



Chichester Festival for Music, Dance and Speech

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter!

First of all I hope everyone has had a good summer this year. I think it is one of the best I can remember weather wise and it is lovely that autumn is approaching calmly as an aftermath to the summer so we can look forward to the "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness".

I thank Peter Rice for organising a most excellent Recital at Sennicotts once again this year which was crammed with talent. It is a lovely setting and a joy to perform in such a beautiful place and we thank John Rank for his generous hospitality. The evening was in aid of the John Warner Competition Fund which raised £589.00 and also a collection took place for the Chestnut Tree Hospice charity which raised £200.00.



We have held our first Committee meeting to get the Festival 2017 started. It was good to see Rosemary Edbury who has supported our Committee for many years back in one piece again after her horrendous accident earlier in the summer although she still has some recovery to make. Our secretary, Mary, has worked exceedingly efficiently during the summer holiday to have the Syllabus ready and printed and these are now at Ackermans Music shop in West Street as well as other outlets in and around Chichester. If you know of any music, drama or dance teachers in the area please do get a syllabus to them to encourage more entries or refer to them to our website.

The closing date for entries comes up in November and then it is a rush to get the timings for all classes done before Christmas for the Programme to go to print in early January for the start of the Festival on the 4th February. Therefore it is very important to stick to the closing dates to save extra work in chasing up and possible disappointment. Please remember to return your Cups and Trophies by the first week of January to Ackermans. There will be reminder calls from Debbie Mabbitt who is joining our team with locating these.

We have still to find a Section leader for the Singing classes but adjudicators are booked and all will run smoothly. It helps a great deal if the Section leader has a background of music, teaching and festivals and we hope in the near future we will fill this Committee post.

Increasing venue costs are being addressed and luckily our Treasurer, John, keeps a strict eye on our bank balances to cover all eventualities. The Dance section is looking for a new venue due to the closure of Lavant House School and serious enquiries have been made which look hopeful for the future and as soon as a venue is confirmed it will be published on our website.

Much work goes into the preparation and running of the Festival and I do hope that everyone enjoys participating and spectating once again. We have some excellent talent in our area and this is all brought together at the end of the Festival when we will hold our evening Concert in Westbourne House School on Sunday 26th March 2017.

I look forward to seeing you at the Festival and wish you all every success in your participation.

With all best wishes



Jenifer Pressdee LGSM, ANEA (Stage Technique)
Chairman, Chichester Festival for Music, Dance and Speech

Registered Charity Number 1040782

Website www.cfmds.org.uk



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British Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech

Confirmed dates for the 2017 Festival

Constraints on venue availability have compelled us to alter some of the provisional dates published earlier. The confirmed dates for our 2017 Festival are shown below. Full details of venues and adjudicators for each section may be found on the Festival website. Please check the site regularly to keep informed of last-minute news and announcements.



Guitar (Junior)	4 th & 5 th February	Orchestras & Bands	4 th March
Speech & Drama	4 th & 5 th February	Recorders	4 th March
Musical Theatre	4 th & 5 th February	Singing (Junior)	4 th & 5 th March
Guitar (Adult)	12 th February	Choirs	11 th March
Singing (Adult)	4 th February	Woodwind	11 th March
Dance	18 th to 22 nd February	Piano	11 th & 12 th March
Brass	4 th March	Strings	11 th & 12 th March

Our Festival Concert will be held on Sunday 26th March.

Entries are now being accepted, both on-line (for Music and Speech classes only) and in paper form (for all classes). Access to our on-line entry system and downloadable entry forms can be found on the Festival website.



The Woodwind section of our 2016 Festival was very successfully managed by a team effort from several Committee members, but we do still need a new leader for the section.

If you feel you could help, or think you know of someone who may be interested, do please get in touch with our Secretary, Mary Smith, via the Festival website. Running a section of the Festival is an immensely rewarding job, and we're a friendly and welcoming group. You can be sure you won't be thrown in at the deep end and we'll do all we can to give all the support, advice and guidance you need.

Every year, the Festival gives many hundreds of young (and perhaps not so young) performers the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their skills, and to receive professional feedback and encouragement from acknowledged experts in their field.

Why not join us and become a part of something exciting and worthwhile.



Section Leader for Junior and Adult Singing

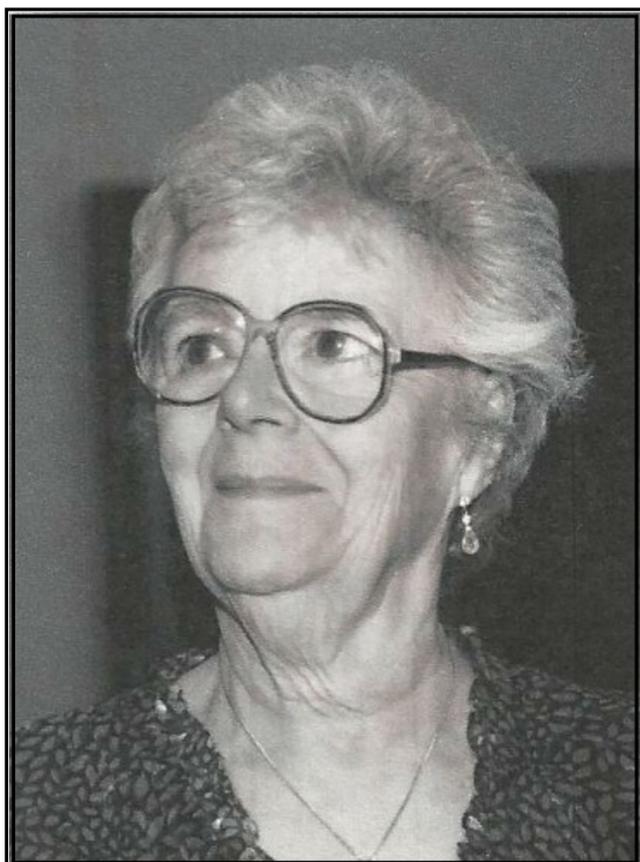
Sadly, for personal reasons, our section leader for Singing has had to stand down. Our Committee are working together to ensure that the section again runs smoothly in 2017, but we do still need a new leader for the section.

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Introducing our Sections

The people organising and driving each of our sections are key to the continued success of the Festival, and we thought you might like to know a little more about them. In this issue we feature Kate Goodchild and Mark Hartt-Palmer.



Kate Goodchild

Music and dancing have been an enormous part of my life, probably from before I went to school, so being involved with the Dance section of the Festival for many years now just continues the thread.

At school in North Wales I was lucky to have brilliant teachers in both piano and violin and I sang in the choir (I can still sing the first verse of the Welsh National Anthem in Welsh!) and at home near Manchester sang and played with a local choir (sadly failed an audition for the Halle Choir!). As well as concerts, going to the theatre in Manchester developed my interest in theatre and ballet. After going to College I worked for Granada Television in Manchester in the Presentation Department, which meant compiling daily schedules, timing commercial breaks in films and occasionally being in the Central Control Room. My one claim to fame was taking the creator and original writer of Coronation Street home every night! Marriage (not to him!) then took me first to Hertfordshire and later Chichester. In Hertfordshire, I taught violin and recorder for several years and accompanied ballet classes each week, and in Chichester I also accompanied ballet and Greek classes for Miss Lombard at her School of Dancing. In the 1980's we lived in Paris for three years, and I was lucky enough to get the post of Representative for the Royal Academy of Dancing for the whole of France. This job involved organising workshops and ballet exams for my eleven teachers scattered around the country, and accompanying for the exams if a teacher was without a pianist.

I have two daughters, both of whom are musical - the elder one produced the Musical Revue whilst at University and still sings in a choir; my younger daughter auditioned for the Ballet National de Marseille and was chosen to join the Company, so I then indulged my passion for ballet by following her in her performances! On returning to Chichester, an ideal place for theatre-going, I enjoyed being Practice Manager for a small Medical Practice for twenty years. Now I can continue to enjoy playing in various orchestras and chamber groups. I also attempt Flamenco dancing (complete with castanets!) and visit theatres whenever possible. Lastly, following the fortunes of our six grandchildren keeps me well occupied.

Mark Hartt-Palmer Dip.RCM(Perf), Dip.RCM(Teach)

Mark Hartt-Palmer trained under Frances Mason at the Royal College of Music where he studied violin, viola and piano. He is well-known as a soloist, recitalist, arranger and musical director.

Solo performances have included the concertos of Mendelssohn, Bruch, Sibelius, Dvorak, Tchaikovsky and Elgar. He gave the first performances of the Coleridge-Taylor concerto by an amateur orchestra in the 2006 Chichester Festivities, and performed the Canadian première of the work with the Divertimento Orchestra in Ottawa in April 2008.

As a recitalist, Mark has played for many years as a duo with Richard Barnes - notable features of their partnership being a concert at Magdalen College Chapel, Oxford, and more recently in Temple Church, London. As a duo, they specialise in exploring little-known British Romantic repertoire, recently performing Stanford's 2nd and Parry's 3rd Violin Sonatas as part of the Cathedral Lunchtime Series in February 2009. They gave a recital of British violin music in the 2010 Chichester Festivities. They also specialise in little known repertoire for the rare but beautiful combination of violin and organ, most notably the music of composers such as Karg-Elert and Rheinberger.

As an arranger, Mark has re-orchestrated several Gilbert and Sullivan operas for reduced forces, which have been performed in the UK, the USA and Germany.

In partnership with John Balsdon, Willowhayne Records (www.willowhaynerecords.com) was formed in 2013, their first release of organist Keith John recorded in Gloucester Cathedral in 2012 received the Editor's Choice award in the Organists' Review. Subsequent releases have won critical acclaim, their latest of local pianist Yasmin Rowe won Editor's Favourite in the BBC Music Magazine.



Our Summer Recital held on 1st July at Sennicotts was one of the most memorable.

This report comes from Peter Rice.



There was a good and appreciative audience for this concert, given in aid of the John Warner Singing Competition and the Chestnut Tree Children's Hospice. John Rank, our patron, has been the inspiration behind a series of concerts in this gem of a church for over twenty-five years. For most of that time Sheila Lacey was responsible for the programme, and many musicians will have fond memories of performing here during the early part of their careers. Sheila made an enormous contribution to music in Chichester both as performer and teacher. The standard has always been high and this year was no exception. The aim has never been to choose only the most qualified performers, although we have had many of these. Rather the emphasis has been on musicianship and engagement with the audience, which is not quite the same thing. The same principle has applied to the high standard of the spoken word.

Victoria Fitzpatrick sang eight songs, showing great versatility and technique. Poppy McGhee played her recorder in the first half and then switched to violin. She had travelled all the way from Somerset and what a feast she gave us! We were very pleased this year to have excellent contributions from Speech and Drama students; Cameron Cragg and his sister Charlotte. Lily Merrit-Birch and Alyssia Jansz were highly amusing with 'The Chameleon' and 'Gloria, my little Sister'. Rebecca Allday, who is taught guitar by Sasha Levto, came at quite short notice to charm us with pieces by Carrega and Villa Lobos. Sensitive playing, indeed.

John Rank very generously provided refreshments, The weather was fine and the audience successfully navigated the parking field in which the sheep had been busy until just before the concert. A total of £789 was raised. Very many thanks to all who came, and to all who took part

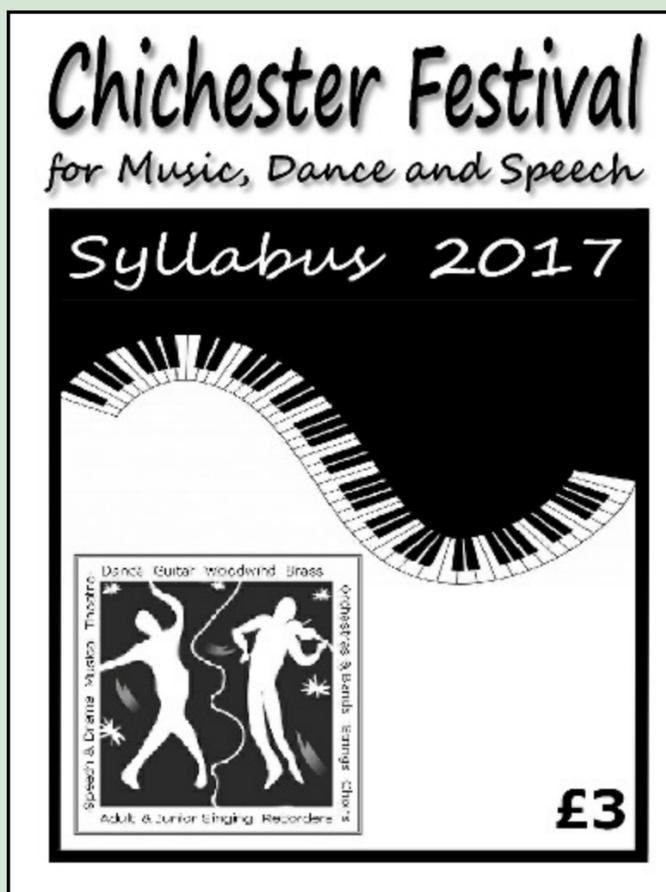
Syllabus for the 2017 Festival

Our 2017 Syllabus has now been published both in print and on our website.

This year's Syllabus includes an improvement we hope will make it more convenient and easier to use by Festival entrants.

We are displaying the cost of entry against each class. Where classes are open to more than one category of entrant (juniors, adults and seniors) all relevant entry fees will be shown.

We have worked with the software developer of our On-Line Entry System to permit entrants to state which category of fee is appropriate to them at the time they place their entry on-line.



Printed copies of our Syllabus are available from :-

Ackerman Music
42 West St
Chichester
PO19 1RP

Content for our next Newsletter

If you have something you'd like us to include, we'd very much like to hear from you. Perhaps you have a special memory of a past Festival, news of a former Festival entrant, or thoughts on how you'd like to see the Festival developing for the future.

Please send in your ideas to our secretary, Mary Smith, using the email contact page on our website.



Registered Charity Number 1040782

Website www.cfmds.org.uk