

Harpenden Lions Club



Charity fund-raising concert series

Since the early 1990s Harpenden Lions Club has presented charity concerts at Rothamsted Manor in Harpenden to raise money for worthwhile causes and to entertain local residents. These events have raised around £20,000 for a variety of deserving charities.

The concerts have established a local tradition and a loyal and appreciative audience. Typically in recent years £1,000 has been raised at each event and each one has been very well attended.

For more information and details of forthcoming events see the Harpenden Lions website and click 'Music' in the menu selection.



Rothamsted Manor, Harpenden – venue for Harpenden Lions Charity concerts

The concert series began in 1991 with a recital by local resident Alan Venning. He later presented the choir of Beechwood Park School in 1993 – Beechwood Park is an independent Preparatory School near Harpenden.

The breadth of music and variety of performers has changed over the years. Artists have included the Aeolian String Ensemble and local harpist, Margaret Knight. The Wood sisters from Harpenden, Rebecca, Katherine and Helena have also performed as well as another Harpenden resident the pianist Haydn Dickenson who was central to many of the performances.

Another talented local musician, the renowned international oboist and professor of music Nicholas Daniel, has also performed at a Lions concert. Tom Poster, winner of the Scottish International Piano Competition in 2007, has entertained at two concerts in recent years. Tom won the keyboard sections of the Royal Over-Seas League and BBC Young Musician of the Year competitions in 2000.



Audience at a Harpenden Lions Charity concert at Rothamsted Manor

From 2004 a series of young musicians performed at the Lions concerts, the standard was very high. Many of them were pupils at the time at Junior Guildhall, Junior Academy, Wells Cathedral School and Chetham's School of Music. Several of the performers had been members of the National Youth Orchestra.

Later, as the performers progressed, the concerts have featured older musicians, mainly students of The Purcell School, Royal College of Music, Royal Academy of Music, Guildhall School of Music and King's College, Cambridge and a chamber group made up of section leaders of Cambridge University Chamber Orchestra.

By 2009 the performers from the preceding years had graduated from music schools or university and had moved on – mainly to become professional musicians. A new source of young performers was sought and happily the local Purcell School agreed to send their pupils to continue the tradition. Purcell, based in Bushey, near Watford is a boarding and day school for young musicians. It is Britain's oldest specialist music school.



15th May 2004 concert

Left to right

Haydn Dickenson - piano, Alice Gledhill – clarinet, Sophie Bevan – soprano, Clare Robson - flute. Guest Peter Lilley MP



13th May 2006 concert

Left to right

Back row: Hannah Craib- viola Alice Gledhill – clarinet, Jae Yoo – violin, Martha Hardman – oboe, Laura Dixon - violin
Front row: Benjamin Stevens – cello, Lully Bathurst - bassoon



19th May 2007 concert

Left to right

Alice Gledhill – clarinet, Tom Poster – piano, Sophie Gledhill, cello



26th April 2008 concert

Left to right

Guy Button – violin, Tom Poster – piano, Alice Gledhill – clarinet, Chang-Ho Yoon - Violin
 Sophie Gledhill -cello, Rosalind Ventris -viola



May 2009 concert

Students from the Purcell School



12th June 2010 concert

Students from the Purcell School

Concerts have been extensively reported in the press and recorded on the Harpenden Lions website. Two examples of press coverage are shown.

www.stalbansobserver.co.uk

Harpenden-1st Wednesday, February 22, 2006

Community life in Harpenden

HARPENDEN Lions are pleased to present a charity concert in aid of the Keech Cottage Children's Hospice and Grove House in the Great Drawing Room of Rothamsted Manor on Saturday 13 May at 7.30pm.
 The concert will be given by the talented young musicians of the Pegasus

Wind Trio and the Goldmark String Quartet.
 The programme includes Mozart's Divertimento No.4 for Wind Trio and the Clarinet Quintet plus Haydn's String Quartet in G, Op.55 No.5.
 The second half will consist of a variety of works on a lighter note by George

Gershwin, Scott Joplin, Ennio Morricone and others.
 Tickets £12, including a complimentary glass of wine, from 01582 791699 or 01582 623078, or at the door. Email: music@harpenden-lions.co.uk
 Pictured are the young musicians of the Pegasus Wind Trio.

Pre-event publicity for concert in May 2006 featured in "Harpenden First"



Musicians at the Rothamsted Manor concert on Saturday.

Manor music to help charity

A CONCERT to support a music therapy charity raised around £1,000 in the grand setting of Rothamsted Manor in Harpenden on Saturday night.

The Solo to Sextet performance featured six young musicians who came together for the special performance, an annual tradition organised by the Harpenden Lions Club.

The group, including sisters Alice and Sophie

Gledhill from Harpenden, enthralled the 120-strong audience with Piazzolla, Puccini and Mozart.

Starting with a solo pianist, another performer was added to the stage as the concert went on.

The money will be donated to the Towersey Foundation to support their Music on Wheels project, an initiative that offers musical therapy to patients of the Pasque Hospice in Luton.

Lions Rothamsted Concert held 26th April 2008, cutting from Herts Advertiser April 30, 2008

Selected performer profiles

Nicholas Daniel www.nicholasdaniel.com

Nicholas, oboe, attended The Purcell School the Royal Academy of Music. At 18 he won the BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition. He has created a very successful international career in music both teaching and performing. He has played with many of the major international orchestras and ensembles and nearer to home has played with English Chamber Orchestra and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. He has made more than 30 recordings. Nicholas Daniel has been a music professor at conservatoires and universities in the UK, USA and Germany.

Haydn Dickenson www.hayndickenson.co.uk

Pianist Haydn Dickenson performs regularly throughout the UK, appearing also in France, Germany, Switzerland, Slovakia, Denmark and Bulgaria. His work has also featured on several European Radio and Television networks. Haydn's 2006 CD, EAST, showcasing the complete piano compositions of his mentor, Peter Feuchtwanger, met with critical acclaim. Tracks from EAST have been played on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM and were used as a soundtrack to a BBC TV Panorama broadcast in October 2007. Haydn has performed World Premieres of works by many notable living composers from the UK, Europe and the USA.

Tom Poster www.tomposter.co.uk

Tom Poster, piano, has performed at two Harpenden Lions concerts in recent years. In 2000 Tom, who obtained a double first in Music from King's College, Cambridge won the keyboard sections of the Royal Over-Seas League and BBC Young Musician of the Year competitions. In 2007 he won first prize in the Scottish International Piano Competition. Latterly he has achieved considerable success as a soloist and also as member of the Aronowitz Ensemble which participated in the BBC's New Generation Artists scheme. The Ensemble performed in a Chamber Prom at Cadogan Hall in 2008 which featured one of Tom's arrangements. His performances are frequently broadcast on radio, especially BBC Radio 3.

Margaret Knight

Margaret Knight, harp, began her career presenting voice and harp recitals as a young artist with Lord Yehudi Menuhin's *Live Music Now!* concert scheme. Winner of an Anglo-Norse society scholarship, Margaret has performed worldwide, notably in the famous Winter Palace in St Petersburg, and on Russian television. Margaret has also composed and recorded voice and harp music for broadcast dramas on BBC Radio Three and made arrangements of many classical and folk songs.

Pegasus Wind Trio

The wind trio comprises Alice Gledhill, Lully Bathurst and Martha Hardman who were scholars at the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music.

The mix of oboe, clarinet and bassoon is unfamiliar to many but has gained many instant converts. Pegasus has an eclectic repertoire, including classical greats, jazzy numbers and popular favourites. The trio has played at wedding receptions, private parties, corporate events and at museums and galleries. Kensington Palace and the National Gallery are two examples of prestigious venues where the trio has performed.

Steve Gledhill

Harpden Lions Club

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