

## **Talent Unlimited Newsletter 7**

Yet again, it has been some time that I have not put sufficient effort into writing a newsletter as other considerations and urgent work took precedence. What shall I say apart from apologising profusely for not having written to you any earlier than today!

23 April - although this should have gone into the last newsletter – the Busch Ensemble -Mathieu van Bellen, Jonathan Bloxham and Omri Epstein- gave us a house concert and as usual they were very good. We had supper after the concert.

Our last newsletter had not covered the last concert of our festival, the Piano Brothers on 25 June at Kings Place. It was a real success as Hall One which seats over 400 was sold out. The Piano Brothers, Dominic Ferris and Elwin Hendrijanto gave a sparkling performance with all sorts of unexpected additions, like extra comedy and dancing. These were a surprise to me as well as to the audience as Dominic and Elwin had wanted it to be a total surprise to all of us. It was fun and the audience roared with appreciation. Unfortunately, it turned out to be a lot more expensive than I was expecting due to the extra technicians Kings Place provided to create the sort of show that The Piano Brothers wanted. Yes, it was financially unwise to say the least. I am calling it a learning curve and have vowed never to make the same mistake again.

The academic year ended with a sigh of relief!

In June, Gülsin Onay and her Gümüşlük festival, near Bodrum in Turkey, wanted Talent Unlimited to send them some artists. Erdem Mısırlıoğlu, piano, and Jonathan Bloxham, cello went there and gave a much appreciated performance and also enjoyed the sea, sunshine, good food and sent me a photo making me wish I was there too.

On 17 August Will Dutton, the 2014 String section winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition gave a house concert for us and this was followed by a lunchtime recital at St James's Church. Will is an absolute gem not only musically but also because he is such a lovely person to know. We started the house concert with some champagne in the garden and had a feast after the concert. He was accompanied by the wonderful Alison Rhind on both occasions. Will was requested by David McCleery of the church to return for another concert and especially during the Holy week. He will be performing on 30 March at lunchtime.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we opened the new academic year with a big concert on 20 Nov at St James's Church Piccadilly. It was called "Two Serenades and a Premiere". These were the Tchaikovsky and Elgar Serenades and Nimrod Borenstein's Cello Concerto. We formed our own Talent Unlimited String Orchestra with seventeen young performers and Jonathan Bloxham was the soloist in Borenstein's Premiere with the composer himself conducting the orchestra. This concert turned out to be a real musical success and all those involved were very happy, including me. We changed the format of the reception and instead of offering food and drinks as usual in the basement of the church, we had a drinks reception with white wine only, in the body of the church.

For some time now we have been building relationships with other organisations. St James's Church has given us our own series for lunchtime recitals. We are most grateful to David McCleery for this.

Moema Parrott, daughter of Jasper Parrott and Cristina Ortiz, has set up an organisation called Music Above the Park in Madrid. She organises concerts and gives exposure to artists. We have decided to do an exchange of artists and during this academic year Moema is sending me three of her musicians and I am sending her my three. So far we had Eduardo Frias, Jose Menor giving lunchtime recitals in London and Cenk Karaferya, Salih Can Gevrek performed in Madrid. We have Emre Engin going to Madrid to perform on 7 March and Erzhan Kulibaev coming to London in the summer. I am delighted that we have such an arrangement with Moema Parrott. She is a wonderful person to collaborate with. More musical exchanges are on the way between Talent Unlimited and Music Above the Park. We are both happy with the musicians we are sent.

Another venture of Moema's is Polyarts, a young artists' management agency. I hope some of Talent Unlimited musicians can one day benefit from being managed by Polyarts.

John Bell & Croyden, the famous pharmacy and Steinway & Sons were involved in a one-day piano marathon to promote Christmas sales at the pharmacy and of course offer the shoppers the opportunity to hear an exceptional Steinway concert grand. Craig Terry, MD of Steinway & Sons enquired whether Talent Unlimited pianists would take part in this and of course we gladly did so. We had six pianists and one guitarist perform over a period of seven hours at the pharmacy while the shoppers shopped and others stood by and listened. I stayed at the pharmacy while our musicians performed and was astounded by how different the piano sounded under the fingers of various pianists. We had a very successful day. It was well worth organising.

Another collaboration we have is with Asia House. Those of you who do not know this particular building and organisation ought to look it up. It is at 63 New Cavendish Street W1. As the name suggests all sorts of events to do with Asia take place in this building. The Head of Arts and Learning is Pamela Kember, another wonderful person to work with. On 19,20,21 Jan 2015 we had a three day festival with nine events. It was hard to organise but most pleasurable and satisfying. Here is a list of the musicians who took part in Music Futures: Asia House-Talent Unlimited Festival: AyşeDeniz Gökçin gave two wonderful masterclasses and an exceptional recital. Her ability as a pianist, her creativity and infectious enthusiasm make those who listen to her just once become lifelong supporters of her ventures. Her guest list was filled with scintillating names.

In addition to AyşeDeniz, Julian Clef, Imma Setiadi, Jason Bae and Samson Tsoy all gave very good recitals. They all had appreciative audiences. It was also gratifying to see a number of music professionals at their concerts.

Dr Emre Araci gave an illustrated lecture, "Elgar in Turkey" and Phoebe Haines, mezzo, Salih Can Gevrek, piano and Mevlan Mecid, violin, performed pieces from

Elgar. The closing concert was given by the Tarley Trio with Hannah Tarley, Jamal Aliyev and Sasha Gracheva. We had loads of party food and drinks after the last concert.

During these three days we had plenty of tea and coffee and cake in the mornings and drinks in the evenings.

Our musicians did us proud and we proved to ourselves that we can achieve great things with a very small number of people doing all the work. This festival was a fantastic experience for us.

It was wonderful for Talent Unlimited to be in collaboration with Asia House and my thanks go to Pamela Kember. One unfortunate element in the entire festival was the illness of Sir John Boyd which kept him at home. We wish him speedy recovery.

We had the entire festival with the exception of the masterclasses recorded on a DVD and later on individual musicians were given, in edited form, their own performances as DVDs. This of course was necessary so that our musicians could use these recordings for auditions, applications etc.

Until this year I had done almost all the work for Talent Unlimited but this year we have grown. Jessie Harrington joined me and has been an incredible support, selling tickets, raising funds, marketing in all sorts of ways, making excellent connections and I can go on and on. Teri Sisa Mason is the other person whose help is absolutely invaluable. Teri worked with Gürer Aykal, conductor, for about fifteen years in the music industry, for Borusan. She has very good connections. There are a few more people who are very helpful but I will talk about them in another newsletter.

We celebrated Jessie's birthday at my home with a house concert by Jamal Aliyev and Sasha Gracheva and raised some funds. We also had a good brunch. It was a joint effort between Jessie's kitchen and mine.

26 Feb was chosen for another house concert by Hüseyin Gündoğdu and Irina Lyakhovskaya. We have helped in the purchase of Hüseyin's new cello. They performed Beethoven and Brahms and the audience were very happy. The atmosphere was very welcoming and the guests loved each other's company and as usual my kitchen produced a sumptuous feast for the guests after the concert. It was definitely one of the most successful house concerts we have held. We all enjoy these house concerts. It is also one way of bringing together the music professionals we know with our musicians.

Our collaboration with Steinway & Sons has been growing in strength. We have a concert coming up at Steinway Hall on 16 March. Aurele Marthan is the pianist. I am looking forward to this performance having previously heard Aurele at the John Bell & Croyden event. We are going to have a drinks reception after the concert but before the concert Ulrich Gerhartz is going to give us a talk on pianos and answer our questions.

We also have a number of lunchtime recitals at St James's church Piccadilly, all starting at 1.10pm and ending at 2pm. Please go into our website and click on Future

Events box on the left of the screen and scroll downwards to see all of them. The first one to come is on 30 March with Will Dutton, the 2014 Strings section winner of the BBC Young Musician Competition. Will has been particularly requested to perform during the Holy Week at the church. Not to be missed. Later on we have lunchtime performances by Jason Bae, Sam Brown, Erzhan Kulibaev and Hüseyin Gündoğdu too. They are all part of our Talent Unlimited Series at this church.

On 13 April Idil Biret will be giving a much anticipated masterclass at my home to three of our pianists. She is giving a concert for the Chopin Society on 12 April and has kindly accepted to help our pianists the next day. We are very much obliged to Idil Biret for her kindness.

Recently, Keith Beresford, my partner, and I were highly honoured to be invited to Ulrich Gerhartz's party to celebrate his 25 years in London. It took place in a beautiful Kensington flat decorated with wonderful modern artwork. The food was extraordinary too...the very best sushi I have ever had. Ulrich had his friends there and the place was like a Who's Who of the piano. It was full of world renowned pianists. Walking around and talking to great names like Piers Lane, Alfred Brendel and Mitsuko Uchida left one feeling as if one had gone to another planet, definitely unreal!

We have two big concerts still to come this academic year. 21 May will see us in St James's Church Piccadilly for "Spring" with songs from Film and Musical Theatre inspired by Spring. Alison Langer, soprano, Phoebe Haines, mezzo and Lawrence Thackeray, tenor will sing with Keith Beresford as accompanist.. We will have a reception with food and drinks after the concert.

On 10 June we will be at a new venue for us and St Mary Magdalene, Munster Square will resonate to the sounds coming from Gülsin Onay's fingers. Gülsin is one of our patrons and supporting artists. We are always very grateful to her for her support.

I have to hurry up and book us for a couple of dates at St James's Church Piccadilly for the 2015-2016 academic year.

This academic year we have donated a large amount approximately £10 000.00 to at least 9 musicians and I am not counting the amounts we have paid for travel expenses and small concerts and fees to musicians. At the moment we have to be very careful with our expenses and make a concerted effort to get some sponsors. We cannot afford to organise concerts in very expensive venues. There are many more musicians, in addition to the ones we are already supporting, waiting to apply in August or September for financial help. I hope we will have enough in our bank account to help them all.

Please remember that Talent Unlimited could do with your help in all sorts of ways and that the work we do is worthwhile. I really believe that the world stands on the shoulders of exceptional people and they need to be supported by the rest of us.

Take care of yourselves and come to our concerts, and let music feed your souls.

Canan Maxton

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2 March 2015