

**MALVERN**  
**CONCERT CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1903 BY SIR EDWARD ELGAR OM

**NEWSLETTER**

11 November 2021

malvern-concert-club.co.uk



## Next Concert



Our next concert is nearly upon us – **Thursday 11 November** – when we welcome the famous **Tákacs Quartet**, a long established ensemble showered with accolades and awards, with a proud recording history.

Photo Credit: Amanda Tipton

With Barbara Thomas's permission, the concert is dedicated to the memory of Peter, her late husband, and our former Club Secretary. There will be a tribute to him in the programme.

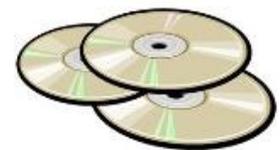
As you may know, Peter suffered with Motor Neurone disease, dying just eight months after he had retired as Secretary. We thought it would be a fitting gesture to donate the money raised from programme sales for this concert to The MND Association. We will be inviting everyone on the night to support this charity, which supports and campaigns for those suffering from MND, whether they buy a programme or not.



**Peter Thomas**



## CD Sale



Our thanks go to Linda McKinley and her assistant for organising the sale of second hand CDs at the October concert. This required a lot of work - not just the fetching and carrying, but cataloguing and storing. It was a great success, with some £173 being raised.

Linda is still housing a large selection of CDs kindly donated, and there will be another sale in the New Year.

## Music Education Outreach

With the help of a grant from the Club, Severn Arts has run two more events for local primary schools, once again using the services of Toscana Strings. This group delivered two concerts on Friday 22 October: at Great Malvern Primary School (for KS2 pupils) and at Somers Park Primary School (with KS1 pupils). Somers Park also invited the Y1 and Y2 class from their sister site, Malvern Vale Primary School. The latter school was unable to attend in person due to Covid problems, but pupils were able to enjoy a streamed performance online.

Toscana Strings performed *Peter and The Wolf* with five string players and a dancer who danced the various roles of a duck, bird, wolf etc. After the performance the children were placed into character groups and encouraged to act out their characters. It was great fun and the children loved it!



Afterwards, the Head Teachers were extremely grateful and Toscana Strings also thanked the Club for making the event possible. A member of Severn Arts attended in the morning and expressed gratitude on their behalf.

Our aim is progressively to cover all the local primary schools. Linda McKinley is in discussion with Herefordshire's music service trust, Encore Enterprises, to ensure that local schools on 'the other side of the Hills' are also given this opportunity.

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## Review: 21 October 2021 Albion Quartet: Mozart, Waley-Cohen, Brahms

The young Albion Quartet proved to be a popular choice on their first appearance together at Malvern. Alison Hunka, our honorary page turner, kindly offered to review the concert, and her account is set out below, continuing on the next page.



The audience at this concert was given an exhibition of the contrasting styles and moods that four very accomplished musicians can create.

The programme opened with Mozart's Quartet in A, K 464. Violinists Tamsin Waley-

Cohen and Emma Parker, violist Ann Beilby and cellist Nathaniel Boyd played this work with a light gossamer effect. Their fingers and bows nimbly created an intricately woven Mozartian classical style. I would have liked more contrasted dynamics and more drama. I felt that the players had put

the composer on a pedestal and were treating him rather reverentially but, as a member of the audience, one sensed immediately how many hours the players have spent together to achieve this unity.

The next work was a complete contrast. *Snap Dragon* was composed by Freya Waley-Cohen, sister of the quartet's leader. She described the flower as being vibrantly coloured and looking like a dragon's face. The music reflected the mischief and colours. The Albion players were so obviously enjoying playing this work, new to the audience, but so much a part of their repertoire.

After the interval the Brahms Quartet No.3 in B flat, Op.67 was introduced by viola player Ann Beilby.

We learned of the empathy Brahms had for the viola, how his music is always richly rewarding for violists to play.

The performance to which we were then treated was passionate, strong and convincing. The melodies soared, and the contrasting subtleties crept into our consciousness.

We were given an encore of the final movement of Antonin Dvóřak's American Quartet. They played this with the relaxed familiarity which comes from having spent time recording the work.

The evening was enjoyed by everyone in the Forum Theatre, both players and audience.

*Alison Hunka*

## Concert Timings

I have been asked several times recently at our Thursday evening concerts: 'When will the performance finish?'. The general answer is 'Around 9.30pm.' This is because the Secretary plans for a concert with music lasting for a total of approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes. Add in 20 minutes for the interval, and with a 7.30pm start, that brings you to 9.30pm.

But note the word 'approximately'! Artists may also choose to play an encore, or on rare occasions even two. The Albion's inspired choice at the last concert to play the last movement of Dvóřak's American Quartet lasted five minutes. A few years ago Alina Ibragimova and Cedric Tiberghien played Ravel's *Tzigane* as an encore - that lasted for some 10 minutes.

The Committee has considered whether to indicate the length of each work in the programme, as some venues do. We decided not to do so. Artists interpret works differently, including at different tempi (and



thank heavens for that). I was talking to Pavel Kolesnikov after his marathon efforts in the summer, when he played Bach's Goldberg Variations for us - twice, to two socially distanced audiences. I had his recording of this work and knew that it lasted for about 73 minutes. 'Oh, I play it a lot slower now' he said.



**Pavel Kolesnikov**

Given our overall policy of a concert of two hours' duration, we were not sure what benefit including approximate indicative timings brings, so we decided against it.

*John Gregory  
Chair*



## Music elsewhere



**Saturday 13 November**    *Remembrance Concert with **The Elgar Chorale***  
**7.30pm**                      St Martin's Church, London Road, Worcester

The programme includes John Rutter's *Requiem* and Piers Maxim's cantata *De Profundis*, as well as *Shout O Ye Winds* written for the chorale by our President Roderick Williams. A group of instrumentalists will accompany the Chorale.

Tickets £18 from [www.elgarchorale.com](http://www.elgarchorale.com) or at the door.

**Saturday 20 November**    *My Spirit Sang All Day with **The Hills Singers***  
**7.00pm**                      All Saints Church, Wells Road, Malvern

Music by Elgar, Finzi and others with Fauré's *Requiem* in the second half of the programme. Tickets £10 from 01684 310019 or at the door. Proceeds support Megan's Kitchen.

**Saturday 27 November**    **Worcester Festival Choral Society**  
**7.30pm**                      Worcester Cathedral

Programme: Mozart's Magic Flute Overture, and his Solemn Vespers, followed by Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine* and his *Requiem*.

Tickets £10 to £25, from [WFCS.ONLINE](http://WFCS.ONLINE) or 0333 666 3366



### At Malvern Theatres

**14 November**                      **Chandos Symphony Orchestra** plays Borodin, Haydn's Trumpet Concerto (soloist: Paul Jones), and Sibelius' Symphony No.2.

**23 December**                      **Armonico Consort** – Handel's *Messiah*

And if opera is your thing, Malvern Theatres are broadcasting live two more operas from The Met, both at 5.55pm.

**4 December**                      *Eurydice*, by up and coming US composer Matthew Aucoin

**1 January**                          *Cinderella*, an abridged version of Massenet's *Cendrillon*.

