



## Fitting farewell to a man of music

By Catherine Thompson  
Friends, colleagues, neighbours and many others poured into All Saints' Church in Durham Road on Saturday 15 April to remember Geoffrey Hanson, East Finchley resident, organist at All Saints' for 30 years, and a much-loved member of our community.

Geoffrey, who died in 2020, composed prolifically all his life. The audience was treated to a very special evening of music from the singers of the London Ripieno Society, which Geoffrey founded in 1962, and the London Mozart Players, conducted by Geoffrey Simon, a friend and champion of Geoffrey's music.

The concert opened with *Now Welcom Somer*, unaccompanied music by Geoffrey, written in 1978 to poems by Geoffrey Chaucer, Christina Rossetti, Robert Louis Stevenson, W. E. Henley and A. E. Housman. All pieces were powerfully evocative of the current season. They were challenging



In tribute: Geoffrey Simon conducts the London Mozart Players at the memorial concert. Photo Mike Coles

for the soloist Anna Cavaliero and the choir, who all rose magnificently to the occasion.

This was followed by the premiere of Geoffrey's last work: *Chamber Symphony No 4*. It was at times lyrical, solemn, and dance-like with a tango movement. The performance was particularly poignant as Geoffrey did not live to hear it.

To end the first half, Ignas Maknickas transfixed the audience with a sparkling, lively performance of Mozart's *Piano*

*Concerto No 21*. It was clear we were listening to a young rising star.

The second half of the concert began with *Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen (How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings Fair)* from the Brahms' *Requiem*, evoking the peace that can come with death. It was followed by *The Singing Will Never Be Done*, Geoffrey's setting of poems by Robert Bridges and Siegfried Sassoon, scored for soprano and orchestra. Anna Cavaliero, another young artist to remember, thrilled the audience with her solo singing. For some it was a memory of her rendition at Geoffrey's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday concert.

After the sustained applause died down, Geoffrey Simon conducted the London Mozart Player in Elgar's *Nimrod*, from the *Enigma Variations*, as a tribute to the people of Ukraine, but also as a memory of Geoffrey, who played it at All Saints' for many years on Remembrance Sundays.

## What's On at the Phoenix in May

By Zalan Pall, general manager

An 80s classic, live opera, ballet and theatre, a comedy night and Eurovision are all happening at the Phoenix in May.

From Friday 5 May, Davy Chou's *Return to Seoul* is an unpredictable and refreshingly authentic story of a young woman's search for identity, and of the ever-shifting relationships that shape it. Featuring a revelatory performance from newcomer Park Ji-Min, this bittersweet journey of self-discovery sees Freddie travel from South Korea's vibrant, neon-soaked capital to its tranquil port cities, in search of a better understanding of her own identity, culture and home.

For the first time EVER, the **Eurovision Song Contest Grand Final** show will be broadcast LIVE in cinemas on Saturday 13 May, allowing fans to be 'united by music' and share the incredible experience of celebrating the biggest, brightest, boldest music party of the year on the big screen. Come and join the Eurovision party at the Phoenix!

For the lovers of other types of live performance, we have the MET Opera's *Don Giovanni* on Sunday 21 May, the Royal Opera House ballet *Sleeping Beauty* on Wednesday 24 May and the National Theatre's hit play *Best of Enemies*, starring David Harefield and Zachary Quinto, on Thursday 25 May.

We are also showing two one-night-only concert films: *Eric*



**Clapton Live** on Wednesday 17 May and **Roger Waters: This is Not a Drill** on Thursday 25 May.

Our next classic screening is the 40th anniversary remaster of Bill Forsyth's much-loved 1983 comedy drama *Local Hero* on Sunday 21 May. Peter Riegert plays 'Mac' MacIntyre, an American oil company representative who is sent by his boss Burt Lancaster to the fictional village of Ferness on the west coast of Scotland to purchase the town and surrounding property for his company.

### Live event

We are also hosting a Comedy Night on Sunday 28 May. Find out more and book tickets for all these performances at [www.phoenixcinema.co.uk](http://www.phoenixcinema.co.uk) or pop by and talk to our foyer staff.

## Art fair

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Art Fair this month has free admission and more than 30 local artists displaying ceramics, jewellery, photography, paintings, sculpture, textiles and glass. The fair takes place on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 May at Fellowship House, Willifield Way, NW11 6YD, from 11am to 5pm each day.



Superstars: Dame Edna and Diana

## Move over, dah-ling!

In tribute to the Australian comedian Barry Humphries, who died last month, we remembered that his greatest creation was a one-time fan of The Archer.

Dame Edna Everage was able to read a copy over the shoulder of our writer Diana Cormack when she visited the housewife superstar's statue in Melbourne back in 2012.

With her dress blowing in the breeze and with a bunch of gladioli in her arms, we can't quite work out whether she's

delighted or dismayed by the latest developments in East Finchley at the time.

Barry Humphries, who was 89, performed as Dame Edna for more than 60 years in a career that took him from The Establishment club in London in the 1960s to worldwide fame with his one-man shows.

DR MARCO  
AESTHETICS  
LONDON

Medical Aesthetic  
Treatments in East Finchley

Utopia Therapy Hub  
1a Leicester Road N29EJ

[www.drmarconicoloso.com](http://www.drmarconicoloso.com)

[drmarco.aesthetics@gmail.com](mailto:drmarco.aesthetics@gmail.com)

IG: @drmarconic



Fillers  
Anti-Wrinkles  
Profilo  
Nucleadyn  
Hair Loss  
Skincare