

MUSIC IN THE VILLAGE

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
WALTHAMSTOW

11th March 2010



The Virtuoso French Horn

Andrew Clark, French horn
Catherine Martin, violin
Richard Pearce, piano

Sonata for Piano with Horn (or Violoncello) Op. 17 (1800)
Allegro moderato
Poco adagio
Rondo: allegro molto

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Piano sonata No. 14 in c# minor "Quasi una fantasia". Op. 27, no. 2 (1801)
*Named "Moonlight sonata" after an 1823 review by the critic Ludwig Rellstab
comparing the first movement to moonlight shining on Lake Lucerne*
Adagio sostenuto
Allegretto
Presto agitato

Beethoven

***** Interval*****

Trio Op. 40 for horn, violin and piano in Eb (1865)
commemorating the death of Brahms' mother, Christiane.
Andante
Scherzo (allegro)
Adagio mesto
Allegro con brio

Johannes Brahms
(1833-97)

This concert is generously sponsored by
Apex Arts (The Arts Council for Waltham Forest),
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Andrew Clark has been blowing down pieces of metal tube ever since he first emptied his grandmother's kitchen cupboard and found a funnel at the age of two. This interest was transferred to the french horn at school when the education department supplied two new horns for the school orchestra. After one week of using the new instrument he was chastised by the music teacher because it had become tarnished, so for a couple of years he avoided practice for fear of spoiling its shine.

Joining a youth orchestra inspired him to practise, and he started saving his pocket money, eventually persuading his parents to help him buy his first horn: one that was tarnished by much use. In a bid to catch up with technology he purchased a lacquered horn before entering the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 1983. There, encouraged by horn professors Halstead, Chidell and Bryant, he was reintroduced to the joys of un-lacquered horns in the form of historical instruments (which should not be subjected to over-zealous polishing) and after graduating he went on to perform with many orchestras and ensembles using both period instruments or their modern counterparts.

Highlights of his career include many years of playing principal horn in London Classical Players (Norrington); Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment; Academy of Ancient Music (Hogwood); English Concert (Pinnock); and Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra (Koopman) with whom he recorded Bach's Cantatas. As a soloist he has made several commercial recordings: concertos by Vivaldi, Fasch and Crusell; works for horn and piano by Beethoven and Czerny; the Brahms Horn Trio, Mozart's Horn Quintet and Beethoven's Sextet. He is also on the teaching staff at London's Royal Academy of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He has performed in forty countries, but is now attempting to tour less often to reduce his carbon foot-print.

Catherine Martin read music at St Anne's College, Oxford University, completing her postgraduate at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London, studying the modern violin with David Takeno. While still a student, Catherine received scholarships for further study in London, the Britten Pears School in Aldeburgh, and the Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada, to study chamber music with Menahem Pressler.

Catherine now specialises in performance on period instruments; she is leader of the Gabrieli Consort and Players and the orchestra of the Early Opera Company, and has also appeared as guest leader of The English Concert and Florilegium. Last summer she was the on-stage solo violinist at Glyndebourne opera house.

In demand as violin soloist and director, recently Catherine has directed concerts with Barokkanerne, Oslo and the Wroclaw Baroque Orchestra as well as collaborations with amateur and student orchestras on both baroque and modern instruments. Catherine is a member of the Salomon String Quartet, exploring music of the Classical period from Haydn to Mendelssohn.

She appears on many recordings; for Deutsche Grammophon with The Gabrieli Consort and Players, EMI with Ensemble Galant, and Chandos with I Fagiolini. Catherine lives in Walthamstow.

Richard Pearce was organ scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge, where as conductor and organist he toured and recorded extensively with the chapel choir. After graduating with first class honours in music, he studied piano accompaniment for two years at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. As organ soloist and piano accompanist, Richard has given recitals in Westminster Abbey, The Louvre Museum, Paris and in Tokyo, as well as a series of recitals over the last year at London's Banqueting House and broadcasts for BBC television and radio, S4C and Classic FM. Recent projects have included trips to Switzerland, Japan, Italy, France and Sweden and recordings of songs by Respighi, Martucci and Pizzetti for Warner Classics with tenor José Maria Guerrero. He also enjoys working in the field of contemporary music, performing regularly with contemporary chamber ensemble Kokuro.

He has performed with the Philharmonia Orchestra and BBC Symphony Orchestra in Promenade concerts and tours to Italy and Luxembourg. Working with chamber choirs and choruses has become a speciality for Richard. He records and broadcasts with the BBC Singers on both piano and organ, most recently in recordings of Kenneth Leighton and a CD of Elizabeth Maconchy's choral works. He has long-standing associations with the Royal Choral Society, as well as twice-yearly trips to Sweden to work with groups in the Stockholm and Malmö areas.

He conducts the Waverley Singers, a choral society based in Farnham, Surrey. Richard is a vocal coach and staff accompanist at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. When not busy in music and with his three children, he is increasingly in demand designing websites for his own internet business.

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