

The Becker Ensemble

VOI: 6 - February 2010

NEWSLETTER



The Becker programme of concerts for 2010 is now in place and includes chamber concerts, the popular Ripple Prom concert and of course the Symphony concert as part of the Sandwich Festival.

We have invited Jonathan Bloxham, Tetsumi Negato and Matheiu van Bellan to join us in November as they did in 2009 for such a special concert. Again, the concert in 2010 will include spectacular solo items as well as the Quartet in D major by Mendelssohn. Matheiu van Bellan is also joining us on 26th August for the symphony concert when he will be the soloist in the Violin Concerto in G minor by Max Bruch.

On 23rd March Rosemary Rathbone (flute) will join me, Jane Browne and John Cullis for an evening of music by

Mozart, Haydn, Cimarosa and Beethoven. The repertoire of music for flute and strings is relatively small, but includes some gems, none more so than the main work which will be Mozart's Flute Quartet.

The first concert in the year will be in the Guildhall on Friday 26th February when I will be joined by Jane Browne, Adrian Smith and Martin Thomas for a performance of the Quartet by Vaughan Williams and the 'Kaiser' Quartet by Haydn. The Guildhall at Sandwich is a perfect setting for chamber concerts with comfortable surroundings and facilities for the audience and performers alike.

The summer prom concert at Ripple is on Friday 23rd July and the symphony concert in St Mary's Church Sandwich on Thursday 26th 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 - 26th March 2010



The second of the two Spring 2010 concerts is on Friday 26th March and will feature the flautist Rosemary Rathbone. Rosemary Rathbone studied the flute with Derek Honner at the Royal Academy of Music, where she was awarded the Purcell prize for her performance of Mozart's Flute Concerto in D. As a freelance orchestral player she has worked with the Ulster Orchestra, Bournemouth Sinfonietta, the Royal Ballet Sinfonia and the English National Ballet. Rosemary lives and teaches in Canterbury and she can regularly be heard playing in concerts throughout Kent. She performed the Nielsen Flute Concerto with the Oare String Orchestra, and more recently traveled to France with the University of Kent Camerata to perform the Fifth Brandenburg Concerto by J S Bach.

SANDWICH GUILDHALL CONCERT - 12th NOVEMBER 2010



Tetsuimi Nagata was born in Canada and began studying the violin at the age of five with Marlin Wolfe. In 2000, he gained a place at The Yehudi Menuhin School where he studied with Hu Kun and Maciej Rakowski. He is now currently studying at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with David Takeno and is a recipient of a Martin Musical Scholarship Award. He has performed alongside the late Mstislav Rostropovich, Alexander Rudin, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies and Andras Schiff. Tetsuimi has performed in venues such as the Wigmore Hall, Barbican Hall, Royal Albert Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Menuhin Hall, The Sage Gateshead and St. John's Smith Square as well as in France, Greece, Switzerland and Canada. Tetsuimi has performed with the Vancouver Island Symphony and has recorded Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" with them, which has been broadcast on CBC National Radio. In the UK, he has performed with the Guildford Symphony and Polesden Lacey Festival Orchestras.



2010 'PROMS IN THE PARK'

Ripple - 23rd July 2010

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 23rd July 2010. This is a wonderful arena for a concert with good facilities and easy parking close to the seating area. The orchestra will again be joined by Margaret Threadgold (soprano) 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

St Mary's Church Sandwich Festival Concert 26th August



Mathieu van Bellen
Solo Violin

Mathieu van Bellen started playing the violin at the age of four. He was taught by Nico Baltussen in Sint-Niklaas (Belgium) at the Academy of Music, Word and Dance.

From September 2002 he studied at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester (UK) with Professor Jan Repko. During his years at Chethams, Mathieu took part in many chamber music events and won the schools concerto competition, which made it possible for him to perform Lalo's Symphony Espagnole with the school orchestra. He has taken part in several competitions including Jong Tenuto, Prinses Christina Competition, The Lordens Violdagen, Davina van Wely concours, The Wieniawski Competition and Young musician of the Year Holland, and Yeduhi Menuhin Competition. He was a prizewinner in all competitions.

In 2008 he won the Royal College of Music String Player of the Year Competition. He gave concerts in The Netherlands, Belgium, England, Poland, USA, Denmark, Japan, Greece and in Belarus, and in May 2007 he played his debut in the Concertgebouw (Grote and Kleine Zaal).

A Graduate of the Keshet Eilon Violin Mastercourse 2008, where he studied with Schlomo Mintz, Mathieu also had masterclasses with distinguished artists like Nikolaj Znaider, Maxim Vengerov, David Finckel, Herman Krebbers, Simon Fontanelli, Gordon Back, Ani Schnarch, Rudolf Koelman, Bruno Schrecker, and Yair Kless. At the moment Mathieu plays on a beautiful violin made by Allesandro Gagliano, which he is able to use with the help of Delta N.V.

Again we need to attract extra funds for the 26th August 2010 concert in St Mary's Church Sandwich. If anyone has any idea who we could approach for sponsorship please let us know.

Programme of Music

Bruch - Violin Concerto in G minor

Rossini - Introduction and Variations for Clarinet
(soloist: Ellie Eden)

Beethoven - Symphony No 2 in D major opus 36
Tickets £15, includes a complimentary glass of wine

Concert Ticket Prices

New Season Dates

Sandwich Guildhall Concerts - £10.00

St Mary's Church 27th August 2010 - £15.00

Becker Dates

- 26 Feb 10 - Sandwich Guildhall - Becker String Ensemble
- 26 Mar 10 - Sandwich Guildhall - Rosemary Rathbone (flute)
- 23 Jul 10 - Ripple - Becker 'prom in the park'
- 26 Aug 10 - St Mary's Church Sandwich - Becker Symphony Concert
- 28 Sep 10 - The Gulbenkian Theatre - Marlowe Young Musician of the Year - KCO
- 12 Nov 10 - Sandwich Guildhall - Becker String Ensemble
- 17 Dec 10 - Sandwich Guildhall - Becker Christmas Concert

The Becker Ensemble

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www.beckerensemble.com