

COMMUNITY NEWS - Tuesday 7 May 2024

IPSWICH ARTS ASSOCIATION with CHRIS GREEN

Very rarely does the world of classical music and football coincide but it may be worth reminding you that the best-known example is the distinguished British composer Sir Edward Elgar who was a keen supporter of Wolverhampton Wanderers. He would cycle from his home in Malvern to see them play, and he also wrote a song to be sung by their supporters. Sadly I cannot trace that song, but would there not be some budding composer who might do the same for Ipswich Town who, as I write, are on the brink of promotion to the Premier League. Is there a John Williams equivalent out there who can provide the kind of theme which the maestro has supplied for various occasions?



Statue of Sir Edward Elgar and his bike in Hereford. Photo: Public domain.

And whilst I am dwelling on thoughts of Elgar, I hope to be conducting some string music by him when strings of Trianon give a concert at Harvest House, Felixstowe on Saturday 18 May at 7pm. The programme of well-known string music also features talented young guitarist Kea Ermina, and tickets are currently on sale from The Card Centre, Hamilton Road, Felixstowe or cathjbury@gmail.com with proceeds going to Save the Children.

As a taster of Elgar's music, I must recommend a super-budget release first recorded in 1994 but now available remastered on the Alto label with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (once regulars to Ipswich) playing under the direction of Sir Yehudi Menuhin and Barry Wordsworth in a programme of four works, one of the *Pomp and Circumstance Marches*, *Enigma Variations*, the *Nursery Suite* and *Introduction and Allegro for Strings*. Thirty years might have separated us from the original recording, but it still sounds vivid in the remastered version (Alto ALC 1285).

Attendance at the monthly Ipswich Town Lectures has gradually been increasing since January, and now nears the kind of turn-out that IAA expected pre-Covid. The next Ipswich Town Lecture is on Thursday 9 May when my good friend, former BBC broadcaster Stephen Foster talks *about On Different Wavelengths – life behind the microphone* at 1pm at Museum Street Methodist Church, Blackhorse Lane, Ipswich. I am certain that he will provide 50 minutes of fascinating recollections, and remember admission is free but there is a retiring collection. A plus point is that access to the venue is good and seating comfortable.

I mentioned Trianon's concert on 18 May and on the same evening in Ipswich you can enjoy a concert by the Community Light Orchestra. The Community Light Orchestra, which normally rehearses at Henley Community Centre will be welcoming young cellist, Eva Mawson to the concert at The Salvation Army Citadel, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, and will be conducted by new Musical Director, Vince Taber.

Eva lives near Framlingham, Suffolk, and has been playing cello since she was four. She is a member of the Britten Pears Aldeburgh Young Musicians programme, the National Youth Orchestra's Inspire programme, and has studied with some of the country's leading cellists. Now preparing for her cello diploma, Eva plays in several ensembles including Suffolk Youth Orchestra and her own string quartet. An accomplished pianist and singer, Eva is studying A Levels at high school. She hopes to read music at university and make a career in the music industry. The concert programme includes light classical music and songs from the shows and will commence at 7.30pm. Admission is free with a retiring collection in aid of The Salvation Army.



Eva Mawson, soloist with the Community Light Orchestra. Credit: Eva Mawson.

And as a postscript: if you do go to the Ipswich Town Lectures and have any ideas for topics to include in the 2025 season of Ipswich Town Lectures, make sure you tell one of the organisers.

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