

The Becker Ensemble

Vol: 5 - February 2009

NEWSLETTER



2009 will see some notable differences for the Becker series of concerts in Sandwich Guildhall. The concerts this year will feature leading players from the larger symphony orchestra getting together to perform concerts with a difference. Firstly from the Wind section of the orchestra (on 27th Feb 09 - see below) we have a concert given by the 'Becker Wind Soloists', Ian Crowther - Oboe, Rosemary Rathbone - Flute, Carol Shaw - Clarinet, Alex Thorneloe - Bassoon & Nick Morgan - Horn. I will be introducing the concert which will include some new repertoire that looks to be very exciting and great fun.

The second concert (on Saturday 28th Mar 09 - see below) will feature the 'Becker String Soloists' where I will be joined by three internationally renowned string players: John Georgiadis - violin, Steve Shakeshaft - viola & Martin

Thomas - cello. We will be playing the quartets by Debussy and Elgar as well as the 'Lark' quartet by Haydn. John, Steve and Martin are all distinguished string players who have and do work at the very top of the music profession so I am sure this concert will be one not to miss.

I am hoping that November will see a return to Sandwich of young players that have joined us before from the Yehudi Menuhin School who are now making a serious mark on the international scene as soloists and chamber music players.

Also during the year we will be giving our summer prom concert at Ripple on Friday 24th July and the symphony concert in St Mary's Church Sandwich on Thursday 27th August. Hopefully you will be able to join us for one or more of these evenings and we look forward to many more evenings of music making here in our corner of Kent.

John Perkins

SANDWICH GUILDHALL CONCERT - 27 February 2009



The first of the two Spring 2009 concerts is on 27th February and will feature the Becker Wind Soloists in a fun evening with the Wind Quintet and music that includes: Sweelinck - Variations on a Folk Song; Ibert - Trois Pieces Breves; Haydn - Divertimento; Parker - Mississippi Five; Quantz - Sonata in C minor and more.....

The *Wind Quintet* formed in the summer of 1992 and gave their debut concert in November at the Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury, where a newly commissioned work by Italian composer Dario Marianelli was given its first performance. All the players are Kent-based and pursue their own freelance playing and teaching careers. During 1993, a wide range of sponsorship enabled the group to embark on a Canterbury Series of four very well received concerts. The success of this series has enabled the group to perform a 'Canterbury Series' every year since 1993, and the 2000 series, culminating with a performance in the new Cathedral Education Centre during the Canterbury Festival was a great success with the group performing to a full house. During 2002, the Quintet's Tenth Anniversary year, they were part of The Festival Chamber Orchestra which performed a concert in Canterbury Cathedral during the Canterbury Festival where they welcomed Nicholas Daniel, the internationally renowned oboist and conductor to direct the ensemble.

Tickets are now available by calling 01304 382283



2009 'PROMS IN THE PARK'

Ripple - 24th July 2009

The Becker Orchestra - Conductor: John Perkins

Tickets will go on sale on 1st March for The Becker Orchestra 'Prom in The Park' in the grounds of Ripplevale School, just on the outskirts of Deal, on Friday 24th July 2009. This is a wonderful arena for a concert with good facilities and easy parking close to the seating area. This year a brand new stage area is being built and the orchestra will be joined by Margaret

Threadgold (soprano) and the Becker Singers for all the traditional music and much more. Described in the papers as "The South East's best kept secret" this concert truly is a terrific evening out for the whole family.

Tickets priced £12 in advance £15 on the door - (children under 16 years £6)

Ripple 'Prom' tickets (only) hotline: 01304 365525

By Post: Ripplevale School, Chapel Lane, Ripple CT14 8JG

Sandwich Guildhall Concert 28th March 2009



Martin Thomas - cello

The second concert in the 2009 series of concerts takes place in Sandwich Guildhall at 8pm on Saturday 28th March. The concert features the 'Becker String Soloists', Violins: John Georgiadis & John Perkins, Viola: Steve Shakeshaft, Cello: Martin Thomas. Soloists who have featured in the Becker Orchestra in recent years get together for a challenging programme of music by Debussy, Elgar and Haydn.

New to the area is the cellist Martin Thomas. Martin studied at the Royal Academy of Music where he was taught the cello by Lilly Phillips. Whilst there he won the Carnegie Medal for performance in the Recital Diploma examination and was also a founder member of the Coull String Quartet.

The Coull Quartet was coached by Sidney Griller and made their debut on the South Bank in 1976. The following year, they took up the position of quartet-in-residence at Warwick University. As one of the UK's premier quartets, in addition to their work at the university the Quartet travelled all over the world working for the British Council and also broadcast regularly on Radio 3. In 1985 Martin left the Coull and moved to London where he pursued a busy career as a freelance player and teacher and continued to play a considerable amount of chamber music. He now lives in Kingsdown but continues to travel extensively, performing a rich and varied repertoire.

Programme of Music

Haydn - String Quartet in D opus 64 No 5 (The Lark)
Debussy - String Quartet in G opus 10
Elgar - String Quartet in E minor opus 83

Again we need to attract extra funds for the 27th August 2009 concert in St Mary's Church Sandwich. If anyone has any idea who we could approach for sponsorship please let us know.

Tickets include a complimentary glass of wine
Tel: 01304 382283

By Post: 1 The Old Cannery, Hengist Rd,
Deal, CT14 6WY

In Person: 'The Sandwich Bookshop', 60 King St,
Sandwich Tel: 260404 or

'Farthings', Delf St, Sandwich Tel: 612292

Email: john@beckerensemble.com

Concert Ticket Prices

New Season Dates

Sandwich Guildhall Concerts - £10.00

St Mary's Church 27th August 2009 - £15.00

Becker Dates

- 27 Feb 09 - Sandwich Guildhall - Becker Wind Soloists
- 28 Mar 09 - Sandwich Guildhall - Becker String Soloists
- 24 Jul 09 - Ripple Prom - Becker 'prom in the park'
- 8 Aug 09 - Goodnestone House - KCO Prom
- 27 Aug 09 - St Mary's Church Sandwich - Becker Symphony Concert
- 22 Sep 09 - The Gulbenkian Theatre - Marlowe Young Musician of the Year - KCO
- 6 Nov 09 - Sandwich Guildhall - Becker Ensemble Concert
- 18 Dec 09 - Sandwich Guildhall - Becker Christmas Concert

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1 The Old Cannery, Hengist Road

Deal, Kent, CT14 6WY

Tel: (bookings) **01304 382283**

www.beckerensemble.com