

PERSPECTIVES

CHELTENHAM ARTS CULTURE

Cheltenham Arts Council: awards_funding_publicity_events listings



THIS ISSUE: Cheltenham Music Festival's Meurig Bowen: *Singing In The Rain*; Barry Pearce: *Fiddlerman*; Turner V. Rowbury: *To Sing or Not To Sing?* and all things musical... Plus Cheltenham events listings for June–September 2013...

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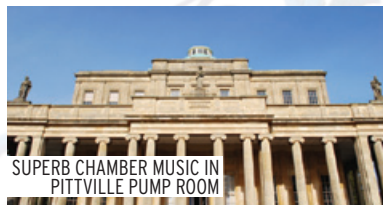
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CONTENTS

MEURIG BOWEN: SINGING IN THE RAIN	2
BARRY PEARCE: FIDDLERMAN	4
TURNER v. ROWBURY: TO SING OR NOT TO SING?	6
EVENTS	7
A BIT OF SINEW	12
SPRING BOARD	13

Music, it seems, is closely linked to time. Sir Colin Davis said: 'You can find in music something you can't find in anything else, because it makes time meaningful – at least it does to me. Every time you give a concert, time is suspended: you're mastering it; time is not the enemy.' Music helps us to live in the moment, whether performing or listening, singing or dancing. Composers can fix the ephemeral, the sound of a lark rising, or match words with musical notes to evoke a passing thought, a feeling.

I am not a musician (Slad author Laurie Lee's autobiographical description of himself in the village concert '... stringing up like an ape threading needles,' comes to mind) but in researching this issue of *Perspectives* on MUSIC I have been privileged to meet a few professional musicians (not to mention some talented amateurs, of whose courage I am in awe).

As I write, the Jazz Festival is in full swing, and by the time you read this the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts will have performed. Cheltenham is positively awash with live music, in the chinks of time between festivals, the 24 Cheltenham Arts Council Music Societies (from Blue Moon to Bel Canto and from Cleeve Chorale to Musica Vera) make sure that there is never a silent moment. It comes with the

territory – a long and distinguished line of Gloucestershire born musicians including Sir Charles Hubert Parry of Highnam Court who, as Head of the Royal College of Music, numbered Ralph Vaughan Williams of Down Ampney and Cheltenham's Gustav Holst, amongst his leading pupils.

So whether you are a singer, a composer, a player or even an enthusiastic 'needle-threader'; Cheltenham's impressive musical heritage and its dynamic musical present, offers you a chance to 'suspend time' and 'make it meaningful'. KM



Worby and Farrell, 13 July 2013
The Cheltenham Music Festival

The cover, explained: '... an orchestra of Elephants (boring grown up perception) with a Mouse (child) joining in. A different 'perspective' on who classical music is for. Also the idea of harmony: mice and elephants are (supposedly) mortal enemies. Here they make music together.' JM

PERSPECTIVES TEAM

EDITOR	Katherine MacInnes
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The next issues will feature:

PLASTIC ARTS – October-January issue
WRITTEN WORD – February-May issue

Submission (ads and events) six weeks before publication.

SINGING IN THE RAIN

MEURIG BOWEN, MUSIC FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

The huge privilege of being an Artistic Director is fundamentally all about having ideas, weighing up their pros and cons, and making choices. Some ideas and choices come more easily than others. And deciding to do Benjamin Britten's *Noye's Fludde* (Noah's Flood) in Tewkesbury Abbey, as a cornerstone of Cheltenham's Britten centenary contribution, was easier than most. If there is a better building in Britain to host this biblical drama – after that iconic aerial shot of the Abbey, ark-like, during the momentous July 2007 floods – then I am struggling to think of it!

But it's not just the Abbey's iconic stature and splendour. Britten's setting of a medieval Chester Miracle Play was premiered back in 1958, long before the

instrumentalists, dancers, actors, costume-makers and the audience-as-participant – makes it a work of warm-hearted, visionary genius.

'James Mayhew's bringing together of music, storytelling and live painting is inspirational ...'

The arms-wide-open stance of *Noye's Fludde* fits perfectly with what I want Cheltenham Music Festival more and more to be: inclusive, inviting and interactive. Let me briefly introduce here

some of the key people involved:

The Designer The Music Festival has been fortunate in recent years to have hosted the unique talents of children's author and illustrator James Mayhew. James's bringing together of music, storytelling and live painting is inspirational, and as Guest Director of our Family programme in 2013, he will do two more such events, with Britten's Young

Person's Guide and

Stravinsky's *Firebird*. At the end of last year's festival, it occurred to me that he might like to design *Noye's Fludde*. 'It's something I've never done before,' he told me, 'but it's something I've always wanted



Benjamin Britten in Pittville Park Gardens at the Cheltenham Festival 1949 photo by Desmond Tripp

word 'Outreach' had been invented. But the way it welcomes everyone in – not just children alongside adults and the expert alongside the uninitiated, but singers,

huge enthusiasm, and the results I am sure will be very striking indeed.

The Director A chance conversation at last year's Science Festival prompted me to offer Edward Derbyshire the challenge of corraling around 200 schoolchildren on stage. Alongside his work mounting productions at Pate's Grammar School (where he teaches Classics) Edward is director of Gloucestershire Youth Players. So he has plenty of experience working with young stage animals (literally, in the case of Noye's Fludde).

The Musicians This is largely a 'locally-sourced' production of Noye's Fludde, and rightly so.

Even the Voice of God – the distinguished opera singer Donald Maxwell, who sang the role of Noye on a fine recording with Richard Hickox 20 years ago – has strong local connections! The Gloucestershire-resident Carducci Quartet is heading up a

Glyn Oxley has gamely taken on the task of pulling all this together!

The Schools Around 150 children from five primary schools in Tewkesbury and Cheltenham (John Moore, Tewkesbury C of E, Queen Margaret, Lakeside and Thomas More) will be joined in the chorus of animals, birds and sea creatures by the Cheltenham Youth Choir and Dean Close Preparatory School's Tewkesbury Abbey choristers.

'Even the Voice of God (the distinguished opera singer Donald Maxwell) has strong local connections!'

I won't give too much away about Edward and James's production concept (or for that matter, Niki Whitfield's community made face masks) but suffice to say, the Abbey will be looking and sounding as it never has before!



70-strong orchestra of local young musicians, where the Gloucestershire Youth Orchestra will be joined by members of the Gloucester Academy of Music Training Orchestra, a large contingent of recorder players and a handbell choir. The GYO's conductor

Noye's Fludde: Tewkesbury Abbey, Wed 3 July 4pm, Thurs 4 July 6pm

www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/music

Carducci Quartet
<http://www.carducciquartet.com/>

Gloucestershire Youth Players
<http://www.gyptheatre.org/>

Gloucester Academy of Music Training Orchestra
<http://www.gamweb.co.uk/index.asp>

Dean Close Preparatory School's Tewkesbury Abbey choristers
<http://www.scholacantorum.org.uk/>

FIDDLERMAN

BARRY PEARCE PLAYS 2ND VIOLINS IN THE CPO

Although I played the trumpet for a while at school and, like many people, had convinced myself I was a guitarist for many years (the truth being quite different!) I finally found my instrument when I started playing the violin. It wasn't until I was 33, that my grandfather gave me two good violins and a bow. Here I am nine years on in 2nd violins with the Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra. I started playing in orchestras about 18 months ago, and I've been with the CPO for about nine months.



'I think my worst offence is playing a note when whole orchestra is playing a rest!'

What's it like?

Orchestral playing is great fun and a very rewarding experience. For me, it's opened up new musical horizons and I've played and come to enjoy music that I would never have considered before, such as that by Gustav Mahler and Paul Hindemith. I have acquired a great respect for conductors now I understand what they really do!

New Challenges

Orchestral playing brings its own challenges. The first is learning to count! Quite often orchestral scores do not require each instrument to play from start to finish, so there are extended rests. Learning how to count these effectively was one of my first challenges, and there are many more; not getting lost (which can be quite easy!) getting back on track after becoming lost (an art form in its own right!) learning to keep an eye on the conductor, and page turning. Like many

players my sight reading hasn't been the best. This is improving rapidly and I feel it is one of the very noticeable improvements in my musicianship that the orchestra has brought about.

How good do you have to be?

This depends on the orchestra, how demanding their repertoire is and the instrument that you play. Generally the fewer players of a

particular instrument the higher the standard required. So harp, wind, percussion and, to a lesser extent the brass instruments, generally require a higher standard than strings as individual players are more exposed. The CPO has a challenging repertoire and the 2nd violin parts range from around grade 5 to post grade 8 levels, the 1st violins higher still.



Worst moments?

Thankfully these tend to happen in rehearsal! Getting lost in a score as a string section player tends to be less noticeable, but I think my worst offence is playing a note when whole orchestra is playing a rest! Whoops! It happens and everyone is very kind when mistakes occur.

Unforgettable moments?

Last year the CPO played a concert for the Royal British Legion, which included Gilbert & Sullivan's overture from the Pirates of Penzance, and a number of arias from other G&S productions. I've loved G&S for many years. Playing these in the orchestra was fantastic. I'm still waiting for the Paganini concerto moment!

Join in!

Orchestral playing is immensely satisfying and rewarding. It improves your playing and you get to be a part of something quite special. If you aren't playing in an orchestra come and give it a go!

'I have acquired a great respect for conductors now I understand what they really do!'

CHEL TENHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The CSO, under its conductor David Curtis, performs orchestral works from the classical period to the present day. The summer sees the Rick Wakeman Ultimate Experience at the Centaur in Cheltenham on 16 and 17 June, and a French Surprise in Bredon on 13 July. The autumn takes it to Tewkesbury Abbey on 19 October for a Benjamin Britten centenary concert, and finally back to the Pittville Pump Room on 30 November to accompany the Gloucestershire Young Musician of the Year (a regular commitment).

www.cheltenham-symphony-orchestra.info

TO SING OR NOT TO SING?

NICO TURNER – FOR / CHRIS ROWBURY – ‘AGAINST’

FOR Do you sing in the shower and join in the anthems at sporting events? Do you leap to your feet when it's time to sing in church, and do you burst with excitement when your children are singing their hearts out in a school performance?

Singing is not only good for the soul; it's a physical and mental work-out that leaves you feeling energised and alive and, as Gareth Malone has proved with his Military Wives' Choir, it can provide genuine solace and empowerment. Rachel Bowen, who founded Cheltenham's Midlife Chorus, intends to give Malone a run for his money. Andy Clifton, Cheltenham Racecourse's communications manager, joined up having not sung in public for 30 years: 'I think the name's brilliant. I'm having a permanent midlife crisis. But no, most of us are in a similar situation, people who used to sing, who had kids, and then that fell by the wayside ... It's great fun.'

Convinced? Now, which choir to join? If you are reasonably confident in your voice and your ability to read music, choose a choir that requires you to audition such as the Cheltenham Bach Choir or Jubilate Chamber Choir. This will mean that rehearsals are less about note bashing and more about singing technique and musical interpretation. If you're a newcomer to choral singing it is probably wise to avoid audition-only choirs initially. Musica Vera, Churchdown Male Voice Choir and the Cheltenham Choral Society for example, do not audition new members but might ask for a voice test. Don't be put off by this. It is simply to ensure that you are singing the part most suited to your vocal range and it also shows they are demonstrating some kind of quality control and are worth joining.

NT

AGAINST

- **Addiction** — once you start singing, it's very hard to stop.
- **Life Snatching** — you start by joining a choir once a week but before you know it, it's taken over your whole life.
- **Family/Friends?** — you will start to spend more time with your new singing chums and on the tour bus and in the pub after the concert.
- **Unbearability** — singing makes you so happy that you will wear a constant smile and be humming along all day long.
- **Sleep Deprivation** — after rehearsal you will find it hard to come down off Cloud 9 and you will have all those tunes bouncing around inside your head.
- **Expense** — nice new costume for the next gig, more CDs, songbooks, weekend workshops, maybe even a musical instrument?
- **Career Threatening** — for some people singing takes over completely, they turn professional and before they know it ...

So be warned: approach singing with caution. Once you start you might not be able to stop. And it's like a virus which you can easily pass onto someone else. Remain alert at all times in case the bug gets you!

CR

<http://chrisrowbury.com/>

<http://www.freewebs.com/cheltenhamartscouncil/members.htm> for the full list of CAC Member Singing Groups

Events for JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2013

Please email listings for the Oct-Jan issue to perspectives.listings@gmail.com by 20 August.

ART

Cotswold Art Club Spring Exhibition, Wed 22 May-Tue 4 June, 10am-5pm, free event, Lower Slaughter Village Hall, cheltenham-art.com/cotswoldartclub.htm

Cheltenham Open Studios COS13, Sat 8 – Sun 16 June, free event, visit the studios, workrooms and exhibition spaces of over 200 artists working in and around Cheltenham. Opening times variable, see guides available at Tourist Info or visit www.cheltenhamopenstudios.org.uk.

COS13 venues include the **Gardens Gallery Cheltenham Open Studios Exhibition, Wed 5 – Mon 17 June**, 10am-5pm (7.30pm Sat), free event, Gardens Gallery, Montpellier Gardens, Mixed media. The work of 8 local artists.

Jeanne Arno, Wed 19 – Tue 25 June, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery, Oil paintings on board, still life and landscapes.

Art in the Park, Sat 22 June – Sun 21 July, 10am-8pm, free event, Imperial Gardens, cheltenham-art.com/COAAE.htm.

Nicky Gwynn-Jones, Wed 26 June – Tue 2 July, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery, Bird photography.

Catherine Dowell, Wed 3 July – Tue 9 July, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery, Oils - exploration of painting & music.

'Artistry' Jan Thompson, Wed 10 – Tue 16 July, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery, Contemporary art, mixed media, stitchwork, ceramics, paintings.

Mary Grundy, Wed 17 – Tue 23 July, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery.

The Wednesday Group, Wed 24 – Tue 30 July, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery, Watercolours and acrylics.

Michael Paul, Wed 31 July – Tue 6 Aug, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery, Oil paintings.

Cotswold Art Club Summer Exhibition, Mon 5 – Sun 18 August, 10am-5pm (starts 1pm 5 August), free event, St Edward's Hall, Stow-on-the-Wold, cheltenham-art.com/cotswoldartclub.htm

Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum family activity, Wed 7 – Tue 13 August, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery.

Susanna Simpson, Wed 14 – Tue 20 August, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery, Conservation of the natural world via painting, print, textiles and jewellery.

A.Humphries, Wed 21 – Tue 27 August, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery, Photography and poetry.

Lorna Rankin & Lyn Clarke, Wed 28 August-Tue 10 Sept, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery, Watercolour and acrylics, textiles, jewellery.

Cheltenham Art Club Exhibition, Wed 11-Tue 17 Sept, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery, Various mixed media paintings.

Antje Smith et al, Wed 18-Tue 24 Sept, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery, Mixed media paintings and glassware.

Jacky Harrison, Wed 25 Sept- Tue 1 Oct, 10am-5pm, free event, Gardens Gallery, Landscapes and seascapes in oils, pottery.

MUSIC

Cleeve Harmony Ladies Chorus Rehearsals, Every Tue, 7.45 - 10pm, £3/week (first week free), Bishop's Cleeve Tithe Barn, Details from Cleeveharmony.weebly.com or Donna Whitehouse 07737 280336.

Cheltenham Silver Band: Band Practice, Mon and Fri evenings, Ullenwood Court, Leckhampton, Further info: cheltenhamband.co.uk

Amongst Women: The Women in Holst's Life, Until Sat 14 Sept, Holst Birthplace Museum, Further info 01242 524846.

Holst Birthplace Children's Activity Days, Every Wed, 24 Jul – 28 Aug, 10.30am-3pm, children free with paying adult, Holst Birthplace Museum, Drop-in craft.

Events for JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2013

Cleeve Harmony Ladies Chorus at the Bishop's Cleeve Street Fair, Sun 9 June, Fair 12-4pm, Chorus 2.15pm + further slot TBC, See bishopsccleevechamber.co.uk or contact Donna Whitehouse cleeve.md@gmail.com 07737280336.

Cheltenham Silver Band: Bands in the Park, Sun 16 June, 2.30-4.30pm, Stratford Park, Stroud.

Rick Wakeman, Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, Sun 16 & Mon 17 June, 7.30pm, tickets from rickwakemangloucester.com, Centaur, Cheltenham, The Rick Wakeman Ultimate Experience.

Cheltenham Silver Band: Bands in the Park, Sat 22 June, Time TBC, Montpellier Gardens.

Cheltenham Choral Society: A Summer Spectacular, Sat 22 June, 7.30pm, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier Street.

Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra, Sun 23 June, 3pm, £10 (under 16s free), Pittville Pump Room, Alwyn- The Magic Island, Trevor Jones- Sinfonietta, Bizet- Carmen Suite, Turina- Danzas Fantasticas.

Cheltenham Bach Choir Musica Transalpina, Sat 29 June, 7.30pm, £15 (£8 students), All Saints' Church, Pittville, Italian Choral Music from Monteverdi to Verdi and beyond. Tickets from Cheltenham Festivals Box Office.

Jubilate Chamber Choir, In an English Country Garden, Thu 4 July, 5.30pm garden tour, 8.30pm recital, £95, Orchard Room, Highgrove House, Doughton, Tour of gardens, champagne reception. Contact Graham Twarog, Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres, 01242 250611.

Cleeve Chorale Summer Concert, Sat 6 July, 7pm, £5 on the night, Bishop's Cleeve Tithe Barn, Light hearted classical choral music.

Blue Moon Harmony Charity Concert, Sat 6 July, St Mary's Church, Prestbury.

Cheltenham Silver Band: Bands in the Park, Sun 7 July, 2.30-4.30pm, Abbey Park, Evesham.

Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, French Surprise, Sat 13 July, 7.30pm, £14 (students £7, under 15s free) from 01684 772272, Bredon Village Hall, Rossini - The Italian Girl in Algiers, Haydn No.94 (The Surprise), Barber Adagio for strings, Poulenc Sinfonietta.

Musica Vera, A Concert for an Anniversary, Sat 13 July, 7.30pm, £10 (under 16s free), St Peter's Church, Leckhampton, David Dewar conducts music by Britten, Maxwell Davies, Parry, Stanford, S S Wesley & Edward German. Tickets from Tourist Info, proceeds to Sue Ryder Hospice.

Jazz on a Summer's Evening, Sat 27 July, 7.30pm (picnics from 6pm), £16, book early, Tuckwell Amphitheatre, Shelburne Rd, Tickets: Bacon Theatre. Please bring your own seating.



James Mayhew and Edward Derbyshire

Holst Birthplace Trust: Imogen Holst, Fri 6 Sept, 7.30pm, The Museum, A talk by Michael Short. Tel 01242 524846.

Cheltenham Opera Society, Anna Bolena, Wed 18 Sept, 7pm, £5 non-members on arrival, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier Street, Talk by Simon Rees.

Gustav Holst Birthday Concert, Sat 21 Sept, 7.30pm, £15, £12 Members, £5 Students, All Saints' Church, The Paulina Choir, the Orchestra of St Paul's Girls' School and the Flowers Brass Band. Tel 01242 524846.

Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra, Sat 28 Sept, 7.30pm, £15 with concessions, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, Wind concert with music by Raff and Mozart.

Events for JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2013

STAGE & SCREEN

Cheltenham Operatic & Dramatic Society: Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Tue 28 May – Sat 1 June, 7pm + 2pm matinee Thu & Sat, The Everyman Theatre, Box Office 01242 572573.

Film: Quartet [12A], Tue 4 June, 7.45pm, £6 (£5), Bacon Theatre, Wickedly comic British film.

The Cotswold Savoyards, Ruddygore, Tues 4 June – Sat 8 June, 7.30pm & 2pm Sat matinee, tickets from 01242 572573, everymantheatre.org.uk, The Everyman Theatre, G & S's spookiest comic opera.

Film: Les Misérables [12A], Tue 18 June, 7.45pm, £6 (£5), Bacon Theatre, Film adaptation of the well-loved musical.

Promenade Productions present 'OKLAHOMA!', Wed 10 July – Sat 13 July, 7.30pm + 2.30pm Sat matinee, £8-14 from 01242 224144, Bacon Theatre, The classic Rodgers & Hammerstein musical.

Cinema Under the Stars: Shaun of the Dead [15], Tue 16 July, 9.15pm (picnics from 7.45pm), £6 (£5), Tuckwell Amphitheatre, Shelburne Rd, Tickets: Bacon Theatre. Please bring your own seating.

Heartbreak Productions: Romeo and Juliet, Wed 17 July, 7.30pm (picnics from 6pm), £13 (£11), Tuckwell Amphitheatre, Tickets: Bacon Theatre. Please bring your own seating.

The Pantaloons: Sherlock Holmes, Thu 18 July, 7.30pm (picnics from 6pm), £13 (£11), Tuckwell Amphitheatre, Tickets: Bacon Theatre. Please bring your own seating.

Heartbreak Productions: Dracula, Fri 19 July, 7.30pm (picnics from 6pm), £13 (£11), Tuckwell Amphitheatre, Tickets: Bacon Theatre. Please bring your own seating.

Blunderbus: Dotty the Dragon, Sun 21 July, 5pm (picnics from 3.30pm), £10 (£7) Family £30, Tuckwell Amphitheatre, Tickets: Bacon Theatre. Please bring your own seating. A blend of music and puppetry.

Cinema Under the Stars: The Sapphires [PG], Tue 23 July, 9.15pm (picnics from 7.45pm), £6 (£5), Tuckwell Amphitheatre, Tickets: Bacon Theatre. Please bring your own seating.

Rain or Shine: The Comedy of Errors, Wed 24 July, 7.30pm (picnics from 6pm), £13 (£11), Tuckwell Amphitheatre, Tickets: Bacon Theatre. Please bring your own seating.

Brief Encounter, Fri 26 July, 7.30pm (picnics from 6pm), £11 (£8), Tuckwell Amphitheatre, Tickets: Bacon Theatre. Please bring your own seating.

Cheltenham Operatic & Dramatic Society: Avenue Q, Sat 28 Sept – Sat 5 Oct, 7.45pm, Playhouse Theatre, Box Office 01242 522852.

LECTURES & MEETINGS

Cheltenham Poetry Society Poetry Workshop, Tue 4 June, 7-10pm, £4 (£2 for subscribers), Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Further information: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

Friends of Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum: The Exeter Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Thu 6 June, 6pm, £8 (£9 non-Friends), includes a glass of wine, Queen's Hotel, Collections Unwrapped with Dr Julien Parsons. Tickets from Tourist Info or on the door.

Cheltenham German Club 'Abendessen im Restaurant', Tue 11 June, 7.30pm, Tel organiser on 01242 520100 or email jenniferhayward@aol.com. Please see cheltenhamgermanclub.webs.com for further info on all events.

Cheltenham Civic Society: Re-imagining Cheltenham's Public Spaces, Tue 11 June, 7.30pm, £2 (£4 non-members), Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Lecture by Howard Barber, Borough Council Space Designer.

The Stained-glass Windows and Memorials in Leckhampton Church, Thu 13 June, 7.30pm, £5 (towards church funds), to include refreshments, St Peter's Church, Leckhampton, Illustrated talk by Eric Miller, followed by book launch.

Events for JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2013

Cheltenham Mineral & Geological Society: 'Extinction Events', Fri 14 June, 7pm, Room TC201, Park Campus, Talk by Mark Gibbons, Cotswold Astronomical Society.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Poetry Reading Group Meeting, Tue 18 June, 7-10pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Further information: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

Cheltenham German Club Konversationsabend in der Kneipe, Thu 20 June, 7.30pm, Further info at cheltenhamgermanclub.webs.com, or contact the Secretary, Jo Dean, 01242 245349 robertandjodean@virginmedia.com

Holst Birthplace Trust AGM, then 'Holst and Morley College', Mon 1 July, 2.30pm, Pittville Room, Municipal Offices, Talk by Shea Lolin, musician and lecturer at Morley College.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Poetry Workshop, Tue 2 July, 7-10pm, £4 (£2 for subscribers), Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Further information: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

Friends of Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum: The Bath American Museum, Thu 4 July, 6pm, £8 (£9 non-Friends), includes a glass of wine, Queen's Hotel, Collections Unwrapped with Judi Grant. Tickets from Tourist Info or on the door.

Cheltenham Civic Society Cycling Forum, Tue 9 July, 7.30pm, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Representatives of the County Council, Police and cycling organisations at a forum to discuss and hear views about cycling in the town.

Cheltenham German Club Konversationsabend in der Kneipe, Thu 11 July, 7.30pm, Further info at cheltenhamgermanclub.webs.com, or contact the Secretary, Jo Dean, 01242 245349 robertandjodean@virginmedia.com

Cheltenham Mineral & Geological Society: The Riddles of Rise Rocks, Fri 12 July, 7pm, Room TC201, Park Campus, Talk by Eddie Bailey on the geology of Bardon Hill Quarry.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Poetry Reading Group Meeting, Tue 16 July, 7-10pm, £2, Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Further information: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

Cheltenham German Club: visit by our Partnerstadt, Göttingen, Sun 28 July – Fri 2 Aug, Further info at cheltenhamgermanclub.webs.com, or contact the Secretary, Jo Dean, 01242 245349 robertandjodean@virginmedia.com

Cheltenham German Club 'Sommer Konzert', Tue 30 July, 7.30pm, pay on door, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier Street, Music and songs in German and English. See entry above for how to obtain further info.

Cheltenham Poetry Society Poetry Workshop, Tue 6 August, 7-10pm, £4 (£2 for subscribers), Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Further information: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

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Cheltenham Poetry Society Poetry Workshop, Tue 3 Sept, 7-10pm, £4 (£2 for subscribers), Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Further information: Sharon Larkin 07540 329389.

Cheltenham Heritage Open Days, Thu 12 Sept – Sun 15 Sept, Open buildings and events around Cheltenham, For details see cheltenhamcivicsociety.org.uk

Events for JUNE – SEPTEMBER 2013

**Cheltenham German Club
Konversationsabend in
der Kneipe, Thu 12 Sept,**
7.30pm, Further info at
cheltenhamgermanclub.
webs.com, or contact the
Secretary, Jo Dean, 01242
245349 robertandjodean@
virginmedia.com

**Cheltenham Civic Society
Open Day, Sat 14 Sept –
Sun 15 Sept,** 11am-4pm,
Parmoor House, Lypiatt
Terrace, An exhibition of
the work and archives of the
Civic Society.

**Cheltenham Poetry
Society Poetry Reading
Group Meeting, Tue 17
Sept,** 7-10pm, £2, Parmoor
House, Lypiatt Terrace,
Further information: Sharon
Larkin 07540 329389.

**Cheltenham Local History
Society, The Birdlip
Grave Group, a 2000-
year mystery, Tue 17 Sept,**
7.30pm, £1 non-members,
Municipal Offices,
Promenade, Lecture by Mr
Malcolm Watkins.

**WEA: Intermediate
Italian, Thu 19 Sept – Thu
14 Nov (ex 31 Oct),** 11am-
1pm, £64, Christ Church
Hall, Malvern Road, With
Rosella Rigattieri. Enq:
Derek Briggs 01242 234488
purdyb@blueyonder.co.uk,
wea-cheltenham.co.uk

**Cheltenham German Club
“Expressionismus” Jane
Kennedy, Fri 20 Sept,**
7.30pm, Parmoor House,
Lypiatt Terrace, Further info
at cheltenhamgermanclub.
webs.com, or contact the
Secretary, Jo Dean, 01242
245349 robertandjodean@
virginmedia.com

**Historical Assoc. (Glos.
Branch) AGM and talk
Mon 23 Sept, 7.30pm**
£3 non-members
Hatherley Library,
Caernarvon Road Lord
Carlingford's Brush with
the White Death; the Tussle
with TB in the C.19th, with
speaker Dr David Swinson.
Tel Robert Sutton 01242
574889.

**WEA: Advanced
Calligraphy, Tue 24 Sept –
Tue 3 Dec (ex 29 Oct),** 9.30-
12.30pm, £126, Southam
Village Hall, With Josie
Brown. Enq: Derek Briggs
01242 234488 purdyb@
blueyonder.co.uk, wea-
cheltenham.co.uk

**Charlton Kings Local
History Society, ‘Croome
Park’, Tue 24 Sept,**
7.30pm, £2 non-members,
Baptist Church, Church
St, Charlton Kings, Talk
by Mr Tim Hickson, NT
Volunteer.

**WEA: The Poetry of John
Betjeman, Wed 25 Sept
– Wed 6 Nov (ex 16 Oct),**
2-4pm, £48, Christ Church
Hall, Malvern Road, With
Elizabeth Teague. Enq:
Derek Briggs 01242 234488
purdyb@blueyonder.co.uk,
wea-cheltenham.co.uk

**WEA: Further Your French
with Fun, Thu 26 Sept –
Thu 5 Dec (ex 31 Oct),** 2.15-
4.05pm, £70, Christ Church
Hall, Malvern Road, With
Annette Binns. See entry
above for contact details.

**Cheltenham German Club
Konversationsabend in
der Kneipe, Thu 26 Sept,**
7.30pm, Further info at
cheltenhamgermanclub.
webs.com, or contact the
Secretary, Jo Dean, 01242
245349 robertandjodean@
virginmedia.com

**WEA: Brueghel's
Landscapes and
Rembrandt's Self-
portraits, Fri 27 Sept
– Fri 25 Oct,** 11am-1pm,
£40, Christ Church Hall,
Malvern Road, With Ian
Morgan. Enq: Derek Briggs
01242 234488 purdyb@
blueyonder.co.uk, wea-
cheltenham.co.uk

**WEA: The War Years
(1939-1945): Literature
and Social History, Tue
1 Oct – Tue 26 Nov (ex
29 Oct),** 10.30-12.30pm,
£64, Christ Church Hall,
Malvern Road, With Dr
Allan Philipson. See entry
above for contact details.

**WEA: Watermills,
Windmills & Cliff
Railways, Mon 7 Oct –
Mon 18 Nov (ex 28 Oct),**
2-4pm, £48, Christ Church
Hall, Malvern Road, With
Michael Turner. See two
above for contact details.

Please email listings
for the Oct-Jan issue to
perspectives.listings@
gmail.com by 20 August.

A BIT OF SINEW

MATTHEW MARTIN

Composer Matthew Martin, educated in Cheltenham, is particularly inspired by Benjamin Britten's broad musical and human sympathies and ability to treat the most traditional of musical forms with freshness and originality. Martin's recent choral piece 'Trees', was commissioned for the Cheltenham Youth Choir. It is inspired by the eponymous poem by Gloucestershire poet and composer Ivor Gurney. Gurney was writing from the trenches in the First World War where 'Beauty my feet stayed at last' when his thoughts drifted to the cool green of Coopers Hill.

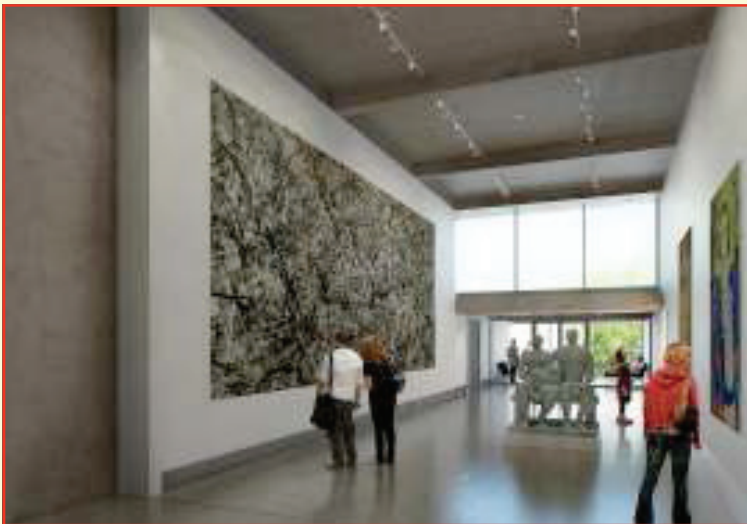
One of the most significant changes since Gurney's time is technology: 'In today's one click culture, non-musicians expect to be

able to appreciate a piece of music on its first hearing,' observes Martin. 'Everything has to have a pretty tune. "Trees" is deliberately attractive but hopefully has a bit of sinew to it.'

In his own words, Martin produces 'quite useful music,' but Music Editor Simon Halsey goes further. Martin is in increasing demand from choirs and cathedrals around the UK. His work is not just 'useful' but 'very clever, original, thoughtful and a bit different ...'

Judge for yourself. <http://youtube/iHemmaJKdliE> allows a 'one click' taster, but the Cheltenham Youth Choir's live premier of 'Trees' at the Music Festival, provides a real opportunity to hear Martin's work, live.

Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum Re-opening 5 October 2013



Clarence Street, Cheltenham GL50 3JT
01242-237431
www.cheltenham.artgallery.museum

SPRING BOARD TO SUCCESS

CFPA PERFORMERS OF THE FUTURE

Toe-tapping, foot stomping, hand clapping - now in its 87th year, Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts saw hundreds of children, adults, choirs and dance groups showcase their dance, drama and music talents this May, both in the Town Hall and Subtone club on The Promenade.

The Wanted's Nathan Sykes and Birmingham Royal Ballet dancer Laura Day competed at Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts when they were younger. Cheltenham-born Laura Day performed at The Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham, with the Birmingham Royal Ballet. She told Perspectives that, for her, the CFPA was important: '... it was always such an exciting time of year and one I couldn't wait to come

around. Getting the chance to take part in all the solo, duet and group sections and perform on stage in front of an audience was always so much fun!'

The CFPA aims to provide an important springboard for dancers but also for musicians and actors. Over the years it has fostered many local talents including Peter Liang (who won the CFPA's Nutland Award for a violin solo and now performs with the Halle Orchestra as first violin) and Amelia Jones (who went on to lead the English Symphony Orchestra Youth Orchestra). And as for drama: CFPA actors have returned now as Vice-Presidents Dame Felicity Lott, Russell Maliphant and Phyllida Lloyd. www.cheltenhamfestivalofperformingarts.co.uk/

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28 November 2013

Bournemouth Symphony

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30 January 2014

BBC National

Orchestra of Wales

20 February 2014

The Hallé

7 March 2014

Orchestra of the Swan

28 March 2014

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

25 May 2014

Box Office: 0844 576 2772 cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk