



FRIENDS OF BRECKNOCK SINFONIA

17th May 2017

Newsletter 46

Dear Friends,

After the romantic drama of our last concert we have something sunnier to offer you on June 10th as well a new departure for you in August which we hope you will want to support.

The music for our summer concert in Brecon Cathedral comes from Austria's three greatest composers, Mozart, Haydn and Schubert. Mozart's overture to Don Giovanni starts the evening. With its hints of the extraordinary events to follow in the opera it is one of the great overtures, but you can hear in Mozart's confident handling of the orchestra the voice of the symphonies and piano concerti that were flowing from his pen at the same time. Haydn's many symphonies are often distinguished by nicknames and no. 101 is one of them. "The Clock" refers to the ticking staccato accompaniment of the slow movement, but such a banal name does it a disservice. It is a work of musical invention and wit, full of subtleties that aren't always obvious on first hearing. Haydn composed it for his second hugely successful visit to London. While the London symphonies were the fruits of Haydn's mature years, Schubert's second symphony appeared when he was only in his eighteenth year. It owes much to Haydn and Beethoven but it already has the distinctive flair for melody and effortless development of his later works. The energy of youth is the perfect match for a summer evening! We start at 7.30 and tickets will be on sale at the door for £13. We are happy to reserve a seat for Friends and a guest; please let Kaye know beforehand if you wish to do so, but in fairness to others please do not ask us to reserve places for large numbers who are not members.

We have been staging our Musical Tea afternoons for a while now as enjoyable social and fundraising events. This summer we are being a little more ambitious and are seeking to make a significant contribution to the orchestral coffers. Trebencyn is a large property with beautiful gardens just outside Abergavenny, and we have been given use of the music room and gardens for a recital thanks to the kindness of Mrs Carolyn Faulder. Our clarinettist Bob Osborne will be joined by soprano Alison Wray and pianist Charles Matthews in a programme of pieces for this attractive combination, and this will be followed by a cream tea in the gardens. The date is Saturday 26th August and tickets will be £15. Numbers are very limited, but Friends will have the first option; if you would like to reserve places please let Kaye know before we offer tickets to a wider public.

We have just made another major financial contribution to the orchestra and so we do need to rebuild our funds. I hope you will feel able to join us in these two exciting events. One further plea: we are trying hard to have The Friends recognised as a charity by HMRC so that we can claim Gift Aid on your subscriptions but we have been rejected. If you have experience of applications for Gift Aid or know of someone who could guide us through the process we would be very grateful.

With best wishes,
Richard Slaney
(Chair, Friends of Brecknock Sinfonia)