools in an area, usually a County, via peripatetic teachers and various planned activities. By itself, this is inevitably rather lean fare. As a strategic partner in the Hub Cheltenham Festivals works with other music education organisations to supplement the offer to schools in creative ways. The Music for Schools programme "offers inspirational and interactive opportunities for pupils and teachers to make and enjoy music." Describing ALL of the activities involved would take more space than I have in this issue, but I thought Friends might enjoy learning a little more about "Musicate" programme and the young musicians and their mentors who help deliver it. Each year music students (mostly from the Birmingham Conservatoire) are invited to apply to be "Musicats" for a year. Last year we had 18 applicants, from whom 6 were selected. Their two mentors are established professional musicians. Each Musicat is paired with a school, and attends the "inservice" CPE days, helping classroom teachers - who often have no formal training in music teaching - to gain new skills and confidence. As well, the Musicats and teachers co-plan, develop and deliver Workshops in their schools, working "hands on" with the children to give them live, interactive experiences of what music can be all about. Feedback from classroom teachers is very positive, saying the children were very engaged, enthusiastic, and "couldn't stop talking about it!"

Every year the Music Festival puts two concerts especially aimed at children. While these are not usually open to the public, Pip says that any CMFS member who would like to attend is welcome to do so, but please call her on 01242 537 267 to let her know you plan to come, The Musicat Launch Concert, which is planned and presented by the current Musicats, this year is on July 5<sup>th</sup> from 10.30 – 11.30, and enables children from next year's cohort to enjoy lots of live music and meet the Conservatoire student who will be their Musicat over the coming year. The Concert for Schools (this year July 12<sup>th</sup> 10.30 – 11.30), also planned and presented by the Musicats, is followed by Music Explorer sessions where all the children try out different orchestral instruments. While the Musicate Programme was primarily intended to bring music to local school children, it seems clear the participating Musicats also gain a great deal that will be useful to them in their future careers. (Photo is of the 2018 Musicats and Mentors)





## Events for your Diary



### Chapel Arts / CMFS Concerts for 2019 include:

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February** at 6.00 pm: 2018 Young Musician of the Year Keyboard Finalist Adam Heron and Aida Lahou. Piano duet concert.

**Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup>** at 3.00 pm (re-arranged from 3<sup>rd</sup> March) Anup Biswas, internationally renowned Cellist, plays unaccompanied Bach.

**Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup>** at 3.00 pm: Westminster Music Scholar Zacharias Brandon, multi award winning pianist.

**Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup>** at 3.00 pm: Port Isaac Gulls – the female alternative to Fisherman’s Friends

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March** at 3.00 pm: Music for a while. Young singers from UK Colleges and Conservatoires perform music from Opera, Classical songs and the best of Music Theatre arranged by MJ-UK Music and Arts, which is a production company that runs voluntary youth and community projects alongside professionals.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May** at 3.00 pm: The Pimlott Foundation Concert featuring soprano Daniela Bechley.

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May** at 3.00 pm: Ivan Hovorom (piano) from Ukraine plays Bach, Busoni, Schubert, Liszt & Wagner.

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June** at 3.00 pm: Vitaly Pisarenko (piano) from Russia. Programme tbc.

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June** at 3.00 pm: Tsukushi Mitsuda (piano) from Bournside School. Programme tbc.

**Please Note:** Further information about the artists performing in this series can be found on the Chapel Arts website: [www.thechapelarts.com](http://www.thechapelarts.com)

### Holst Birthplace Museum

**Friday February 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 7.30 pm: Majestic Wines lead a “Cheese and Wine Pairing” event in St Luke’s Church Hall, GL53 7HP. Tickets £14 for members, £16 non-members & £10 students (18+).

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**, 7.30 pm: “A Woman’s Life.” A new play by BAFTA nominated Carolyn S. Jones, based on a (fictional) meeting between Mrs Beeton and Clara Von Holst (Gustav’s mother). Venue: Christ Church Harwood Hall, Malvern Road, Cheltenham GL50 2JH Tickets £13 members, £15 non-members & £6 students

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May**, 7.30 pm: Concert by the renowned acoustic guitarist Clive Carroll. Venue: Bishop’s Cleeve Tithe Barn, GL52 8GD

Tickets for all above events are available from The Wilson Tourist Information Centre or the Holst Birthplace Museum (01242 524 846) or online at [www.holstmuseum.org.uk](http://www.holstmuseum.org.uk)

### Opera Trips

For the WNO 2019-2020 season we expect to go to a new production of Carmen (Bizet) in Cardiff in September, Rigoletto (Verdi) in Birmingham in November, Les Vespres Siciliennes (Verdi) in Cardiff in February and Bluebeard’s Castle (Bartok) with Bryn Terfel in a double bill with Stravinsky’s The Nightingale in Cardiff in the summer of 2020.

The Cheltenham Opera Society will be showing DVDs of Der Fliegende Hollander (Wagner) at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 27 February and Don Carlo (Verdi) at 3.00 pm on Sunday 10 March, both at St Andrew’s Church. CMFS members are welcome on payment of an entry fee of £5.

The Cheltenham Opera Society is organising a recital by singers from the Wales International Academy of Voice at St Andrew’s Church at 7.30 pm on Monday 15 April, tickets £15, including a glass of wine and a piece of cake.

To get on the mailing list for opera trips, 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).

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### Cheltenham Music Festival Society Committee

(Charity No 281044)

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