

IPSWICH ARTS ASSOCIATION with CHRIS GREEN

I hardly can remember when I was first taken to a classical concert. It would have been at the Gaumont Cinema (now the Regent Theatre) in Ipswich. As a child I was taught something about concert etiquette: for example, when to clap and not to talk during the performance. There are so many people nowadays who shy away from going to concerts because they are conscious of not understanding what is happening. For many their only knowledge, for example, about clapping is learnt from the crass behaviour of television studio audiences who clap the moment a singer opens his or her mouth or hits a high note. I mention this because I recently read a piece of research that “the average concertgoer coughs 0.025 times a minute, double the normal frequency” (Source: Professor Andreas Wagener, Hannover University). Indeed, it is not so long ago that some professional orchestras and opera houses were offering cough sweets before performances. Now in these straightened times, I would be happy for coughs because it means that there is an audience present.

On the subject of concert venues, I mentioned the Regent Theatre which has been nominated in the category for Best Arts, Culture & Theatre in the Suffolk and Cambridgeshire’s Muddy Awards Regional Finals of the 2024 Muddy Stiletto Awards. The awards, which run across 28 counties, celebrate independent lifestyle businesses. Ipswich Regent Theatre is up against Snape Maltings, the Marina Theatre in Lowestoft, the Theatre Royal Bury St. Edmunds and Thorington Theatre, Lowestoft. Winners from the regional finals will be put through to the National Muddy Awards for a chance to be crowned ‘Best of the Best’. The Regional Awards vote closed on Thursday 18 April 2024, with Regional Winners announced on Thursday 2 May 2024.

From colleagues at St Andrews Church, Rushmere St Andrews who remind me that the Spring 2024 series of concerts has ended but you are invited to a musical event (with dramatic interludes) at the Church that is are called *Hope for Creation?* on Saturday 4 May, starting at 7.00pm. It will be under the direction of Richard Hubbard, the diocese's Music Development Director whose work with Cantus Firmus is widely known and admired. There is no charge for admission, with tea or coffee and cakes to follow. The concert will last about 75 minutes and visitors can park cars in the Church Car Park nearby.

If the Rushmere series has ended, the Ipswich Town Lectures continue and after a bumper attendance for the April concert, there probably will be a similar response for the lecture on Thursday 9 May when my old friend Stephen Foster gives a talk: *On Different Wavelengths-*

Life behind the microphone. The 50-minute session starts at 1pm at Museum Street Methodist Church, Blackhorse Lane, Ipswich and admission is free.



Bjarke Mogensen - accordionist plays tribute to Astor. Credit: B.M.

With quite a few challenges last week I wanted something to revive my spirits and I love the sound of the accordion, especially when it is playing the Argentinian tango. *Album for Astor* is a tribute by the Danish accordionist Bjarke Mogensen with a couple of friends playing vibraphone and harmonica. Eleven foot-tapping numbers exploring the different moods conjured up by Astor Piazzolla, one of the “greats” of Latin-American music. The accompanying fascinating booklet explains all one needs to know, and the music –well, it is great (OUR 8.226916).



It is always good to get news from Ipswich Arts affiliated societies and the Community Light Orchestra welcomes Vince Taber as its new conductor. Vince is senior brass tutor with the Suffolk Music Service and well-known in musical circles locally.

If you have a story to share with other organisations, please email IAA chairperson, Professor Chris Green at: cjc.green@talktalk.net

*Vince Taber, new MD of CLO
Photo:CLO.*