

LAMBERHURST

MUSIC FESTIVAL



Programme 2024

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Lamberhurst Music Festival 2024 programme and another year of interesting and varied music. You will probably know that Marc Lodge has bowed out as the Festival Director and we owe him a big thankyou! This is now our 21st year and , having founded the LMF in 2003, I've resumed the role of Musical Director so that we continue to provide high quality music for the Lamberhurst neighbourhood as well as fulfilling our charitable objective in making money for St Mary 's Church Lamberhurst.

The 2024 year offers an exciting range of music and leans heavily on the 2023 programme which was badly affected by cancellations. The Bayham "Madame Butterfly" was called off because of a very rainy week and the "I Clara" concert which tells the story of Clara Schumann, based on diaries and journals, was cancelled because Lucy Parham, the pianist, broke a bone in her wrist 3 days before the concert. I've rebooked both of these, mainly because the demand in both cases was strong, so I hope that you'll all still want to come to them.

The year starts with a piano recital by Daniel Grimwood in March. Dan came to Lamberhurst to play for us in 2013 and was a great success. His career has flourished and I've asked him to come and play one of the most popular of all piano works "Goldberg Variations", possibly the best loved of all Bach's piano pieces. May enjoys a visit from the Carducci quartet, a high quality group who have played all over the world and are now accepted as one of the finest international quartets. August sees Madame Butterfly at Bayham, and October the rerun of the "I Clara" concert. In November I've asked Sam Haywood to come and play for us. He's one of the finest pianists around and has played Proms, Carnegie Hall and almost anywhere else you can think of. His programme will cover Schubert, Beethoven, Elgar and Chopin. And finally, for the Carols by Candlelight concert we'll welcome the choir of Selwyn College Cambridge. They're as good as any Oxbridge choir and probably better than almost all.

I hope that my return as Music Director of the LMF will not be long-lasting. The 2024 year will see a strong supporting team which provides marketing, financial, and admin support to the musical function. But the ideal would be to find someone who would be happy to take over the musical director role, and perhaps perform the other functions as well. When I controlled the LMF I preferred to be in control of all the different areas myself and found that this made the management easier: Marc also found the same. So, if anyone was interested in becoming the all-powerful Director that would be great. Equally if you're interested in just the music side, others would be happy to provide the support across the other areas. You'll see my email address at the bottom of this page and I'd be delighted to hear from anyone who's interested in providing help and support.

Enjoy the year and do, please, make a note of all the concert dates. If you'd like to become involved in the running of the LMF, do please get in touch with me.

David Ham
cdavidham@hotmail.com

Daniel Grimwood plays Bach's Goldberg Variations

**Saturday March 2nd
St Mary's, Lamberhurst 7.30pm
Tickets: £30**

Johann Sebastian Bach's Goldberg Variations has become "an iconic monument in Western music". On one level it's simply a beautiful keyboard work and, on another, it's a Rubik's cube of invention and architecture. The music was written to soothe the sleepless nights of Count Kaiserling who asked his private harpsichordist to perform the variations. The music is constructed symmetrically beginning with a beautifully tranquil and highly ornamented Aria, the bass line of which fuels the 30 variations which follow. It is unusual also in that it was published during Bach's life time. It's a classic and an opportunity not to be missed!



Dan Grimwood is a brilliant player. "A blizzard of dazzling pianism" said the Observer: "beautifully coloured and voiced playing" from the Sunday Times: "he makes it sound a whole lot easier than it could possibly be" said the Toronto Times. Plaudits galore! With a repertoire ranging from Elizabethan virginal music to the works of living composers Daniel enjoys a solo and chamber career which has taken him round the world. He's played in the major concert halls in UK, as well as Russia, Germany and USA. He was also the first European pianist to play in China. In addition Daniel is an editor and writer and his urtext edition of Adolph von Henselt Etudes is a sheet music Publication of the Year finalist.



The Carducci String Quartet

**Friday May 10th
St Mary's Lamberhurst
7.30pm
Tickets: £30**



Described by the Strad as presenting “ a masterclass in unanimity of purpose” the award-winning Carducci Quartet is internationally acclaimed as one of the most accomplished and versatile ensembles of today. The quartet has won numerous international competitions including the USA Concert Artists Guild International Competition and performed at all the prestigious venues around the world including the Barbican, Carnegie Hall and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. One plaudit only to excite you - ”their ascent into the league of the world’s major quartets has been phenomenal” said the Yorkshire Post.

The programme is an interesting mixture of classic and modern. We start with a Haydn Quartet, which is appropriate as Haydn was the core originator of the quartet, and then follow with a short piece by Shostakovich which is lively. And then the second half is devoted to Mendelssohn’s quartet op 13 which is charming and probably known by many of you.



Madame Butterfly with Heritage Opera Bayham Abbey

Saturday August 3rd

7.30pm but doors open at 5.30pm

Tickets: £35

It will be lovely to welcome Heritage Opera back after two previous visits and the cancellation of last year. They were formed in 2006 with the aim of presenting chamber operas in stately homes in the north of England. Business grew quickly and they have now twice given world premieres of new works by English composers. They specialise in bringing opera to stately homes and have performed in many places including Chatsworth, Hatfield House and, of course, Bayham Abbey. Their repertoire is extensive and includes all the best-loved operas including, The Marriage of Figaro, The Magic Flute and La Traviata.

The plot of Madame Butterfly is well-known and tells the story of 15 year old Cio-Cio-San who, against her family’s wishes, marries an American naval officer called Pinkerton. He marries her only for convenience and intends to find a “proper” wife on his return to USA. Butterfly doesn’t know this and bears him a son while she waits for him to return. Three years later he returns.....and tragedy ensues!

“I Clara” with Lucy Parham and Patricia Hodge OBE

**Sunday October 20th
St Mary's Lamberhurst 4.00pm
Tickets £35**



“A beautifully crafted portrait of Clara Schumann. Be prepared to shed a tear” Pianist Magazine. Clara Schumann was a truly exceptional woman: not just a devoted wife to the composer Robert Schumann but a ground-breaking musician in her own right. A child prodigy, she married Schumann against her father’s wishes and became the mother of eight children. When her husband then declined into mental illness she continued to run the household and to make an international concert career to support the family.

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 and Chopin.

Lucy Parham is a Professor of Piano at the Guildhall School of Music as well as being a touring concert pianist. She was the piano winner of the 1984 BBC Young Musician of the Year and has appeared at all the major venues in London and around the UK. Patricia Hodge needs little introduction. An acclaimed international actress, famous for her TV roles in “Rumpole of the Bailey” and “All Creatures Great and Small” she has also appeared frequently on the stage and is a recipient of a BAFTA and numerous Olivier awards.

Tickets will probably be in high demand so – book early!



Sam Haywood plays piano

**A recital including pieces by
Schubert, Beethoven,
Rachmaninoff, Elgar**

**Friday November 8th
St Mary's Lamberhurst 7.30pm
Tickets £30**

Sam has performed to critical acclaim in many of the world's major concert halls including Carnegie Hall, the Konzerthaus in Vienna and Wigmore Hall. As a chamber musician he is a regular partner of violinist Joshua Bell and cellist Steven Isserlis and has recorded many CD's with both. Following early success in the BBC Young Musician competition Sam studied in Vienna and at the Royal Academy before winning the prestigious Isserlis award. Chopin has been a central theme in his life and to celebrate the composer's bicentennial year he made the world premiere recording on Chopin's own Pleyel piano of 1846. It has since been broadcast numerous times.

Perhaps these quotes will give you an idea of the excellence you can experience if you come to hear him. "Dazzling and evocative playing" said the Washington Post: "passionate flair, a warm touch and sparkling clarity" from the New York Times: "A breathtaking recital" Die Welt: "just the right amount of swagger and flair" The Guardian. Please don't miss this opportunity to hear an exceptional pianist.

The programme will cover several pieces including Impromptus by Schubert, a Sonata by Beethoven, Preludes by Rachmaninoff as well as a couple of Chopin items and adaptations by Sam of pieces by Elgar and Poulenc. Overall a wide selection of lovely music – and right here on your doorstep.



Carols by Candlelight

**The Choir of Selwyn
College, Cambridge**

**Sunday December 15th
7.30pm
St Mary's Lamberhurst
Tickets £30**



"Compelling performances. Selwyn would give any of their supposedly illustrious neighbours a run for their money". Int Record Review. We've had the pleasure of welcoming Selwyn twice before and each time they've sung beautifully. Their musical director Sarah MacDonald was the first woman to hold a Director of Music job in an Oxbridge college and she'll be celebrating 25 years in the job next year: in that time, the quality of the choir has edged better and better. They have been a mixed choir since 1976 and now consist of 28 singers. Their repertoire ranges from the 10th to the 21st century and they broadcast services regularly on BBC Radio, have sung live on TV and every year undertake an international tour: in the recent past their destinations have included Israel and Palestine, Canada, New Zealand, USA and much of mainland Europe.

Demand for Carols by Candlelight is usually very strong so please don't wait too long to book!



Patrons

We would encourage you to become a Patron of the Festival at an annual cost of £100. As a charity whose beneficiary is St Mary's Church we are grateful for every ounce of support. We offer our Patrons the satisfaction of knowing that they're supporting a genuinely worthy cause as well as preferred seating in the church. You can also enjoy free drinks at all the church concerts.

Booking tickets

You can find information on all the concerts on www.lamberhurstmusic.co.uk and can book tickets by email. Payment can be made by Paypal or credit/debit card. Please can you then bring a reference of the internet booking with you when you come to the concert.

If you don't want to use the internet you can complete the form on the back page and send it, together with a cheque, to Lamberhurst Music Festival, Capel Cross, Grovehurst Lane, Horsmonden TN12 8BB

