

# Festival News

The Winchfield Festival Newsletter

September 2016

## What a week that was!

No-one who braved the inclement weather went away without being inspired by the most wonderful music. So if you go to just one summer festival, make it the Winchfield Festival in 2018. Set in beautiful Hampshire countryside, the weeklong series of concerts is an absolute gem where festival-goers can experience both classical and innovative concerts performed by world class musicians.

**A**t the core of the festival is St Mary's, a beautiful Grade 1 listed church in the heart of Winchfield blessed with outstanding acoustics, which provided an intimate setting for the musicians, giving an immediacy and emotional intensity to their performances. By contrast the marquee, seating up to 500, enabled us to offer a broader range of music, including jazz, pop, klezmer dance music and opera.

Over 100 volunteers, brimming with enthusiasm, helped with everything from manning the beer tent to hosting the performers, not to mention organising alternative parking arrangements after one or two downpours. The musicians, festival-goers and volunteers faced both bright, sunny weather as well as rain, but armed with wellies and refreshments nothing was going to dampen their enthusiasm.

*'No-one worried about a bit of rain – armed with refreshments and wellies we were simply transported by the quality of the music.'*

**Tristram Cary,**  
Acting Chairman



Cigdem Aslan from She'Koyokh



Dido and Aeneas



Karen Sharp from Steve Waterman All Star Big Band



Festival-goers enjoying themselves

# Festival Overview

Sat 18 June

## Steve Waterman All Star Big Band

The opening night's performers, the Steve Waterman All Star Big Band, comprising a line-up of 18 top notch multi-award winning musicians, received thunderous applause for Steve's superb compositions and irresistible exuberance.



Sun 19 June

## Huw Wiggin and Timothy End

*'The renowned Saxophonist Huw Wiggin and Timothy End, his accompanist on both the organ and piano, gave brilliant performances,'* said Sarah Adams, *'the audience particularly enjoyed Fantaisie Brillante sur des Airs de Carmen written by Francois Borne (1840- 1920) and arranged for saxophone and piano by Iwan Roth and Raymond Meylan, which showcased the versatility of the saxophone.'*

Mon 20 June

## Endellion String Quartet

The Daily Telegraph was spot on when it said that the Endellion String Quartet *'sets the audience ablaze'*. As past winners of the Royal Philharmonic Society Award for Best Chamber Ensemble, *'the quartet captivated concertgoers with a remarkable rapport, playing to each other with a sense almost of discovery, communicating to the audience on a level of unusual intimacy'* (Guardian). The freshness that they brought to the performance and the sheer beauty of their playing made a profound impression on the audience.

*'A full week of varied and extraordinary entertainment by well known and talented performers, artists of music, song and dance, it was a joy. How lucky we were to have been treated to this Festival of Music'*

Sarah Adams



Tues 21 June

## She'Koyokh and Guy Schalom

In complete contrast the festival introduced a new genre this year with a stunning concert of folk music and dance from across Eastern Europe and the Balkan, to the delight of the audience.

No wonder the Evening Standard hailed them as *'one of London's musical treasures, playing the best Balkan and Klezmer music in Britain'*.

Their music spanned the rich folk music traditions of Jewish Eastern Europe, Turkey and the Balkans. In the second half, Yiddish dance expert Guy Schalom had no trouble getting everyone up dancing and taught us freylekhs, bulhars, shers and couples dances. There was a great deal of laughter and treading on toes but everyone agreed it was the best fun to be had on a wet night in a field!

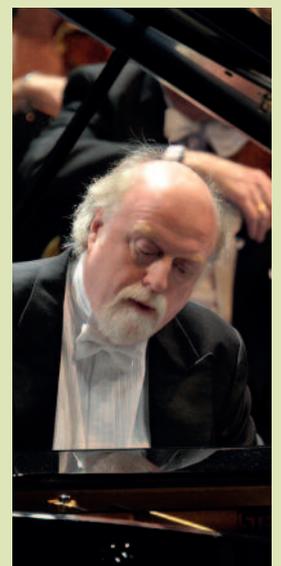
*'Winchfield Festival triumphs again!' This music festival held in a small village attracted a variety of performers of the highest quality. I am fortunate enough to live nearby and was able to attend every concert, except one – what a treat!*

Caroline Dixon

Wed 22 June

## Peter Donohoe

One of the delights of this extraordinary world class concert was the talk that internationally acclaimed Peter Donohoe gave before the concert. Not only does he display remarkable musicianship, stylistic versatility and commanding technique but he is also an outstanding speaker. Snowie and Chris Johnson from Fleet explained *'Peter Donohoe is of course a performer of international standing, and his introductory talk about the 4 sonatas he played added immense interest to the evening. We have been supporters of Winchfield Festival for many years, and so enjoy the event that we arrange our summer to ensure that we can attend every night of the festival. We both have an eclectic view of music, but the surprise is always that the festival is able to book so many musicians of international acclaim.'*



## Festival Overview continued

Thurs 23 June

### Purcell's Dido and Aeneas

*'It could be seen as ironic that the day the Winchfield Festival celebrated the work of the greatest eighteenth-century English composer was the day that the future destiny of the country was being decided – the EU Referendum'* commented Richard Dexter. But nothing could deter the audience from turning up and enjoying Purcell's wonderful songs and instrumental pieces in the first half then the moving concert version of his masterpiece Dido and Aeneas, sung by Robyn Allegra Parton, Marta Fontenals-Simmons and the Occam Singers, accompanied by Ars Eloquentiae playing baroque instruments.

A particular delight was to see a group of students from Farnborough Hill enjoying the opera with their teachers. What a lovely experience they had, to see and hear wonderful live music delivered with such passion. Mark Tanner, Vicar of the Parish, adds *'It was an immense joy to be at the Festival for the performance of Dido and Aeneas. Sue and I greatly enjoyed the evening and we are proud that our parish can host such an outstanding event'*.



Saturday 25 June

### The Extra Covers

The wellies and gladrags were on, the picnickers were laughing, the bar was open, the hog roast was excellent and Winchfield Festival's finale with the Extra Covers had the marquee rocking. The talented band played Rock 'n' Roll from the 1950s to the present day and before the second number had ended, the festival goers were on their feet jiving, 'Dad dancing', twisting and having a party. What a fantastic end to an unforgettable week of music.



Friday 24 June

### VIDA guitar quartet

This quartet is a super tight ensemble of exceptional guitarists who held the audience spellbound. Their programme was carefully chosen to showcase their exquisite tonal and dynamic control as well as the visual interplay between them. One of the highlights was The Great British Rock Journey arranged by our own Nick Cartledge, who lives in Elvetham Heath, and is an accomplished flautist and composer. He linked together some of the most memorable Beatle and other rock songs into a mesmerizing performance.

Andrew and Dianne Cole were in the audience and commented: *'we were electrified as the guitar quartet's dulcet tones radiated through the fine church to a packed, entranced audience.'*

Caroline Dixon and her husband brought their grandson, William Crompton, who had enjoyed guitar lessons but recently dropped them. William (age 13) said *'I enjoyed my first visit to the Winchfield Festival to hear the VIDA Guitar Quartet. They inspired me to keep going with my guitar lessons!'*

*'Once again a superb series of concerts – something for everyone and, of course, superb quality of performance'*

Graham & Rachel Plumbe

## So why do eminent musicians like coming to the Winchfield Festival?

Here's what **Huw Wiggin**, saxophonist, said *'My experience at Winchfield Festival was truly AM-A-ZING! The church had a great acoustic and the intimate setting was so memorable. For me though the best part was just how enthusiastic the people were about the saxophone. A lot of the audience had never heard the music I played for them and they welcomed me with open arms! I will always remember the reception I received at the festival for years to come and will never forget my experiences. What an absolute pleasure to be able to share my music at such a unique and special festival.'*

**David Waterman**, cellist with Endellion String Quarter also enjoyed performing and said *'It was a great pleasure for us to play to the very warm and friendly audience at Winchfield Festival in the lovely and intimate setting of the beautiful church'*

**Susi** from **She'Koyokh** *'We had a wonderful time playing for the Winchfield crowd. We were stunned at how many of the audience were up on their feet dancing. We don't always get that kind of response even at a wedding! We know Guy Schalom is good at what he does but it was great to see such enthusiasm and jovial participation in the 'klezmer keilidh'. From a technical perspective the sound was terrific – the best we've had. And of course thank you to our hosts for feeding and watering us so nicely – to help us play better! The zip wire goes down in She'Koyokh history!'*

## Festival Audience have their say

### What do newcomers think of the festival?

**Simon and Debbie Wade** live locally in Beauclerk Green but have never been before. *'We've lived in Winchfield for eight years' says Simon 'and despite enjoying events such as the Henley Festival we somehow didn't get around to supporting our very own Winchfield Festival – what a mistake! We absolutely loved going for the first time this year with international, quality musicians, a friendly and well organised vibe and outstanding value...we'll definitely be getting tickets as early as we can for the next one!'*

### What do our locals think of it?

**Mark Tanner**, vicar of the Parish, says *'The commitment, endeavour, imagination and I guess optimistic courage to make the festival a success is quite outstanding and you and the team deserve the thanks and acclaim of everyone. This year, perhaps more than I remember before, people have been talking of concerts attended and each time have done so not only with warmth and appreciation, but also, I feel, from a sense of pride that such an event is on their doorstep'.*

**Andrew and Dianne Cole** said *'The Winchfield Festival – both in the preparation and participation – personifies the bringing together of the local community in the celebration of sound and performance'.*

**Charles Lumby** commented: *'My wife and I both enjoyed the events we attended enormously and there is no doubt that the Festival well lived up to its long and fine reputation for producing an eclectic programme performed superbly by some of the country's finest artistes. This is no mean feat for a small Hampshire village and reflects great credit on the organising committee and the excellent band of willing helpers. Long may it continue!'*

**Graham Plumbe** from Odiham came with his wife to most concerts and said: *'I take the opportunity of saying as ever how well organised the Festival was, what an incredible range of offerings there was for all tastes, and to what a fantastic standard. Congratulations and very well done to all concerned.'*

## Is it just for Locals?

Certainly not! The festival doesn't just attract local people, as Lyn and Tom who travelled from Salisbury pointed out: *'We enjoy coming to the Winchfield Festival for the wide variety of concerts and astonishing calibre of artists achieved in such a small venue. A hugely enjoyable concert by Huw Wiggin (saxophone) and Timothy End (piano and organ) ably achieved Huw's aim of introducing the audience to the capabilities of the saxophone in classical music. Virtuoso playing by both musicians highlighted a wide range of works by composers from Bach to a beautiful and haunting modern piece by Graham Fitkin.'*

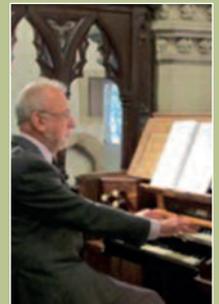
Across the seas, coming over from Bermuda was Peter Profit, son of John Profit, one of the founders of the music festival. He came for the whole week's performances and he never misses a festival.



**The Friends and Trustees of St Mary's Church** would like to thank festival-goers for their generosity. The raffle made an amazing **£769** which will go towards cleaning and restoration of the Church windows. Find out more at [www.stmaryswinchfield.co.uk](http://www.stmaryswinchfield.co.uk)

## Spotlight

'Pictured is **Alan Melbourne** who co-founded the Winchfield Festival in 1990 with John Profit. It was originally planned as a one-off event to raise money for the essential cleaning of St Mary's Church organ, but due to popular demand it was repeated two years later and continues as a biennial week-long festival, attracting world-class musicians and large audiences.



Alan is the organist at St Mary's and has delighted Church members with his playing for just over 50 years.'

## So what happens next?

Well, if you want to share a perfect summer festival, then make sure you bookmark June 2018 for an unforgettable week of top class music in our special anniversary 30th year. We'll let you know what the programme contains and when the tickets go on sale @ [www.winchfieldfestival.org](http://www.winchfieldfestival.org)

### What you can do

Share this newsletter with friends to whet their appetite and let the editor know if they would like to join the circulation list; simply email [pam@vinorosso.co.uk](mailto:pam@vinorosso.co.uk).

**Consider becoming a Patron** – you'll have access to buy advance tickets and a patrons' drinks party with bubbly and canapes.

**Consider becoming a Sponsor** – there are lots of benefits.

Let us know what you thought of the festival and what you'd like to see in the next one. Oh and make sure you book that week in your diary for 2018 as soon as the date is fixed!