

The Becker Ensemble

VOI: 4 - October 2007

NEWSLETTER

"The past year has seen the Becker Ensemble expanding its programme of events to include 2 symphony concerts, 2 outdoor 'prom' type concerts, as well as the annual series of concerts in Sandwich Guildhall and an assortment of smaller events in London and the South East.

We have been lucky to have so many excellent musicians willing to travel and join us for bigger events, some from afar away as Geneva and France, as well as all parts of the UK. These summer concerts are firmly established as part of the musical calendar and act as a reunion of friends in the profession who catch

up on news and spend a few days by the sea while enjoying playing great music.

We have also been lucky over the last year to receive a generous donation from an individual (who wishes to remain anonymous) that has allowed us to plan and undertake the large-scale symphony concert in St Mary's Sandwich, which I am pleased to report will take place next year on Thursday 21st August. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at a future concert".

John Perkins



Margaret Threadgold joins the Becker Ensemble for the Christmas concert in Sandwich Guildhall on Friday 21st December 2007. Also taking part in the concert are The Oratory Singers, a professional group of singers from Canterbury. Book early to ensure getting a ticket for this popular Christmas event.

SANDWICH GUILDHALL CONCERT - 23rd November 2007

SANDWICH GUILDHALL CONCERT - 21st December 2007

The Autumn series of Sandwich Guildhall concerts start at 8pm on Friday 23rd November with a concert featuring two leading cellists, Charles Martin and Jonathan Bloxham. The programme of music will feature Schubert's C Major Quintet and Bach's Second Unaccompanied Suite for cello, played by Jonathan.

Charles Martin has been a member of the BBC Symphony Orchestra cello section for a little over 30 years, during which time he has worked with all the leading musicians of our time. His face may be familiar as he has played with The Becker Ensemble in this area on numerous occasions and he has appeared on TV in 'The Last Night of The Proms' concerts from the Royal Albert Hall for the last 30 years, as well as many other high profile concerts.



Jonathan Bloxham is an exciting young English talent and a member of the Yehudi Menuhin School of Music. Born in 1988 in Newcastle, Jonathan first studied cello with John Finnon and then with James Craig. Following various successes such as a prize at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod, he moved to The Yehudi Menuhin School in 2004, where he currently studies with Thomas Carroll. He has taken part in master classes or has had lessons from many acclaimed musicians including Melissa Phelps, Pierre Doumenge, Colin Carr, Ferenc Rados, Johannes Goritzki, David Strange, Bernard Greenhouse, Janos Starker and Emma Ferrand. As a soloist and chamber musician he has performed across the United Kingdom, in venues such as the Wigmore Hall and the Purcell

Room, and also in France, Germany, Austria, Holland and the Czech Republic, including a performance of Haydn's Sinfonia Concertante under Scott Stromann in Spain. In March 2006 he performed the Beethoven Triple Concerto with the Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra and later that year he traveled to Japan to give a recital in Hiroshima City. Last year he was awarded a Pierre Fournier Award Grant and the 2006 Guilhermina Suggia Award.

Tickets are now available by calling 01304 239356



2008 'PROMS IN THE PARK'

Ripple - 1st August 2008

The Becker Orchestra - Conductor: John Perkins

Apart from the terrible weather, which affected most outdoor events this year, the prom concerts went ahead and were greatly enjoyed by those hardy folk who attended. Plans are already in hand for similar events next year and The Becker Orchestra will perform a 'Prom in The Park' in the grounds of Ripplevale School, just on the outskirts of Deal, on 1st August 2008. This is a wonderful arena for a concert with good facilities and easy parking close to the seating area. Tickets available from early next year by calling: 01304 365525/373866.

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

'Prom' tickets (only) hotline: 01304 365525

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

Personality feature: Jane Browne (viola)



Jane Browne

Jane studied the violin with Gillian Sansom, Bela de Csillery and Lionel Bentley (leader of the Amici String Quartet). After playing in the Kent Youth Orchestra while at school, Jane went on to study with Lionel Bentley at the Royal Academy of Music, and later with Clarence Myerscough. She qualified as a class music teacher at Sittingbourne College, and has made a career as a free-lance player and teacher of violin, viola and piano. Jane has played with The Becker Ensemble since 1989. She also teaches, plays in the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, The Kent Concert Orchestra and The City of Canterbury Symphony Orchestra, spending much of her time travelling around the country.



Pictured left:

Some members of **'The Oratory Singers'**

A professional choir from Canterbury

The Oratory Singers - who join The Becker Ensemble & Margaret Threadgold for a Christmas concert in Sandwich Guildhall at 8 pm on Friday 21st December 2007. Seasonal music with a few surprises! The Oratory Singers have recently made the first complete recording of J. H. Maunder's sacred cantata 'Olivet to Calvary'.

Tickets £10. Book now on 01304 239356

www.beckerensemble.com

Sponsorship for 2008

The Becker Ensemble is very grateful for the on-going support of Sandwich Town Council who have helped with the finances since 1999. Also our grateful thanks to the Worshipful Company of Dyers who helped with the Sandwich Festival Concert in 2006 and 2007.

Again we need to attract extra funds for the 21st August 2008 concert in St Mary's Church Sandwich. If anyone has any idea who we could approach for sponsorship please let us know.

Concert Ticket Prices

New Season Dates

Sandwich Guildhall Concerts - £10.00

21st August 2008 - £15.00

Becker Dates

23rd Nov 07 - Concert Sandwich Guildhall

21st Dec 07 - Concert Sandwich Guildhall

22nd Feb 08 - Concert Sandwich Guildhall

11th Apr 08 - Concert Sandwich Guildhall

1st Aug 08 - 'Prom' Ripple

21st Aug 08 - St Mary's Church Sandwich

7th Nov 08 - Concert Sandwich Guildhall

(Sat) 13th Dec 08 - Sandwich Guildhall

The Becker Ensemble

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