

BIDEFORD MUSIC CLUB
SEASONS GEREETINGS!
WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER.

Dear Music Lovers,

We have enjoyed two very different concerts so far this season. The wind quintet Ensemble Renard opened the season with a varied and diverse programme of pieces ranging from music with African-American influence by Valerie Coleman, the American mid-west by Samuel Barber to more European style music by Paul Taffanel and Carl Nielsen.

The concert opened with Umoja by Valerie Coleman, (an American composer and flautist) This piece draws on African American influences and had the audience tapping their feet. This was followed by Samuel Barber's Summer Music which took us through various moods with a lot of interplay between the various instruments of the quintet.

Amy Beach was the first successful American female composer to have her orchestral music performed. Her Pastorale was more gentle and lilting in mood compared to the first two pieces. The first half of the concert ended with Paul Taffanel's Wind quintet composed in the 1870's It is in symphonic style.

After the interval we were introduced to Gyorgy Ligeti's 6 bagatelles, all different in style and mood and the concert ended with Carl Nielsen's Wind quintet op 43. All the pieces had a great deal of interplay between the instruments, showing the musicality of each performer.

We thank "The Hub" for sponsoring this concert and the concert which will take place on February 2nd. 2025.

For our second concert we welcomed back Roelof Temmingh. He had flown in from South Africa the day before in order to be with us! He had built his choice of pieces around Opus 28. When asked about this, his response was that he was to be 28 in the coming weeks! His opening piece was Beethoven's Sonata Pastorale in D major. Like his Pastoral Symphony, it is said "to awaken joyful feelings on arriving in the country". Schumann's 3 Romances contrast the composer's introvert/extrovert and melancholy personality. The opening piece after the interval was a single movement sonata by Prokofiev which Roelof then followed by a series of pieces by Suk. Roelof explained that these were composed by Suk for his son after the mother had died so he could remember her. One section was a lullaby which she would have sung to the child, you can hear the church bells ring midnight. (St. Mary's church bell also rang during this section)

The next day Roelof was able to perform for pupils at St. Margaret's C of E junior school. Pam Orchard our chair reports:

This visit had been rather a struggle to arrange but they made up for all the difficulty on the day. I actually had a parking space reserved for me.

We were welcomed by Sam Malyn the headteacher and staff. They had two pianos available for Roelof so that he could decide which one to use. They also set up a camera at the end of the piano to project the picture of the keyboard to the screen above. The audience were then able to see as well as hear all the music being played.



On the way to the event I had a conversation with Roelof about how he might present and structure the session. This was only the second time he had ever done an event like this. The first was last week at his old school in South Africa so it was a new experience. He was fantastic! He is a natural communicator and the children were relaxed and contributed to the enjoyment of the event. He appeared to enjoy it too which I think surprised him. There are many ways that I could elaborate on just why from a teaching point he was so good but

this combined with the brilliant playing all added to the most enjoyable visit I have ever had.

We were pleased to have Councillor Jane Whittaker, Jules the rector of Northam and the Northam Youth worker there to enjoy the performance.

Sam thanked the Music Club for arranging the visit and Jane Whittaker for providing the funds from her Councillor grant.

It was a good and worthwhile experience.

We now look forward to two of our Sunday afternoon concerts.

The first on Sunday 5th. January at 3.00pm will see Lucy Nolan return to Bideford. Lucy is an award winning harpist who we have heard as one member of the Hathor Duo. Her programme will include pieces by Tournier, Spohr, Hindemith, Flothuis, Andres, Robertson, McKay, Debussy, Chertok, Vesje and Damase.

On Sunday 2nd. February at 3.00pm Ensemble Mirage (clarinet and string trio) will play music by Mozart, Rawsthorne, Penderecki and Crusell.

A reminder, on Sundays there is a charge at the car park.

Have you got all your Christmas presents sorted? If not, there is still the opportunity to buy a subscription for 4 concerts for £61.00, email Ilga Auvray at bidefordmusicclub.org@gmail.com for more details.

Committee: We would like to have at least two more members on the committee. If you have some spare time and especially if you are able to support our treasurer, please do come and speak to one of us about joining the team.

Future concerts: Pam Thomson puts in a lot of work contacting artists and musical trusts in order to provide an interesting and varied programme of six concerts in a season. However, we would like to have some feedback and information about the selection of music, and what your preferences are. (not promising that these will be met!)

Looking forward to seeing you at the next concert.

Best wishes for 2025.