



A celebration of women in music

Lamberhurst Music Festival 2023

Dear friends,

In today's world, there is much talk of 'gender equality', and as much as it is a noble aim, it is one that the world is failing to achieve. The UN Women's 'Sustainable Development Goals' report, published in 2022 shows that the world is not on track to achieve gender equality by 2030. We have though, in Europe, come a long way from the days when women were not allowed to fulfil themselves in the way that they wished. Today, we see women leaders where previously there were none, women taking part in sports that were previously denied them, and women musicians able to compose and perform, when in the past, education, the opportunity to learn, and perform, would have been denied them.

Two perfect examples of this are Clara Schumann, and Fanny Mendelssohn.

Clara, a wonderfully gifted pianist who toured extensively in latter life, was also a very good composer. She wrote music for orchestra, piano, chamber ensembles and choral music, and arranged numerous works by other composers. Her output though, was limited by her gender, and only totals some 66 works. Her husband Robert Schumann, who died aged 46 (Clara lived until the age of 76), wrote nearly 3 times as many opuses, simply because society allowed him to. Clara's music is played today, but not nearly as often as Robert's works.

Fanny Mendelssohn was the sister of Felix Mendelssohn and they both came from an extremely privileged family. Their upper class status and wealth allowed their parents to build a concert hall in the grounds of their property, where both Felix and Fanny would give concerts. That, sadly, is where the

similarity ends. Fanny was hampered by her class and gender and her father wrote "*Music will perhaps become Felix's profession, while for you it can, and must, be only an ornament*". Felix was given the opportunity to learn multiple instruments and because of this, his musical output is vast, covering all aspects of the orchestra. Fanny though only ever learnt to play the piano, and her compositions are largely for that instrument. A gifted pianist, she never played outside the concert hall built for her and Felix by their parents. Many of her works were originally published under her brother's name, else they would not have been published at all.

Today, although much has changed, we still live in a classical music world where the majority of trios, quartets and ensembles are predominantly male. The gender inequality is not as dire as it was in centuries bygone, but it still exists, and still limits women.

But not in 2023 at the Lamberhurst Music Festival!!

This year, all musicians, aside from one group, VOCES8, will be women. The programmes that have been put together will blend well known pieces (by male composers) alongside lesser-known works by women.

Emma Johnson is returning to us, and will perform twice. Her concert in May will necessitate the temporary removal of our choir pews as she is bringing a small female chamber orchestra – The Orchestra for the Environment – and she will give a world premiere of her new work 'Tree of Life' the drive for which came from Emma's concern over climate change. In December Emma is appearing with an all-female choir 'Corra

Sound' to perform our candlelit Christmas concert.

I am very pleased to also be able to tell you of a slightly different concert. In September, the wonderful pianist Lucy Parham (who is also a professor at the Guildhall School of Music and Dance) is bringing to Lamberhurst her show 'I, Clara'. This tells the life of Clara Schumann from words that Clara wrote in her many journals and diaries, and consists of both music and spoken word. For this performance, we will be visited by the brilliant actress Patricia Hodge, who will be narrating the words of Clara. This will be an 80 minute non-stop show followed a short interval and then an audience question and answer session. Unusually for us, this will take place on a Sunday.

For our opera this year, I have had to move away slightly from our theme, as there are so very few female-only operas written. I have instead chosen Madame Butterfly which tells the heartrending story of Butterfly who is left by her husband shortly after their marriage. Heritage Opera will be again returning to Bayham to entertain us with singing of the highest quality.

I was offered the opportunity of having (in my opinion) the best choral group performing in the world today, VOCES8, back at Lamberhurst and I hesitated as they are clearly not all female. When I explained to their agent what I was trying to achieve in 2023, he quickly confirmed that VOCES8 could put together a programme that consisted of mainly, if not all, female composers. I signed them up without further thought. VOCES8 came to us in July 2021 and played their first concert after lockdown, which was an amazing and joyful affair. A music teacher described it as 'perfect' and I know that American composer Eric Whitacre was amazed at VOCES8 technical ability and

professionalism. This will be another concert that I expect to sell out, and probably quite quickly.

Fenella Humphreys and Nicola Eimer are a very well-known violinist and pianist who have performed separately and together, both to huge critical acclaim. When I approached their agent with the 2023 project, she took it to Fenella and Nikki who were both extremely supportive. Within hours they responded with two programmes which perfectly mixed slightly more unknown female composers with more well-known males works. I chose the first programme as the balance was so good, and it shows that women's compositions can be favourably compared with that of their male counterparts. This will be a very interesting concert, and is one that I am much looking forward to.

I hope you enjoy this slightly different programme and I look forward to welcoming you in 2023.

Marc Lodge December 2022

Booking Tickets

Our website www.lamberhurstmusic.co.uk has details of all concerts, and tickets can be purchased there. Payment can be made by PayPal, credit or debit card, or you can reserve tickets, and send a cheque to the address below. You can also fill in the form in this programme and send a cheque payable to Lamberhurst Music Festival to 1 Down Farm Oasts, Lamberhurst Down, Kent, TN3 8HF.

Patrons

Patrons enjoy free drinks and the best seats at St Marys, the cost of which is only £100 per season. Please consider taking out a very supportive patronage.

Emma Johnson MBE and The Orchestra for the Environment



Emma Johnson came to Lamberhurst in 2018 and was one of the first people that I contacted when considering this project to celebrate women in music. Emma is a beacon in the classical music arena and was awarded an MBE in 1996 for her services to music. When I outlined the project to her, she immediately suggested both 'Corra Sound' and Lucy Parham's 'I, Clara' programme. I am extremely grateful for her help and support which has enabled me to build this year's festival.

Emma's early life was spent locally, going to school in Orpington and Sevenoaks. In 1984 Emma was the overall winner of the BBC young musician of the year competition. The following year, she made her London debut at the Barbican playing Mozart's Clarinet Concerto with the English Chamber Orchestra. Emma is one of the UK's biggest selling classical artists and has recorded well over 30 albums. She has had numerous pieces written for her, including jazz legend Johnny Dankworth's 'Suite for Emma'.

Composer Paul Reade was asked by the BBC to write the music for a series entitled 'The Victorian Kitchen Garden' which he did, featuring clarinet and Harp, and dedicated it to Emma. This work will be performed at this concert.

I am absolutely delighted to be able to say, and this is a first for us, that Emma has chosen

Lamberhurst to premiere her new work 'Tree of Life'. This piece was inspired by Emma's wish to say something about the climate emergency. The piece lasts about 20 minutes and the clarinet is backed by string orchestra, harp and drum kit. There are 4 parts: *In the Beginning*, *Bacchanalia*, *The Truth of Things*, and *Resolution*. The music sets up a natural landscape which is shattered by partying and machine-like configurations in the second movement. Then comes realisation of the harm that has been done and the fourth part deals with finding acceptance and resolution.

Emma will be performing with a 13 strong female orchestra especially put together for this concert and called 'Orchestra for the Environment'. The orchestra will consist of 11 string players, a harpist, drum kit player and Emma on clarinet. It will surely kick off the 2023 season in style and with a bang.

In addition, because of the nature of Emma's new piece, we have agreed to a donation from the sales of all tickets, to go to Kent Wildlife Trust which cares for the environment.

Saturday 13th May 2023
7.30pm

**St Mary's Church,
Lamberhurst**

Doors open 6.45pm
Tickets £30

The full programme for the concert is:
Mozart Eine Kleine Nachtmusik
Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Greensleeves
Emma Johnson Tree of Life
Paul Reade Suite from the Victorian Kitchen Garden
Tchaikovsky Serenade

VOCES8



Photo credit: Andy Staples

VOCES8 came to us in 2021 when we were holding 'cut-down' concerts of only an our each, due to Covid. When their management team contacted me in Summer 2022 and offered another concert, I was very keen to say yes. The sticking point though was that by that point, I was already invested in the 'celebrating women' project for 2023 and VOCES8 are clearly not all women. Conversation ensued with their agent, and a compromise was agreed that the group will sing as many pieces in their repertoire by female composers as possible.

The above mentioned 2021 concert, even though shorter than usual, was one of the stand-out concerts of the season. Some of the feedback that I received after the concert read *"truly, an amazing performance by such talented singers. It was a real privilege to have been able to listen to them"* and *"perfect harmony, pitch and breath control, and great stage presence"*

High praise indeed, but I must say, quite justified. VOCES8 are, in my opinion, the best choral group in the UK today. There are two or three other groups that come close, but, and again I stress that this is purely my own opinion, VOCES8 have the togetherness, tightness of harmony and sheer ability that

places them above others. I have 10 of their huge collection of CDs, and they are constantly played in my household – they are my go to music when I finish work of an evening, and wish to relax.

The variety of their output also needs to be mentioned and was commented on after their last Lamberhurst concert. The programme in 2021 ranged from William Byrd to Nat King Cole, and from Rachmaninov to Van Morrison. Each piece was perfectly delivered within its own genre, which merged together as a whole to give a truly memorable concert experience.

Thursday 29th June 2023
7.30pm

**St Mary's Church,
Lamberhurst**

Doors open 6.45pm
Tickets £30

In addition to being a wonderful group to listen to, VOCES8 are passionate about music education and are the flagship ensemble of the music charity 'The VOCES8 Foundation'. They engage in a broad range of outreach work, reaching up to 40,000 people each year.

The programme for the concert will be announced in 2023. I am expecting a full house for this concert, and I would suggest booking early in order to avoid disappointment.

Bayham Abbey Heritage Opera perform 'Madame Butterfly'



I am delighted to welcome back to Lamberhurst and to Bayham, Heritage Opera, who came to us in 2018 and again last year. Formed in 2006 by the conductor Chris Gill, Heritage Opera were founded with the aim of presenting chamber operas in period costume in stately homes across the north of England. The operas were sung either in their original languages with subtitles or in English versions translated specially for the company. To begin with, Heritage carefully selected their venues for their ambience and intimacy, usually in areas which would not otherwise have benefited from professional opera performances.

To celebrate the company's fifth anniversary in 2011, Heritage launched a successful fundraising appeal to raise over £50,000 for the commission and production of Mansfield Park, based on Jane Austen's novel, by the composer Jonathan Dove and the librettist Alasdair Middleton. The new work was given its premiere in 2011, and toured around the UK.

In 2017 Heritage Opera performed its second world première: The Arsonists, by the composer Alan E Williams and the librettist Ian McMillan.

Heritage specialise in bringing opera to historic heritage venues, and have performed

in many major stately homes including Chatsworth, Hatfield House, Boughton House and (obviously) Bayham Abbey. Their repertoire is extensive and includes Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, Pepusch's The Beggar's Opera, Mozart's best-loved operas (The Marriage of Figaro, Don Giovanni, Così Fan Tutte and The Magic Flute), Rossini's Barber of Seville, Verdi's La Traviata, and Puccini's La Bohème, Tosca, and Madame Butterfly. French opera has appeared in the form of Carmen. Light opera has not been forgotten: Heritage Opera have performed Gilbert and Sullivan's Trial by Jury, HMS Pinafore and The Pirates of Penzance, as well as Johann Strauss' Die Fledermaus.

Saturday 5th August 2023

**Gates open 5.30pm
Opera begins at 7.30pm**

Bayham Abbey

Tickets £30

In choosing an opera for this year's Bayham, I did consider an all-female cast opera, or even an opera by a female composer, but all that exist are not really well-known enough to be of interest to a wider audience. I then looked at the stories that operas tell, and Puccini's Madame Butterfly seemed to fit loosely within the boundaries of women composers not being treated properly. Puccini's opera tells the story of 15 year old Cio-Cio-San who, against her families wishes, marries an American naval officer called Pinkerton. He only marries her for 'convenience' and intends to find a 'proper' American wife on his return to the U.S. Butterfly does not know this though, and waiting for him to return, bears him a son. Three long years pass, until Pinkerton returns, with his American wife and tragedy swiftly ensues.

Lucy Parham & Patricia Hodge OBE perform 'I, Clara'



I am absolutely delighted to be able to bring to the 2023 festival a concert that is different and, dare I say it, brilliant.

Lucy Parham is a professor of the piano at the Guildhall school of Music, London, as well as being a superb touring concert pianist. Lucy was the piano winner of the 1984 BBC Young Musician of the year (where she met Emma Johnson). She has appeared at all the major venues in London and around the UK, and is frequently heard on BBC Radio 3, the Today Programme and Woman's Hour.

Patricia Hodge needs little, if any, introduction. An acclaimed international actress famous for her TV roles in 'Rumpole of the Bailey', 'Miranda', and 'All Creatures Great and Small'. Her large body of work also includes the TV adaption of 'The Lives and Loves of a She-Devil' and 'Hotel du Lac'. Her stage roles number over 30 and she is the recipient of a BAFTA and numerous Olivier awards.

"A beautifully crafted portrait of Clara Schumann. Be prepared to shed a tear – Pianist Magazine"

This 'show' (for want of a better expression) will last for 80 minutes without an interval, but will be followed by a short break and then an question and answer session.

Written by Lucy Parham in 2019 to celebrate 200 years since Clara Wieck Schumann's birth,

'I, Clara' tells her extraordinary life story in Clara's own words.

Clara Schumann was a truly exceptional woman, not just a devoted wife to the composer Robert Schumann, but a groundbreaking musician in her own right. Over a period of 60 years she gave 1,500+ concerts and determined the format of the kind of piano recital that is familiar to us today. She was a child prodigy, groomed for stardom by her piano-teacher father, Friedrich Wieck. By the age of eight she was dazzling audiences throughout Europe. Having married Robert against her father's wishes, she became the mother of eight children. When her husband declined tragically into mental illness and an attempt at suicide, she continued both to run the household and to make an international concert career to support the family.

Sunday 10th September '23

4pm

**St Mary's Church,
Lamberhurst
Doors open 3.15pm**

**A Q&A session will follow
the performance**

Tickets £30

The narrative of 'I, Clara' is drawn from letters and diaries, and is interspersed with live performances of her works, and of music by Robert Schumann, Brahms, Liszt, Chopin and Mendelssohn.

I have seen parts of this performance and it really is very moving. As suggested in the quote by Pianist Magazine, tissues might be necessary. Tickets are expected to be in high demand.

Fenella Humphreys and Nicola Eimer



Fenella Humphreys, was the winner of the 2018 BBC Music Magazine Instrumental Award, and has won critical admiration and audience acclaim with the grace and intensity of her playing which has been described as “alluring”, “unforgettable” and “a wonder”, Fenella is one of the UK’s most established and versatile violinists. She enjoys a busy career combining chamber music and solo work, performing in prestigious venues around the world. She is frequently broadcast on the BBC, Classic FM, Scala Radio and international radio stations.

British pianist Nicola Eimer is a graduate of the Juilliard School, and has performed as a soloist and chamber musician across Europe, America and Asia. Nicola has performed at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, St John's Smith Square, the Barbican and Wigmore Hall, and has played at the Purcell Room for the Kirckman Concert Society and the Park Lane Group. She has made regular appearances for the London Chopin Society since first performing in their gala at Wigmore Hall in 1997.

In February 2019 Fenella and Nicola release ‘So Many Stars’ a CD of piano and Violin, to huge critical acclaim. It was described as “hugely rewarding” by The Observer; “an absolutely

exquisite album” by BBC Radio 3’s Record Review, and was The Strad’s Recommended Recording that month.

As mentioned previously, Fenella and Nicola were very supportive when approached with our 2023 project celebrating women in music, and came up with two wonderful programme ideas. I have chosen the one below, which I have listened to from start to finish and it really captures the essence of the 2023 project as it perfectly mixes music that is very well known (RVW’s Lark Ascending for example) with that not so well known, such as pieces by Clara Schumann, Fanny Mendelssohn, Ruth Gipp and Lili Boulanger.

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) -

Sonatsatz in C minor WoO 2

Clara Schumann - 3 romances

Ruth Gipp - Evocation

Ralph Vaughan Williams - The Lark Ascending

Cécile Chaminade - Bohémienne op. 31

Lili Boulanger - D’un Matin de Printemps

Gabriel Fauré - Andante op. 75

Emilie Mayer - Violin Sonata in E Flat

Poldowski - Berceuse de l’Enfant Mourant

Jessie Montgomery - Peace

Fanny Mendelssohn - Adagio in E

Florence Price - Fantasy no. 1

*Thursday 9th November
7.30pm*

*St Mary’s Church,
Lamberhurst*

*Doors open 5.30pm
Tickets £25*

Emma Johnson & Corra Sound



Based in the South East of England Corra Sound is an established group of singers with a love for performing, discovering new repertoire, and celebrating the works of remarkably talented and often little known female-composers.

Comprising a blend of professionally trained and high level amateur voices, Each member of Corra has their own story to tell, but they share a passion for music written by women, that explores the reach and versatility of the female voice.

Corra Sound has a unique identity which encompasses a broad range of vocal styles, bringing a deeply-rooted sense of heart, connectivity and passion to their performances.

When I was discussing the 2023 project with Emma Johnson and mentioned that I was looking for a choir to come to us for Christmas, Emma suggested Corra Sound and said that she had performed with them before, with great success.

At the time of writing, I am not sure of the content of the concert, but having Emma return at Christmas will be a wonderful addition to our usual candlelit carol concert. The idea of the warmth and tone of a clarinet singing out in the candlelight the tune of Once in Royal, is a very evocative image indeed, and to be accompanied by a purely female choir is

a fitting finish to what I hope will be an unusual and exciting season.

Corra Sound are:

Lynda Benn

Rae Evans

Amy Bebbington

Catherine Beddison

Cindy Frostick

Camilla Jeppeson

Caroline Page

Caroline Pearce

Joanna Sleight

Sarah Stroh

Clare Wheeler

Anna Tabbush

Alice WrattenA

*Sunday 10th December 2023
7.30pm*

*St Mary’s Church,
Lamberhurst*

*Doors open 6.45pm
Tickets £20*

In previous years, tickets for our candlelit carol concert have been in high demand, and with the addition of Emma Johnson, this is another concert where I am anticipating tickets being in high demand.

All concerts will appear on the Lamberhurst Music website www.lamberhurstmusic.co.uk early in 2023.



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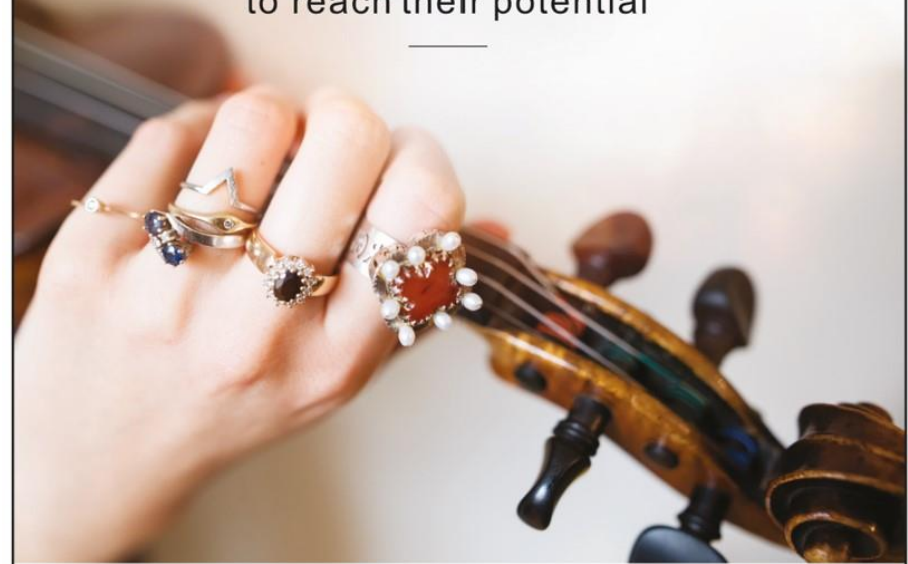
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Concert	Date	Price	Adult	Child (free)	Total Price
Emma Johnson and the Orchestra for the Environment	13/05/23	£30			
VOCES8	29/06/23	£30			
Bayham Abbey	05/08/23	£30			
Lucy Parham and Patricia Hodge	10/09/23	£30			
Fenella Humphreys and Nicola Eimar	09/11/23	£25			
Corra Sound and Emma Johnson	10/12/23	£20			
Patron		£100			

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