

TU Newsletter No 1



Dear Friends

It is really high time for you to get our first newsletter. It is almost a year since Talent Unlimited received its charity Registration No 1139220 last November 2010.

Since then what have we done? Am I happy with our accomplishments? What is still to be undertaken most urgently? How can all this be achieved? Who can help? Do people underestimate what they can do to contribute? So on and so forth....

Talent Unlimited was launched on 5 October 2010 at SOAS with the generous help of Dr Bengisu Rona. Dr Emre Aracı gave a lecture on his latest book –at the time- “Naum Theatre”. We all enjoyed the reception and a number of people signed up as “Friends” by paying a minimum of £20 annual fee. Some people were very generous, and we are indebted to them and of course they know themselves.

Our first concert following the Charity Registration was the wonderful Meral Güneyman recital on 4 November 2010. I was informed just before the concert that our registration had come through. No need to say how delighted I was. The concert was a great success and the reception was full of all types of interesting people.

Our second concert was the violin recital given by Emre Engin on 28 Jan 2011. He was kindly accompanied by his teacher Alison Rhind, simply an exceptional performer. Emre was a first year student at the time. He is in his second year at the Royal College of Music. Mesruh Savaş, Turkish composer, came from Turkey in order to be present at the London première of his composition Dream of Gilgamesh. Emre gave a sterling performance and made me very proud to be helping him financially.

Our third concert was on 10th March 2011. It was called “Songs from the Classics”. We had a large number of musicians for this concert: Kim Sheehan, soprano, Clare Presland, mezzo, Leslie MacLeod-Miller, bass baritone, the Bell String Quartet, Christopher Stokes, piano and Keith Beresford, piano. We were going to have Tülay Uyar, soprano, as you can see on the flyers but she could not come because she had to take an audition in Istanbul. So we had Clare Presland, mezzo, instead. This was very good for Clare as it gave her exposure to a lot of people. HE the Turkish Ambassador Unal Cevikoz and Mrs Emel Cevikoz were among the guests.

Our fourth concert – 7 April 2011 - was given by Rusen Güneş, viola, and took place at my home and was followed by a buffet dinner. There were 32 of us in my dining room. A little cramped but we all enjoyed it. This was an impromptu concert. Rusen was going to give a concert in a church in North London and offered to have another concert at my home for the benefit of Talent Unlimited students. We are most grateful to him for his support.

Our fifth concert – 17 June 2011 -was given by AyşeDeniz Gökçin, a young star of the keyboard and a composer in her own right. The venue was the prestigious Steinway Hall. AyşeDeniz was brilliant as usual. She was not paid any fees and the sums raised were put towards the musical education of other students. We are indebted to her for her generosity.

Although this concert took place prior to our registration , we also should mention the guitar recital given by Cem Duruöz on 7 May 2010. The venue was St James's Church, Piccadilly and the concert was followed by a reception. We had "Talent Unlimited presents" on our flyers because we were already saving for Talent Unlimited registration with the Charity Commission. Some of you might not know, but one has to have £5000.00 in the bank account of the charity before having an application for charitable status processed.

So all in all we had six concerts between 7 May 2010 and 17 June 2011. Not bad going and a lot of hard work. So what have we achieved financially and how did we use the monies we raised. We accumulated approximately £20 000.00 (twenty thousand pounds) during this period coming from concerts and donations as well as "Friends" annual membership fees, and spent about £15 000.00. What did we spend it on? Grants or coaching fees for the musicians we help, artists' fees, venue hire, reception food and drinks, printing, postage, website, and hotel stay for Cem Duruöz for two nights etc. But we did NOT spend Talent Unlimited's money for directors' fees, petty cash, expense accounts, for entertaining musicians and their families after concerts privately or at my home. We are running a tight budget but we have not been in the red so far.

So far these are the people we have helped:

Donat Bayer, writing his thesis for his Doctor's Degree. He will hand his thesis in at the end of October and life should change dramatically for him, for the better. He is a good composer. He is also writing his first musical.

Emre Engin, second year violin at the Royal College of Music. Doing very well.

Cenk Karaferya, counter tenor. He has been taking coaching from Andrew Watts.

Clare Presland, mezzo. Clare wants to make Carmen her niche and she will be singing it also in French in the future.

Emre Erşahin, double-base, first year at Purcell School of Music. Purcell is giving him a very good scholarship and I shall provide some funds for his second term.

I have also helped a number of other musicians in the past before setting up Talent Unlimited. Kim Sheehan whom I met at the BYO, British Youth Opera was helped at a time when she really needed it. I put And Karabacak, clarinet, through school for two years running. Tülay Uyar also benefited from concerts I organised for her. Lara Ömeroğlu –now Melda- and her sister Melis Ömeroğlu also received large sums that I raised to help them with their auditions and studies, again in the past before Talent Unlimited's registration took place. Lara won the BBC Young Musician of the Year Award in 2010.

There are a number of other people hoping for help but money is very short at the moment because I have yet to pay the expenses for Erdem's concert and the one on 30 Jan 2012.

Our next concert is on 9 November 2011. Most of you have received the information and booking form for this concert. If not you can download it or contact me and I will send it to you again. The pianist is the remarkable young man, Erdem Mısırlıoğlu, the winner of the 2008 BBC Young Musician of the Year Piano Award at the tender age of 18. Erdem has just turned 21. He has a number of other awards to his name. If you go into our website and click on Profiles and go to Erdem's profile you can get his biog.

We have two more concerts lined up.

30 Jan 2012, Emre Engin, violin and Paul Ulman, piano, will be performing Beethoven's Spring Sonata as well as other pieces at St. Pancras Church, right opposite Euston Station on Euston Road.

26 April 2012, we are back at St James's Church, Piccadilly with a fantastic programme. "Songs of Love and Seduction", a collection of opera arias and songs from musicals. We have a scintillating cast with Alison Guill, soprano, Clare Presland, mezzo, Nicky Spence, tenor, Leslie MacLeod-Miller, bass-baritone. We also have two pianists Vicky Yannoula and Keith Beresford.

Supporting a musician is not only a matter of paying him some money or filling the coffers of his school, although that is laudable as well. They need such support as exposure to the public, experience in giving concerts, dealing with the media, finding lodgings or a part-time job and above all making the musicians feel that even when we cannot find them any finance, then we can at least help them with useful advice or even a shoulder if the need arises.

I am quite happy with what we have achieved in such a short time. We shall soldier on. However, I need help. I need people to distribute flyers, I need others to help at the receptions, I need people who are much better organised than I am, just to keep greater order in what we are doing at Talent Unlimited; a good secretary who comes free would be a miracle, a much needed miracle. I get quite a lot of help from our website engineer Craig Encer who has been hounding me to get this newsletter together as there are more and more people wishing to subscribe to it. Above and beyond all, I need people to do fundraising for the charity. I need people to come up with good ideas but also to have the courage and willingness to put these ideas into practice and get results. A list of suggestions is a wonderful thing but as long as I am the only person doing all the work, it does not work. There are only so many hours in the day. A good idea is good, but not sufficient. Many people I speak with and who have brilliant ideas feel they are not good enough to get results. I think this is defeatist. "Nothing succeeds like success".

Do I hear anyone calling and saying, "I am here and willing to help"?

I have other ideas that we could put together given the willingness of a workforce! We could organise an auction and sell objects and services donated by various people for the benefit of the charity. We could have a masked ball and give everyone the opportunity to dress up and at least put a feather in their hair to look a little different. Those of you who are interested in what we are doing could join us on Facebook. Others still could write articles on music and musicians to go on our website. We could provide some advice to budding musicians in the Resources box of the website.

You could also help by becoming a "Friend" of Talent Unlimited by paying a minimum of £20 per annum as membership fee.

Let me have your suggestions.

Canan Maxton
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Talent Unlimited

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