



MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE

CONCERT SERIES

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2015

Season 74

Sunday, 20-Sept-15 at 7:30pm

Marlborough College, Memorial Hall
**Dame Felicity Lott (soprano) with
Graham Johnson (piano)**

A programme of songs including works
by Schubert, Brahms, Weill and Coward

Sunday, 11-Oct-15 at 7:30pm

Marlborough College, Memorial Hall
**Emma Johnson (clarinet)
with John Lenehan (piano) and
Paul Clarvis (drum kit)**

Exploring the roots of jazz, including
music by Joplin, Debussy, Ravel,
Gershwin, Bernstein, and Bechet

Sunday, 08-Nov-15 at 7:30pm

Marlborough College, Memorial Hall
**Charles Owen (piano)
and Katya Apekisheva (piano)**

A programme of French and Russian
music for four hand piano

Sunday, 17-Jan-16 at 3:00pm

Marlborough College, Memorial Hall
**Tasmin Little (violin)
with Martin Roscoe (piano)**

Programme to include music by
Schubert, Fauré, and Beethoven

Sunday, 07-Feb-16 at 3:00pm

Marlborough College, Memorial Hall
**Southbank Sinfonia (Dir: Simon Over)
with Sacha Rattle (clarinet) and
Philip Dukes (viola)**

Programme to include music by
Brahms, Bruch, and Dvorak

Box Office

To buy tickets, simply complete and
return a booking form (available
online) and send your payment with
an SAE to:

**MCCS Box Office, Henry Hony Centre
Marlborough College, SN8 1PA.**

Contact the Box Office:

01672 892566

mccstickets@btinternet.com

www.marlboroughconcertseries.org

Clarinet Goes To Town

An evening with Emma Johnson (clarinet) John Lenehan (piano) and Paul Clarvis (drums)

Emma Johnson was born in Barnet Hertfordshire in 1966. She took up the clarinet while at school under the tutelage of John Brightwell (Associate of the Royal College of Music). Aged 15, she joined the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and just three years later, she won the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition.

Subsequently, she represented Britain in the televised European Young Musician Competition, taking Bronze in the final in Geneva, in 1984. The very next year, she made her London debut at the Barbican with the English Chamber Orchestra performing Mozart's Clarinet Concerto.

That was the year she chose not to go to music college but instead to pursue a university education at Pembroke College, Cambridge reading English and Music.

At Cambridge, Emma combined her studies with professional engagements all the while advancing her musical proficiency under the guidance of Sidney Fell and Jack Brymer, hailed as the leading British clarinetist of his generation.

Much in demand, she has performed as soloist with many of the world's leading orchestras, and her repertoire encompasses all the great works for clarinet.

Renowned for her lyrical and spontaneous expression, she also reveals an idiomatic feeling for jazz, blues and Klezmer, a musical tradition of the Ashkenazi Jews of Eastern Europe largely consisting of dance tunes and instrumental pieces for weddings and celebrations.

Emma shares the stage in October with John Lenehan and Paul Clarvis.

Pianist and composer **John Lenehan** is recognised internationally as an outstanding soloist and chamber musician. His recording credits (more than 70 discs, to date), and performances are acclaimed throughout the world.

He has toured extensively, appearing in many of the great concert halls of



Photo © John Batten

Europe, Canada, America, and the Far East, both as a chamber musician and soloist. Also recognised as an orchestrator and composer, he has arranged works for Nicola Benedetti, Nigel Kennedy, Julian Lloyd Webber, Tasmin Little and others.

Paul Clarvis has been playing drums since childhood. At school he played jazz and rock, and performed with the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. He spent two years at the Royal College of Music before leaving to become a full-time musician.

He has performed with the BBC Symphony Orchestra on a 'Last night of the Proms,' as a soloist to the Concerto for saxophone and drum kit by Sir Harrison Birtwistle.

He is an eclectic, genre-defying percussionist, and his artistic collaborations read like a who's-who of the rock world and the film industry.

The trio will guide us through a journey exploring the roots of jazz featuring music by Joplin, Debussy, Ravel, Bernstein, Gershwin, and Sidney Bechet.

It promises to be a wild and lively affair and definitely not to be missed! ■

Triumphant return for Southbank Sinfonia

Sunday, 1 February 2015, 3.00pm
Memorial Hall, Marlborough College

It was a great pleasure to welcome back to Marlborough the Southbank Sinfonia, under the baton of Simon Over. This band, formed of young professionals at the beginning of their careers, reinvents itself every year with a new group of exciting talent and, in fact, they had only been together for one week before they arrived at the Memorial Hall – something that was impossible to detect from playing that was precise, balanced, and beautifully sculpted.

After opening with the boisterous Trumpet Overture of Mendelssohn, Over took to the piano and was joined on stage by Russian soprano Ilona Domnich for a mesmerising rendition of Mozart's aria *Ch'io mi scordi di te*. More Mozart followed with the charming Overture from *The Magic Flute*, and Domnich was welcomed back onto the stage to conclude the first half with the impressively virtuosic *O Luce do quest'anima* from *Linda di Chamounix*.

Domnich treated us to an encore at the end of the first half: the Countess' beautiful aria *Dove Sono* from *Figaro*. We were led back to Vienna in the second half for a thoroughly fresh, engaging, and powerful performance of Beethoven's masterful 5th Symphony, with particularly strong playing from the wind and brass.

Being our orchestra-in-partnership, Southbank Sinfonia will return again to Marlborough for the annual side-by-side residency on 2 March 2015 with a concert on Tuesday 3 March 2015, where they will play, amongst other things, movements from concerti by Finzi and Elgar, with instrumentalists and soloists from the College. This will be a real treat for players and audience alike, and not to be missed!

Alex Hodgkinson (Choirmaster and Academic Music Teacher)

Reserve your tickets now for the 74th Season:

Phone – 01672 892566

Email – mccstickets@btinternet.com

Lieder to raise the curtain on opening night

The opening recital of the 74th season brings together two of the foremost exponents of lieder in Britain today – Dame Felicity Loff and Graham Johnson.

The pair met while studying at the Royal Academy of Music and both have performed together on countless occasions since 1976, when Graham founded the *Songmakers' Almanac*.

The purpose of the *Almanac* was to explore neglected areas of piano-accompanied vocal music, and Dame Felicity was one of the founder singers.

Graham is recognised as one of the world's leading vocal accompanists; while Dame Felicity is much celebrated as a concert artist having worked with many of the world's great conductors and orchestras.

Dame Felicity was born in Cheltenham into a family of amateur musicians. From an early age she learnt piano and violin, and took singing lessons. But her great passion was for the French language, and she took a degree in French and Latin at Royal Holloway College, London.

During her degree studies, she spent a year as *Assistante d'Anglais* in a school near Grenoble. In addition to her teaching duties, she enrolled at the *Conservatoire de Grenoble*, where she found an excellent singing teacher. And after returning to England to complete her degree, she gained a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music, where she studied for four years before graduating in 1973.

In 1975, Felicity made her debut at the English National Opera as *Pamina* in Mozart's *Magic Flute*, and a year later began an enduring relationship with Glyndebourne. She toured with the company taking the role of the Countess in *Capriccio*, the final opera by Richard Strauss.

Another year on, she performed at the Festival for the first time, as *Anne Trulove* in Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*. Since then, Felicity has performed in all the great opera houses of the world.

Her repertoire includes songs by Strauss, Schubert, Schumann, Wolf and Brahms, as well as the masters of French *Mélodies*. She is also very fond of English song, especially the work of Benjamin Britten and William Walton.

Graham, too, has devoted his professional life to piano-accompanied vocal music.

Born in Rhodesia, he came to London in 1967 to study with the Royal Academy of Music. After graduating from the Academy, he continued his development with Gerald Moore and Geoffrey Parsons – both classical pianists notable as accompanists.

In 1972, Graham was the official pianist at Peter Pears' first *Master Classes* at The Maltings, Snape – an occasion that brought him into contact with Benjamin Britten. This appears to have been a pivotal moment for Graham.

English tenor, Sir Peter Pears is closely associated with Britten – his personal and professional partner for nearly forty years. Once established in their relationship, Britten wrote numerous concert and operatic works for Pears, and the two were celebrated for their performance of lieder by Schubert and Schumann.



Photo © Trevor Leighton

Graham was evidently inspired to progress his career as a piano-vocal accompanist.

Since then, he has performed with some of the great vocalists of our time, including the operatic soprano Victoria de los Angeles, the Swiss soprano Edith Mathis, a leading exponent of works by Mozart, and Sir Thomas Allen, the distinguished British baritone.

He has a long and fruitful link with Hyperion Records, and both Ted and Simon Perry, for whom he has devised and accompanied a set of complete Schubert Lieder on 37 discs, and a complete Schumann series.

We whole-heartedly welcome Dame Felicity and Graham to our stage, in September, when they will perform works by Schubert, Brahms, Hugo Wolf, Poulenc, Kurt Weill and Noël Coward. ■