

IPSWICH ARTS ASSOCIATION with CHRIS GREEN

Post-Covid I have noticed that the admission prices to many arts events have gradually been creeping upwards with some charging £20 or more. Even if this includes a programme and refreshments, I seriously question the need for this trend. Yes, I know the costs of rehearsals, music hire and some musicians have increased, but this puts many members of the public off from attending. So it was with some relief that I saw a full-page advert in a music magazine giving details of concerts by the London Philharmonic Orchestra with the caption “No seats cost more than £20”. If a top professional orchestra can do it, then so can many of our non-professional organisation.

However, not all is gloom because there are at least three local series of events for which admission is free with a retiring collection. The summer series of lunchtime Tuesday concerts at St Mary-le-Tower Church in Ipswich resume on 7 May at 1.10pm when the soloist will be David Poulter (organ). The 45-minute recital called *Te Deum* includes music by Max Reger, Jean Langlais and Charles Tournemire. Refreshments are available beforehand and visitors are invited to make a donation as part of the retiring collection.

Another church active in promoting music is St Andrews, Rushmere St Andrews. The series of Sunday afternoon concerts commence at 3pm and last for just under the hour- increasingly the length that is becoming popular. On Sunday 14 April, the programme is presented by Daniel Law and Chris Slatter (cello and piano). Daniel makes a very welcome return to St Andrew’s, this time with Chris to present a programme of cello and piano duets. Daniel is well known to us as a highly accomplished pianist; Chris is founder and manager of the Scintillo String Quartet based in Woodbridge.

I must, of course, remind you that on Thursday Ipswich Arts Association hosts Essentially Swing directed by Carol Goates in a programme that promises to be as varied as one could wish and an opportunity for plenty of foot-tapping. Be sure to be early arriving at Museum Street Methodist Church, Blackhorse Lane, Ipswich to get a good seat for the 1pm start. Refreshments are available from 12.30pm and as with all these events there is no admission charge but there is a retiring collection.



Essentially Swing. Credit: ES.

If you have not remembered- this year we celebrate the centenary of the death of Giacomo Puccini, and the first of two performances of his exciting *Messa di Gloria* takes place on Saturday 13 April at 2.30pm in Mistley Parish Church. The Stour Choral Society conducted by Susanna Rose and accompanied by Stephen Smith (organ) perform the Messa along with opera favourites. Tickets cost £15 (with under 18s free). If you want more information then visit info@stourchoralsociety.co.uk



Stour Choral Society. Photo; SCS.



Mistley Parish Church. Cedit: Vince Mosdall.

I have been reading quite a bit about the effects of music on a person's heart beat Well, it is in my interests, and I have to say that there are plenty of moments when a raised pulse may occur when listening to Ravel's ballet *Daphnis and Chloé*. Recorded back in 2006 I have just come across a thrilling performance of the complete ballet performed by the Orchestre National Bordeaux Aquitaine with the Bordeaux Opera Chorus conducted by Laurent Petitgirard. From the sensual opening to the third part of the ballet starting with *Daybreak*, Ravel entices the listener into a very individual sound world, one which influenced composers such as Gershwin and Vaughan Williams. The release is a bargain (Naxos 8.570075).

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