



Solihull Methodist Church
Feel at home

Lunchtime Recitals

Programme 2019



www.solihull-methodist.org.uk

Blossomfield Road, Solihull, B91 1LG Telephone: 0121 705 7367

Lunchtime Recitals - 2019

First Thursday of every month
(except August)

1pm - 1.30pm

3rd January	Abigail Davies - Cellist
7th February	Bute Clarinet Quartet
7th March	Marie Curie Hospice Daffodil Choir Conductor Stephen Perrins
4th April	Stephen Perrins - Organ Recital Emeritus Director of Music - Solihull School
2nd May	Angela Zienko & Kasia Skupien Violin & Piano
6th June	SING! BENTLEY HEATH
4th July	Peter and Judith Farndon - Magic of Musicals
5th September	Rita Schindler & Boglarka Gyorgy - Harp & Violin
3rd October	Contact Choir
7th November	Ian Howarth - Tenor
5th December	Christmas Organ Recital - Stephen Perrins Emeritus Director of music - Solihull School

No charge, but donations welcome



Abigail Davies

Thursday January 3rd

Abi is a twentyone-year-old Cellist from Birmingham. She is currently studying at the Royal Northern College of Music with Petr Prause. She has performed with the National Youth Chamber Orchestra and played in venues such as Symphony Hall Birmingham, Birmingham Town Hall, Bridgewater Hall, and Cambridge University. She has toured with her orchestra, Vivace, in Poland, Croatia, Belgium and Barcelona. Abi has had coaching from world

renowned quartets such as The Carducci Quartet and The Chillingirian Quartet. She is playing recitals and concertos with orchestras throughout 2018/19.

Bute Clarinet Quartet

Thursday February 1st

The Bute Clarinet Quartet is an exciting and versatile ensemble based in South Wales. Formed in September 2013, the quartet is comprised of graduates from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and Birmingham Conservatoire. Tom Howells, Daisy Evans, Darius Gray and Katie Hole met during their postgraduate studies and, together, perform recitals across the UK, showcasing a wide variety of clarinet quartet repertoire. Most recently, the quartet had the pleasure of working with Nigel Wood (founder of Saxtet publications) to record his compositions and arrangements.



Music education is an important part of Bute Clarinet Quartet's ethos, both as an ensemble and as individuals. The group are currently Live Music Now UK artists. As members of the scheme, they perform in various community settings making music accessible to many audiences.

The group has participated in various competitions, with notable achievements including winning first prize in the ensembles category at the National Eisteddfod (2014).

Daffodil Community Choir *Marie Curie Hospice* *Thursday March 7th*



The Marie Curie Hospice West Midlands Daffodil Community Choir was formed in May 2013. In line with the Hospice's aims of reaching out to the local community, the choir is a community affair, offering a weekly time for people to come together and sing. The choir is open to anyone and combines a mix of people who are bereaved, patients, family members, hospice volunteers and staff together with people from the local community. In short, anyone who enjoys singing is welcomed!

The idea of creating a choir was the brainchild of Jane Murray, Adult Bereavement Support Co-Ordinator. The choir is conducted by Stephen Perrins who for 23 years was Director of Music at Solihull School before his retirement in 2015. With approaching retirement from school life, Stephen was recruited by Jane following a conversation with Stephen's wife Sarah, who herself volunteers as a member of the Bereavement Support Team. With a choir training diploma, vast musical experience and boundless enthusiasm, Stephen aims to bring music alive, even to those who would claim that they cannot sing!

In the early days there were 8-12 singers each week. Gradually as the word spread that singing is fun, friends and relatives of those dozen founding singers came along and now the choir regularly sees 60 members braving all weathers to sing together. The choir meets once a week on a Tuesday evening from 7-8.30 preceded by 'social' time from 6.30 to simply have a chat over a cup of coffee.

The choir performs regularly in the hospice for patients, families and the community and has since been invited to sing at several events in the Solihull Borough. In August 2017 the choir recorded a CD as part of a nationwide project for 'Choirs With Purpose' which it is hoped will make the top 20 chart in time for Christmas!

The choir is delighted to be singing once again at Solihull Methodist Church.



Stephen Perrins *Thursdays April 4th & December 5th*

Stephen began his musical education as a chorister at Coventry Cathedral. He studied piano and organ while at school then went on to read music at Cambridge University as organ scholar of Peterhouse. After graduating, Stephen joined the music staff of The Howard School, Rainham, Kent.

Awarded the Royal College of Organists' Choirmaster's Diploma, Stephen returned to Coventry as Director of Music at King Henry VIII School and at the same time was also an assistant organist at the Cathedral, assistant director and organist to the Cathedral Chapter House Choir as well as working with the Cathedral's choral society. Stephen was also Musical Director of the Warwick and Kenilworth Choral Society during this period.

Following a move to Sussex as Director of Music at Ardingly College, Stephen returned to the Midlands as Director of Music at Solihull School, a post he held until his retirement, now holding the grand title of Emeritus Director of Music!

Stephen is a frequent organist at several local churches including Saint Mary's, Lapworth and Saint Alphege, Solihull.

Angela Zienko & Kasia Skupien *Thursday May 3rd*

Angela was born in London UK and began to play aged 8 when her family moved to Gloucester. She eventually decided to study the violin at Conservatoire level and completed her degree there in 2004, having studied both violin and viola with Marat Bisengaliev and Rivka Golani respectively.

In the course of her studies she participated in masterclasses in the UK, Sweden, Finland and Israel. She continues to enjoy performing chamber music with her quartet and here in her duo collaboration with Kasia as well as teaching and freelancing.

Kasia was born in Poland and began her musical education at an early age. In 2001, she started her higher musical education at the Academy of Music in Lodz in Poland under internationally recognised pianist – Marek Drewnowski. Whilst studying she participated in several piano Masterclasses in Poland and abroad; continuing her education at the Birmingham Conservatoire under Philip Martin and Margaret Fingerhut in 2008, completing her Master of Music degree in 2010.

Currently, Kasia is working as an accompanist and a piano teacher, tutoring students both privately and at schools. Despite her intensive pedagogical work she is still an active performer, organising and performing benefit concerts; raising funds for medical research and children's charities in her latest projects.





SING! BENTLEY HEATH *Thursday June 6th*

We are a modern community choir singing a variety of popular music.

The 130 singers come from around Solihull and Warwickshire, members don't have to audition - the requirement is to simply enjoy singing and join in!

Sharing the joy of music in the community is at the heart of the choir. At Christmas they can be heard at local care homes, shops, hospices and hospitals spreading festive cheer - and across the year the singers perform at weddings, festivals and charity events, with a big annual 'SPRING SING' concert each April.

The choir is a registered charity and chooses two local good causes to fund-raise for each year. In 2018 they aim to raise £4,000 which will be shared between the "Men's Shed" project at Marie Curie Solihull, and the Dyspraxia Foundation.



www.singbentleyheath.org.uk

Peter & Judith Farndon *Thursday July 4th*

Judith and Peter will be entertaining you once again with favourite songs from the musicals - from Rodgers and Hammerstein to contemporary composers.

Judith has been singing from a very early age, enjoying developing a wide range of musical tastes through her school choir. Musicals provided her favourite songs until she learned to play guitar as a teenager, discovered folk music and founded a folk trio. She sings in Solihull Methodist Church's choir and Community Choir.



Judith and Peter's involvement with musical theatre and church music helped form the church's musical theatre group SMASH 30 years ago. As well as appearing on stage, directing shows and writing lyrics, Judith is SMASH's producer.

Peter is organist at Solihull Methodist Church. He has been musical director for 36 SMASH shows including Whistle down the wind, Godspell, Joseph, Guys and Dolls, Wizard of Oz, Children of Eden, Jesus Christ Superstar and Scrooge. He has written the music for two stage musicals which have been performed in Solihull. He conducts the Solihull Methodist Community Choir, arranging music for the singers and a large group of instrumentalists who accompany the choir.

*Rita Schindler &
Boglarka Gyorgy
Thursday September 5th*

Hungarian harpist Rita Schindler has given solo and chamber music recitals for a wide range of audiences and has provided entertainment for British and foreign royalties including HRH the Prince of Wales. Rita has performed professionally in and in front of numerous orchestras in Britain and across Europe.



Rita began to sing and play piano at the age of eight. At twelve she was accepted to Zoltán Kodály Hungarian Choir School, in Budapest, where she later began her harp studies, and in 2004 she was a prize-winner at the Hungarian National Harp Competition.

Rita began her undergraduate harp studies in 2007 at Birmingham Conservatoire. During her undergraduate years, Rita played with many symphony orchestras and ensembles around the West Midlands.

Hungarian violinist Boglarka Gyorgy, started playing the violin at the age of 8. She has performed extensively as a soloist and chamber musician at major international festivals and masterclasses throughout Europe and Asia. Boglarka regularly performs world premieres of the works of living composers. Currently Boglarka is a student at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.



*Contact Choir
Thursday October 3rd*

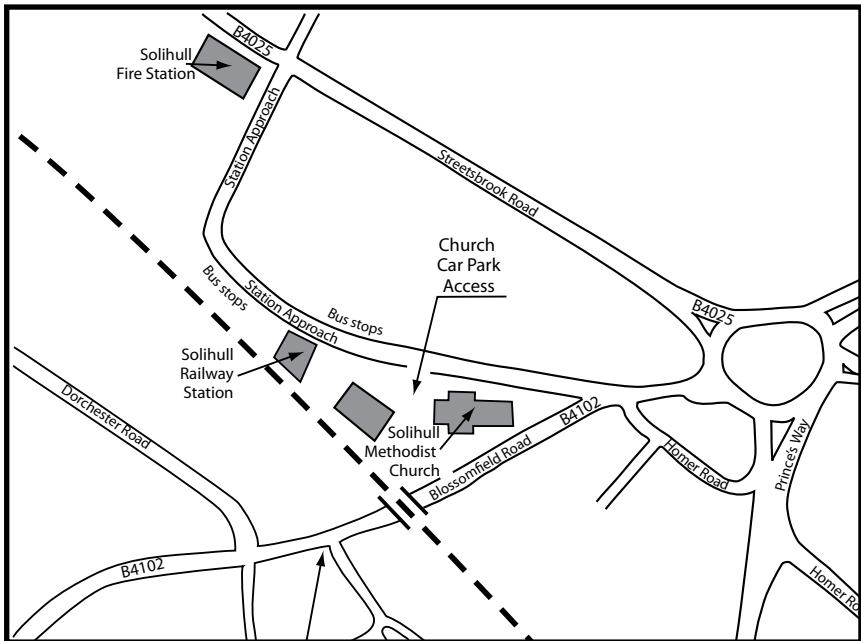
The choir was started in 1967 by a group of Solihull Methodist Young Wives, many bringing small children with them to rehearsals. Initially conducted by Joan

Parman, they began to give concerts locally. Some years later, under the leadership of Jennifer Wardman they entered Music Festivals winning awards at Solihull and at Leamington in 1983 and competing at the International Eisteddfod in 1984. Today under the enthusiastic leadership of Lucilla Lang, 22 singers continue to entertain societies, care homes and interest groups as well as singing at occasional weddings, funerals and celebrations. Over the years all donations received have gone to charities. The choir is grateful to its pianists Olive Checkley and Jean Hamilton, and other pianists who have helped them over 51 years.

Ian Howarth

Thursday November 7th

Ian read music at Cambridge University, where he specialised in singing, learning with Nigel Wickens and singing in the University Chamber Choir. After a short spell teaching music, he entered the Methodist ministry and is now Chair of the Birmingham Methodist District. He has continued singing, both as a soloist with local choral societies, and doing occasional recitals. He currently sings in the CBSO chorus, and studies with Julian Pike at the Birmingham Conservatoire.



We are a friendly, inclusive church that welcomes people of all ages. Please get in touch, we are here to serve our local community.

Follow us on Twitter  @SoliMeth or on Facebook 

www.solihull-methodist.org.uk