



Heavenly music at our own arts festival in the heart of East Finchley

By Ken Carter

As dusk fell each night in late September and early October, the sound of music illuminated All Saints Church in Durham Road, where the acoustics once impressed Benjamin Britten.

The 2013 Arts Festival opened with youth and adventure from Philip Dutton and the fellow students of his own Rénatus chamber orchestra. Their music danced to Dvorak's tuneful *Serenade* and Janacek's early *Suite*; then jiggled us alert with Geoffrey Hanson's joyous new *Accord*. Milos Milivojevic slapped and squeezed his accordion to this with a spring in his step and melodies tucked up his sleeve.

Under the fingers of distinguished local resident Jennifer



Classical accordionist Milos Milivojevic playing Geoffrey Hanson's new work *Accord for Accordion*, with the Rénatus Orchestra.



The Haydn Chamber Orchestra enjoy rapturous applause for their performance of Mozart, Stravinsky and Beethoven. All photos by Marian Harris

Bate, the organ told a terrifying tale in Leon Boëllman's *Suite Gothique* on Sunday. Skilled young talent followed, the choir of All Saints in fact. Their *Beati Quorum Via* [Charles Villiers Stanford] was an utter delight.

Popular group Paprika returned with an uproarious, full-house jamboree of accordions, guitar, violin, bass and percussion. Musicians from Romania, Serbia and the UK banged away in musical stomping, having fun!

On another evening we had 'Four Young Artists'. Steven East has a strange, versatile voice, Marison Lee played with style, Miriam Nerval's recorder solos sounded timeless, distinct, resonant and true. Rebecca Leung, unbelievably only 14, was crisp and skilled in the opening movement of an early Beethoven piano sonata.

Pop-Up Opera were a delight to hear and uproarious to watch. They offered Pergolesi and Mozart snippets, and much

of *Rita*, Donizetti's hilarious one-acter. I fondly remember Cliff Zammit Stevens pacing the auditorium, distributing Kleenex as he gave Italianate voice to his mountain of woes.

Trio Goya took time to settle their instruments in. Kati Debretzni's violin and Sebastian Comberti's cello had to

show restraint if we were to hear the fortepiano of Maggie Cole. The Beethoven Trio in C minor and the second Haydn Trio sparkled brilliantly, though.

Robert Munns delivered a musical panorama from Couperin, born 1668, to Dan Locklair, born 1949, with pride of place going to *Soliloquy*,



Pop Up Opera are all tied up for their evening of aria, duets and ensembles.

Geoffrey Hanson's cherishable exploration of the human spirit, investigated through the various voices of All Saints' rich Victorian organ.

The Haydn Chamber Orchestra visited on the last night. ("It sounds much better here than in the other [church]" declared a follower sitting behind me.) Their performance was incisive and crystal-clear. Thomas Blunt's conducting had relentless, joyous drive. Beethoven's 7th *Symphony* was a performance to remember, and Mozart's *Don Giovanni* overture and Stravinsky's *Dances Concertantes* almost as good.

Arts festival charities say thank you

By Daphne Chamberlain
This year, the East Finchley Arts Festival raised £4,300 to be divided between Noah's Ark Children's Hospice and The Harington Scheme.

This was the reaction from Punyapriya Singh Khednah, community fundraising manager for Noah's Ark: "Wow... that is amazing... Community events such as the arts festival act as a lifeline to local charities. A huge thank you to all those involved. You have not just raised funds, but also valuable awareness".

The Harington Scheme's Joanna Baxter told us: "As a small charity we greatly value local support, and it's fantastic that festival goers have shown such generosity. Many thanks to all involved".

The money came from bucket collections after each event, and from one third of all art sales. Someone very much involved was Pauline Treen, who organised the exhibition of paintings, prints, ceramics, sculpture and jewellery, which was on display throughout the festival. She told us: "As usual, it was of a very high standard, with local and national artists taking part. Hopefully both these charities have acquired new friends as well as vital funds."

Dashing Santas

The London Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy is organising its annual Santa 5K Dash from Muswell Hill to Crouch End on Saturday 7 December 2013.

You can walk, run or jog the gentle route which starts at the centre and school in Muswell Hill. Runners can see in the festive season looking as cool as Santa while pledging to raise £50 for the charity.

Last year 40 people signed up for the first Dash. This year organisers are hoping it will be bigger and better. Volunteers are also needed to act as marshalls on the day.

For more information contact Daisy Mathebula on daisy@cplondon.org.uk or 020 8444 7242.

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