

NEWPORT MUSIC SOCIETY

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Dear Members and Friends

Please find enclosed the Newport Music Society Programme for 2009. We have a very exciting programme. Please enter all the dates in your diary, so you don't miss any concerts. I only send one newsletter per year, so please put up the programme somewhere visible to yourself and visiting friends. The dates on the back may also interest you. I enclose several brochures re Rhos-y-gilwen, St Davids Festival, etc, enabling us to show our support for other music makers in our area. If you already have these, please pass them on to your friends. Avail yourselves of mailing lists if you are not already on them; if you do lose your programme, please telephone the above number and I will send a replacement.

It is now time to renew your membership subscription (or join for the very first time – all welcome) – **still only £15.00 per year**. This gives you a reduction of £2.00 per concert (very good value) on our usual ticket price of £8.00 – ie £6.00 per concert for members – and underwrites the running costs of the society. Please accept this invitation to subscribe, either at the next concert or by post to the above address, making cheques out to “Newport Music Society”. If you wish to give a donation to the society this year, please add it to your subscription. Many of you kindly topped up your subscription last year and your money covered the costs involved in moving our gift of a beautiful Bechstein piano, buying it a nice warm waterproof cover and an “A” frame. The piano is the gift of the Williams family of Dinas, to whom we are very grateful.

You may like to donate this year to the “Newport Music Society Young Musicians” account, which helps young musicians going to college to continue their studies. Last year we helped Lee Mottram to acquire a clarinet of his own (a small part of this fund). He then won a competition, the prize money enabling him to buy a second clarinet, so he was well equipped for college and further performances. We also give a prize to the “Young Musician of Dyfed” competition. We have received a generous donation from the fund of Newport's Mayor – and we can always do with more!

Wednesday 8th April. Our concerts start late this year with our dear Claire Jones, Harpist to HRH Prince of Wales, who will give us a varied programme at Ysgol Bro Ingli. I hope many of you will come and that we will get some holidaymakers, as it is also Holy Week.

Friday 17th April in St Mary's Church, Newport we will hear again the wonderful Singh family with a varied programme of music arranged for one, two and three violins. They are prodigiously talented, hard working and a joy to behold.

Saturday 9th May In Ysgol Bro Ingli our friends from Monmouthshire, the Amadeus Wind Quintet will delight us again. The second half of the programme is a quintet by Neilson – a ravishing work not to be missed. The funds raised at this concert will be donated to the Society.

Saturday 13th June. Doug and Barbara MacLeoud, the owners, have kindly invited us to Tregwynt Mansion, where Lee Mottram will bring his wind quintet. Tickets will be required in advance for this concert as it is a private residence. Please 'phone me on 01239 820240 or send your request with a cheque (made out to Newport Music Society) and a stamped, addressed envelope to the address above. Tickets will be £8.00 (£6.00 for Members). The concert starts at 7:30pm; gates open 6:00 pm for you to bring a picnic supper (weather permitting).

Saturday 18th July. You Tuba is a Brass Quartet from Trinity College, London (Greenwich) led by Hari Eustace (trombone), whose grandparents and parents live in Newport and Moylegrove. Hari has won prestigious prizes at Trinity College, and is being invited by professional orchestras to take important solo roles. This concert at the Memorial Hall, Newport, will be great fun.

Friday 21st August. Last year we hosted chamber groups from the West Wales Chamber Music School, which this year is being held at Rhos-y-Gilwen from 19th – 23rd August. You are invited to go along and sit in on practise/teaching sessions and there are several public performances. We are honoured to host an event in St Mary's Church. Last year's concert was totally enchanting and I am sure this one will be, too. All money raised at this concert will go to a Scholarship Fund to help students of the West Wales Chamber Music School.

Friday 4th September. Christopher Lovegrove - piano. All monies raised will go to the Newport Music Society Young Musicians' Fund.

Friday 18th September. Glen and Brenda Peters are generously allowing us to use their beautiful Oak Hall for Claire Jones (harp) and Christopher Marshall (percussion) to entertain us. Christopher will bring a range of different instruments and many arrangements of music for them both to play. Don't miss such an exciting evening!

Saturday 17th October. An away day in St Davids Cathedral with our friends from Russia, who will provide the first half of the concert and will join the Dyfed Choir with a performance of Rachmaninov's "Vespers". They will give the choir a masterclass in the Cathedral from about 3:00 pm; and you may sit in on this. Dyfed Choir will set the prices for this event. Tickets for this via myself, as above, or on 01437 532448. If local numbers are large enough I may be able to organise a bus from Newport, as long as you let me know well in advance. I will enquire about costs.

Friday 6th November. As usual, we invite entrants to the "Dyfed Young Musician" competition to perform for an appreciative and sympathetic audience before they enter the competition itself. They will play their prepared pieces and Christopher Lovegrove will accompany them. This is always a very exciting evening in the comfort of Ysgol Bro Ingli.

Saturday 12th December. Catherine Burrell will bring her Aesculapius Choir to St Mary's Church. I have also approached the Dyfed Choir but at the time of going to print a decision has yet to be taken.

Details of all these concerts and the music to be heard will be displayed on posters and in the local press nearer the time. All enquiries to Ann George at the above address or 'phone 01239 820248; email enquires to ericsheldon@enterprise.net.

Newport Music Society remains true to its original founding ethos – to encourage and give a platform to young musicians. As you can see we are hosting many groups of young musicians. The adults who play give their services free so that money raised at the door can augment the "Young Musicians' Account" used to help with students' expenses – especially local musicians as they start college.

Yours very sincerely

Ann G George