



The Joanna Leach Foundation Newsletter Spring 2012

The Lieder Recital 3rd March

Sadly Emmanuel Bach suffered a collapsed lung and was unable to play. The programme was re-arranged with Alexander playing the three *Sonetti del Petrarca* piano transcriptions by Liszt.



Trevor Bolshaw wrote in his review:

"Saturday March 3rd saw the second in the series of Joanna Leach Memorial Concerts at St Paul's Church. This one was given by the baritone singer Stephan Loges with pianist Alexander Schmalcz. It has been said that the finest musical instrument is the human voice. Stephan went a long way towards proving this in a recital of lieder by Brahms and Schumann. However good the singer, he is reliant upon a sympathetic piano accompaniment. This was ably provided by Alexander Schmalcz. I dislike the term 'accompanied by' as it implies a subsidiary role for the pianist whereas what we heard here was a partnership of musicians of equal ability who together brought out the deep emotion in these songs."

"... Alexander Schmalcz filled the gap in the Programme by playing for us the three *Sonetti del*

Petrarca of Franz Liszt. These were particularly appropriate to the evening as not only were they originally written as songs but also, as solo piano works, formed part of Joanna Leach's early piano repertoire. The warmth demonstrated by Alexander in his accompaniment of the lieder emerged again in his tasteful playing of these piano solos."

"Once again another evening of first rate music in this series of concerts and we look forward eagerly to the next one on September 29th when the brilliant pianist Andreas Boyde returns with a programme of Ravel and Mussorgsky."

Trevor Bolshaw

A lovely letter of appreciation from Gwen Martin deserves to be quoted:

"We are all still in ecstasy over memories of that wonderful music expertly sung and played for us last night. We could have listened to them all night and never had enough."

"It was a tremendous amount for Stephan to sing from memory, but every note showed perfectly the emotion of the words with such attention to detail and beautiful tone."

"I always admire good accompanists as I have enjoyed playing for good singers and instrumentalists. I think Alexander was one of the best I have ever heard. Every single note had such feeling and yet was so calm to watch as there was no showiness about him - just a love of the music he was performing."

"It all got me very enthusiastic about *The Joanna Leach Memorial Recitals* and remembering that we were going to send a donation. We must keep these going, and also help the charity [Hospiscare] at the same time."

The Foundation sponsored the hire of a beautifully toned Steinway Model 'D' for the occasion which Andreas was very enthusiastic about, and so it is already booked for his recital in September.

Recital 29th September 2012, Honiton

Andreas will be playing

Schubert: *Wanderer Fantasie*

Ravel: *Miroirs*

Mussorgsky: *Pictures at an Exhibition*



After his last phenomenal performance here in November, word is spreading fast and we anticipate an excellent attendance with much local interest. So our members will have an opportunity to book early. Booking details to follow later.

Honiton Antiques Festival

For lovers of antiques this is a great opportunity to take a break and spend a few days in Honiton to enjoy the **Festival Week** which runs from the **12th November**.

Our plans for three lunchtime events at St. Paul's during the week have a Regency flavour:

- **Tuesday 13th:** Douglas Hollick, playing organ music of the period
- **Thursday 15th:** Jilly Spencer with Andrew Carter, words and music associated with Fanny Burney in Windsor. Andrew will be playing Joanna's 1823 Stodart square piano
- **Friday 16th:** Christopher Leith, acclaimed puppeteer plus Andrew and the Stodart.

"Interview with the Vampire"

The film starred Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt as the principle vampires.



The young vampire Claudia is seen here playing a square piano under the guidance of her doomed music tutor.

Mike writes, "Back in the early 90s George Fenton asked Jo to play her Stodart piano for some sequences in the film. I have long wished to put together some clips that involve Jo's part in the soundtrack and have now finally done it. The video clip entitled "*Joanna Leach - Film engagement*" can be downloaded from the Athene online file repository. This is intended to represent an aspect of Jo's musical heritage for viewing by our members and is not for general circulation. The file is to be found at:

www.storegate.co.uk

User ID: **athenerecords**

Password: **seagull**

The file is the third up from the bottom of the list. Feel free to download anything you want.

New Trustees

Meet our new Trustees, Annie Farrelly-Smith and Samantha Knights on the website:

www.joannaleachfoundation.org.uk

Recital 3rd November 2012, at the historic Minster in Axminster

Our venue for the November recital with Bernard d'Ascoli will be The Minster in Axminster. Bernard and Jo worked together on a series of acclaimed Chopin CDs recorded and produced just after the onset of her ovarian cancer through 2002-2004.



The Minster

"Records show Saxon Christianity rooted here in the eighth century (786 AD) focused on a "Minster"- a monastic community. It is uncertain where the original Church was located - there are however stories of Saxon Princes, squabbles, battles and burials, and on this site an ancient



burial uncovered in the nineteenth century revealed a person of substance and high standing. Athelstan, Alfred's grandson, who reigned over the house of Wessex 924-939 founded a college of priests here.

With the coming of the Normans in 1066, the eleventh and twelfth centuries brought an infusion of fresh ideas, new ways, and adventurous architecture, the old structures were overlaid. The

Saxon Church however had held fast to the Christian faith in difficult and often brutal times, nurturing sound learning, music, defending justice and mercy, sending missionaries to Europe notably Winfrith (S Boniface) of Crediton."

The Minster has long been associated with music making. "The Axminster Concert season has now been going for over twenty five years and provides a much needed platform for local artists to perform a whole variety of styles of music from classical through to more light hearted programmes."

Again we have the benefit of a rail connection to Waterloo, with the station just five minutes walk from the Minster.

Friends Reunion- AGM - London Venue

Judy Hildersley has very kindly offered to host our London gathering in the Autumn. This will be an opportunity for old friends to meet, our first AGM and to see the film of the Lieder session that Jo and Stephan Loges recorded in the music room at Shute five weeks before her death. Good food, good company and good music!

Two London Concerts & a Recital

The Foundation is sponsoring workshops conducted by Andreas Boyde on Mussorgsky's "*Pictures at an Exhibition*" at Tiffin School, Kingston which will culminate in a piano recital in October, followed by a major orchestral and choral concert on the evening of 24th November and a matinee on the 25th; this will include a performance of the Beethoven *Choral Fantasia* with Andreas as soloist, the school's oratorio choir and a professional orchestra.

Charitable Status

Our special thanks to those who have sent donations. HMRC have now granted us charitable status, Ref. XT31998 so we are able to claim Gift Aid against any donations made by UK tax payers.