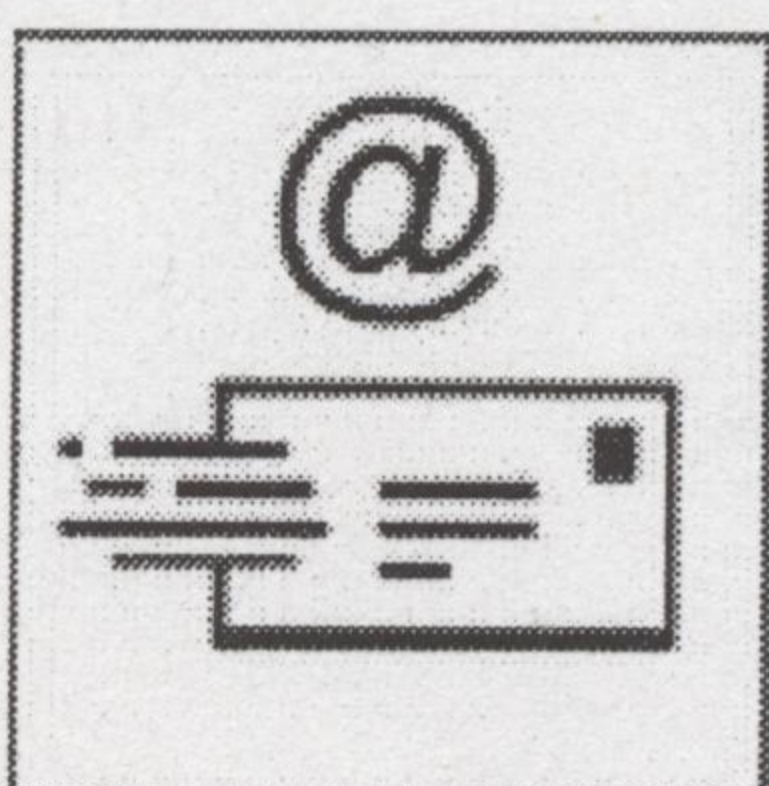


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ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

Now that we have two editions to form a trend, I can say some things about what this newsletter is and is not.

- It is, and is only, an eclectic collection of interesting and unusual things that happen to cross my desk, that I think are worth passing on or sharing with others.
- It is not a selection of my recommendations or endorsements. Sounds Great is there to tell you about what is on, not to tell you what you should go and listen to.
- It is not plugs for advertisers. If from time to time you find that I am commenting on an event that is also advertised in Sounds Great, that will only be because the correspondence surrounding the placing of the advertisement may lead me to find out more about the performance than I would otherwise have known.
- And lastly, it is and will continue to be utterly unreliable. I do it when there is time, and I don't promise to do it to any particular schedule.

As a trial innovation for this edition, I have included some recommendations and comments from subscribers. I would be happy in future editions to act as a transmission agent if anyone wants to share enthusiasms about particular works or performers.

Sounds Great and this newsletter are edited by Brian Marquard and published by Calliope Arts Limited. Company information and contact details are available on our website at www.soundsgreat.co.uk. All information included in this newsletter is published in good faith as it is received from event organisers or copied from websites. We have not verified the information independently and readers of the newsletter are advised to check accuracy independently before acting on it.



CHORAL SOCIETY EVENTS - WITH A PLUS

May sees a number of choral society events of special interest:

- Darrel Davison's last concert with the Haslemere Music Society on 12 May also sees the first performance of his new work specially commissioned by the Society.
- At St Joseph's Church, Highgate Hill, also on 12 May, the Highgate Choral Society celebrates local composer Paul

Patterson's 60th birthday with a performance of his Stabat Mater.

- On 19 May at All Saints Church in Marlow, The Wooburn Singers celebrates the 40th anniversary of the founding of the choir by Sir Richard Hickox. The music, chosen by the choir from the repertoire over that period, includes items performed under each of their directors: Richard Hickox, Stephen Jackson, Jeremy Backhouse and Greg Beardsell. There will be a reception afterwards in nearby Court Garden House to which all of the audience are invited, and all four of the directors will be present.
- In Guildford Cathedral on 19 May the Vivace Chorus, with Jeremy Backhouse conducting, give the first major performance of works by local composer Will Todd. Bob Chilcott's A Little Jazz Mass is also on the programme.



In parenthesis: One hopes Jeremy Backhouse doesn't need to break any speed limits in what might be his hasty journey from Guildford to Marlow on the evening of Saturday 19 May. The slightly later start of the Marlow concert will no doubt be helpful.



BRIDGING THE GAP

I am indebted to a subscriber for drawing my attention to the Southbank Sinfonia, previously a regrettable absentee from these pages. Southbank Sinfonia (their website tells me) is the inspiration of Simon Over, its Music Director who, while conducting a young group of exceptional conservatoire students, was struck by their dedication and outstanding talent, but also by the uncertainty they faced in beginning their professional careers. Only 5% of new graduates currently find full time places in orchestras; many abandon music as a career.

The Sinfonia now provides a vital link between conservatoire and the music profession, offering an intensive one-year learning and performing experience - supported by bursary - for exceptional graduates of music colleges: a similar role to that performed for opera students by the National Opera Studio. Look for their series of free rush hour concerts at St John's Waterloo. They also have performances at Cadogan Hall on 2 May and 16 May, LSO St. Luke's at the Barbican on 24 May, and at Cadogan Hall on 23 June as part of the Chelsea Festival.

Another subscriber draws my attention to The Keyboard Charitable Trust, another organisation which does its best to help young artists make the difficult transition from a talented youth through to a successful performing career. Many of the recitals they organise are held in Steinway Hall in Marylebone, and we will be featuring future events in Sounds Great.