

Work supported by Friends

While supporting the Newbury Spring Festival remains the priority for the Friends of Newbury Spring Festival, each year a small grant is awarded to another organisation working in the arts. Here are just three of the projects that have been helped in the past.

OPEN STUDIOS

The Friends of Newbury Spring Festival have been supporting Open Studios in West Berkshire and North Hampshire with a small annual grant. Open Studios West Berkshire and North Hampshire was set up in 1988 by the late Pat Eastop MBE as a non-profit organisation, run entirely by unpaid volunteers, to celebrate the diversity of visual arts available within the local community. They strive to create a dialogue between artists and the community by encouraging members of the public to visit artists' studios. Guided tours of the Open Studios exhibitions have featured as an event in the Newbury Spring Festival.



BERKSHIRE MAESTROS MINI MAESTROS IN THE COMMUNITY

Mini Maestros was a new initiative setup by Berkshire Maestros. Berkshire Mini Maestros now bring Mini Maestros classes to local communities across Berkshire. They offer ten weeks of music classes for children aged 0-3, led by professional musicians, in eight local areas across the county.

Sam Wyne of Berkshire Maestros wrote: *As a result of a successful funding campaign we've been able to start 21 new classes in 10 different locations across Berkshire. These have been free of charge for 10 weeks. The majority of the classes are completely full and it's brilliant that we can engage with so many babies and toddlers, inspiring the next generation of young musicians.*



SPEENHAMLAND SCHOOL STEEL DRUMS

Speenhamland School had been loaned a set of Steel Drums. The project was such a success that the school decided to invest in their own set of drums, and launched a campaign to raise the necessary funds.

The school noted that not only did playing the drums develop their musical skills from year to year, but also the skills associated with learning an instrument such as improved memory and co-ordination, maths skills and the ability to persevere. Above all, the school planned to capitalise on the huge level of enjoyment and continue to develop a culture of music within the school.

The Friends made a small grant which helped enable the purchase of the drums.



Festival Memories

2020 was not the year for live music, however, over the 43 years that the Festival has been going there have been some incredible performers and performances, here are just two highlights from the Festival Chairman and Festival Director.



Julian Chadwick – Chairman

One of my favourite works is The Dream of Gerontius by Sir Edward Elgar. It is a sublime choral work which touches the soul. I was privileged some years ago to examine the original score which is held in the Library of the Birmingham Oratory. It is held there because that is the Church and community founded by the author of the poem on which the composition is based namely Cardinal (now Saint) John Henry Newman.

The music is absolutely beautiful and speaks to me and my faith-and Cardinal Newman happens to be someone who has had and continues to have a profound influence on my life. The piece was beautifully performed at the opening concert of my first Festival as Chairman and that night remains in my memory.



Mark Eynon – Festival Director

I will never forget an amazing performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah conducted by David Parry. At 9 o'clock on the morning of the concert David rang me to say that soprano Joan Rogers was ill and couldn't perform, but that he would get back to me after making a few phone calls to other singers. We then discovered that Mary Plazas, who was planning to attend as a guest of one of the other soloists, had dreamt that night that she was actually singing in the performance. Which indeed she did, contributing to a wonderful evening with English Chamber Orchestra, our own festival chorus and the great Sir John Tomlinson in one of his very rare performances of the role.



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Dear Friends and Supporters

I hope you have been and are keeping well in these difficult times.

After a wonderful summer when we could try to forget what was happening around us, we now have to face a difficult winter. Usually I sing, often two or three times a week, go to concerts, the theatre and opera but most of that is not possible now.

I can however recommend catching up with what is available on-line, YouTube and catch-up TV. What has struck me, as I watched The Proms and the Wigmore Hall lunchtime recitals was how many artists have appeared at our Festival as young musicians and are now making a name for themselves nationally and internationally. Timothy Ridout, Ruby Hughes and Alina Ibragimova to name but three. We are so lucky that Mark chooses so well.

As you will see plans are well advanced for the 2021 Festival. However, they come with a caveat. We really do not know what the situation will be and what we will be allowed to do next spring. It is an incredibly stressful time for Mark, Ashley and Jane and my thanks go to them for all they are doing.

We have to be very adaptable both as organisers and as audiences. It is possible that the Festival will be based more in Newbury than other years. Making venues Covid friendly (a strange combination of words) is difficult and time consuming so limiting the number of venues seems sensible.

Obviously it is easier to present chamber music than orchestral and choral works but rest assured the team will be out with their tape measures, one-way signs, hand sanitiser and the like to ensure that there will be the best and most varied Festival possible. Concerts may well be different without intervals for example, and it looks likely that face-coverings will be a necessity.

Please do keep checking on the Festival website, as this is where the very latest information will be updated. Details of when tickets go on sale etc. will also be updated on the website as and when it's confirmed.

I cannot wait for music making to begin again and the words Spring and Festival will keep me going through the winter. I hope it will do the same for you.

In the meantime, my very best wishes to you and your families.

Caroline Holbrook

Caroline Holbrook
Chairman of the Friends of Newbury Spring Festival



Cover photo: An empty St. Nicolas Church

2021 Highlights

Thanks to the generosity of The Friends, and our loyal sponsors we have the financial security to plan for 2021.

There are some events which have been already planned for 2021, but many of the 2020 cancelled artists and events have been rescheduled for 2021, with a particular focus on honouring the bookings for young artists. Details of rescheduled concerts will remain largely unchanged as in the printed 2020 Festival Guide.

Venues for many of the events are still to be confirmed, but we will of course be using both The Corn Exchange, and St. Nicolas Church, Newbury.

Please keep checking the Festival website as this is where the latest information will always be available.

Saturday 8 May

BBC National Orchestra of Wales with Jennifer Pike



Sons of Pitches

Sunday 9 May

Sound Beginnings
Benjamin Grosvenor, piano



Hilary Summers *What's So Great About Opera?*

Monday 10 May

Elysium Brass
Carice Singers



Tuesday 11 May

Castalian String Quartet



Wednesday 12 May

Ben Goldsheider, horn

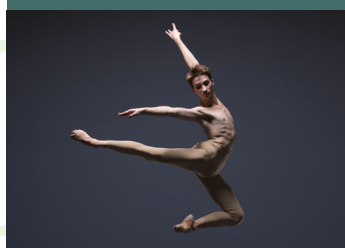


Wiener Kammer-symphonie

Thursday 13 May

A Taste of Germany at The Vineyard

Ballet Central



RANT

Friday 14 May

duo



NSF Chorus Rossini *Petite Messe Solennelle*

Dominic Alldis Trio
Sheepdrove Piano Recital

Saturday 15 May

London Philharmonic Orchestra with Stephen Hough



Clare Teal and her Trio

Sunday 16 May

IDMC Gospel Choir



Sheepdrove Piano Competition Final

Northern Chords

Monday 17 May

Piano Competition winner's recital
Ruby Hughes *Heroines*



Tuesday 18 May

Churchill: Walking with Destiny
The Kinsky Trio



Wednesday 19 May

Consone Quartet



The Story of Rachmaninov in Song

Thursday 20 May

University of Chichester Musical Theatre Festival Company

Solomon's Knot



Friday 21 May

Ensemble Hesperia



Bounder & Cad
Tenebrae



Saturday 22 May

Peter Rabbit's Musical Adventure
Armonico Consort with Ian Bostridge
Bach St. Matthew Passion



The Derek Paravicini Quartet

Sunday 20 June

Mozart in the Garden and tours of Highclere Castle