

## Charity Concert at St Margaret Pattens Church 26th November 2009

### Sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers

A dramatic and rousing fanfare from the gallery of St Margaret Pattens formed the beginning of a hugely impressive concert organised by the Pattenmakers in aid of the Appeal Fund launched by the Friends of the Church. This opening piece was composed especially for the Pattenmakers by the talented Guildhall School of Music and Drama student, Jonny Abraham, and was effectively a 'world premiere'. Later in the programme Jonny and Elizabeth Rossiter, also from the Guildhall School, performed the difficult *Trumpet Concerto in D* by **Guiseppe Torelli** with great skill.

A third Guildhall School Student and Pattenmakers Award Winner, Lucinda-Mirikata Deacon, sang '*Seven Early Songs*' by **Alban Berg** (1885–1935), accompanied by Elizabeth Rossiter. Lucinda's big, rich contralto voice filled the church, and these songs provided the opportunity to demonstrate her huge range. Later in the programme Lucinda sang two wonderful arias – '*Donde lieta usci*' from *La Bohème* and '*Je dis que rien m'épouvante*' from *Carmen*. Finally, following a very expressive **Mendelssohn** 'piano interlude' from Elizabeth Rossiter, the pair performed '*Il est doux, il est bon*' by **Jules Massenet**.

Lucinda told me that she is hoping to continue her career with the Jette Parker Young Artists programme at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. I am sure we all wish her luck and trust that she has a distinguished future ahead.

Whilst the professionalism of these Guildhall students came as no surprise, the standard of the various performers from the City Schools was extraordinary.

Jake Alden-Falconer gave us the soliloquy by Clarence from **Shakespeare's** *Richard III* with a power that belied his age. He apparently had great reviews for his performance of Estragon in *Waiting for Godot* on the Edinburgh Fringe this year, and is also a skilled singer, musician and linguist.

The City of London School String Orchestra played **Elgar's** '*Serenade for Strings*' with huge aplomb – and there were orchestra members as young as 12. The two City Schools joined together to give us '*Viridissima*' by **Michael McGlynn** after Hildegard of Bingham. This was quite haunting, as both the Girls School choristers and Boys School orchestra members were positioned in different parts of the church, so that the music came from all around us. The

Girls School choir also performed a delightfully original work, '*O Magnum Mysterium*' by **Morten Lauridsen**.

The finale, '*Hope for Resolution*', was extremely moving. All performers joined in this interesting composition – apparently 're-discovered' in the United States, having been composed by **Paul Cladwell and Sean Ivory** to mark the historic meetings between Nelson Mandela and F.W. De Klerk to determine the political future of South Africa. Maggie Donnelly, Director of Music at CLSG and the conductor of the Girls School choir, arranged this piece to great effect.

The evening proved not only to be hugely enjoyable, but also successful in raising considerable funds for the Friends of St Margaret Pattens Appeal — around £3,700 plus gift aid. Thanks are due to the Fundraising Committee, chaired by Sally Dymott, who put in so much effort to make the event a success. Alastair Watson Gandy undertook the printing of programmes; Past Master Donald Newell, Church Warden, was a huge help with liaising between the committee and The Friends of St Margaret Pattens; Lisa Robertson and Alison Truphet liaised with the two schools, and all worked hard on the day. Refreshments were kindly provided at cost and served by Alistair France aided by his children and our own City School bursary recipients. Geoffrey Webber, Administrator at the church, was also a great help. Thanks too, go to Deborah Brooke who undertook all the administrative details.

The Reverend Canon Andrew Pearson found the evening most enjoyable, and was delighted with the contribution towards the Appeal Fund, much of which is destined to renovate and extend the Vestry. We were able to see the plans for creating a multi-purpose 'hub' within this working church for meetings, activities and entertainment after events such as this one.

A resounding success!

Jackie James

December 2009.