

11th October
2022



Yvonne Bloor on:
Classical guitar recordings...
...from 1897 to the present day

Virtuoso guitarist Yvonne Bloor presents landmark recordings and other interesting finds from the history of classical guitar repertoire on disc.

The Tomkins Lecture

5th November
2022



FRMS AGM Music Day -

Speaker **Will Todd** & music from the **Beaufort Wind Quintet**

In its 75th Anniversary year, Leicester Music Society is proud to welcome its parent society to Leicester. Held in the city's prestigious Mercure Grand Hotel the AGM is followed by an illustrated presentation by composer of the moment, **Will Todd**, and following dinner, music is provided by a local wind quintet.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A SATURDAY MEETING!



13th December
2022



Neil Roberts on:
How things change!

One of our Vice Presidents, and a popular speaker, Neil Roberts has been a concertgoer and opera enthusiast for over 70 years. He will reflect on some of the shifts of fashion in the musical world.

10th January
2023



Robert Calow asks: Who's afraid of Paul Hindemith?

Another popular speaker at LMS, Robert Calow, returns to LMS to ask "Is Paul Hindemith the ultimate 'Marmite' composer?" Robert has had a life-long interest in this important 20th Century composer, violist, and educator. Through a personal selection of works, his aim is to show that the music of Paul Hindemith deserves to be appreciated by a much wider audience.

The Jenny Roberts Lecture

14th February
2023



David Fisher on:
Love in Music

"If music be the food of love..." Well, is it? Appropriately, it being St Valentine's Day, David Fisher presents a 'Love in Music' journey featuring songs of John Dowland, bawdy music, Romantic lieder, operatic love duets, popular music and much, much more...

14th March 2023



Lots of musicals old and new. A real treat!

Kate Taylor MBE on:
My life in music and musicals

Kate writes: "When I was six I watched my father conducting an orchestra accompanying a musical. From that moment, I knew that it was my future, and in 1977 I realised that dream when I formed my own musical theatre company. The last 45 years have been full of memories, musical friends and the thrill of raising the baton and making it all happen."

18th April 2023



THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK



John Florance on: The Great American Songbook...

...is the name given to that great outpouring of American popular song which originated prior to WW2. Concentrating on Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, Cole Porter and George Gershwin, John will maintain that their music is worth taking seriously because of its vitality, melody and the wit of its lyrics - all qualities sadly rare these days. He'll also look at how this music spawned a new way of singing and how it influenced American classical music.

The Goldsmith Lecture

9th May 2023



Neil Crutchley on: Leicester Music Society at 75

No one better exemplifies the history of our society than our esteemed President Neil Crutchley who joined as a teenager & has been a member for over 51 years. Fantastic facts & magnificent music will explain how this long-established society's speakers have always striven to educate & entertain through music from its foundation shortly after WW2 to the present day. A superbly appropriate final presentation of our anniversary season.

13th June 2023



The season concludes with the:
AGM & LMS QUIZ...

...in a convivial atmosphere (and with lots of refreshments) the popular and varied music quiz is a great way to conclude the season.

It will be preceded by a brief **AGM**.



Society Officers

President:
Vice Presidents:

Neil Crutchley
Neil Roberts
Bryan Lewis
David Fisher
Ron Mitchell
David Saunders
Ron Mitchell
David Fisher
David Saunders

Chairman:
Hon. Secretary:
Hon. Treasurer:
Programme Sub-committee:



Contact the Secretary:

Ron Mitchell
45 Lichfield Road
Coventry CV3 5FF

Home: **02476 503 237**

Mobile: **07775 892 743**

email: **ron@ronmitchell.co.uk**

website: **www.leicester-music.org.uk**





LMS at 75

Seventy-five years ago, **Derek Tomkins**, a young man new to Leicester, advertised in the local paper asking if anyone would like to join him in forming a gramophone society. He was surprised and delighted with the response he got. A meeting in a

local café followed, at the end of which the Leicester Gramophone Society was born. The nascent society advertised and numbers soon increased to over fifty. A comfortable city centre venue was found and enthusiasm grew. Subscriptions enabled the purchase of good quality sound reproducing equipment which was not something the average post-war music lover could afford. Hearing the music played on good equipment became popular and the society flourished.

Derek Tomkins was the society's first chairman and for sixteen years he led the LGS with vision and imagination. Concert outings were organised, house study groups formed and informal "At Home" evenings introduced. Several founder members of the LGS became members of the National Federation Committee - and such was the society's stature in the mid-1950s, it featured on the BBC Third Programme's "Music Magazine".

The introduction of LPs in the early 1950s and then stereo sound some years later maintained interest in the society, which met once a fortnight and attracted forty or fifty members to each meeting. Speakers were mostly local, but once a quarter there would be a well-known guest - either a musician, music critic or a representative of a national recording company such as Decca or EMI.

By the mid 1970s, Hi Fi equipment and records had become relatively much cheaper and many people were able to buy a decent player and enjoy good sound in their own homes. Consequently membership of the LGS declined and a change of name to the Leicester Recorded Music Society did little to halt the fall in numbers. By the early 1980s attendance had dropped to around 18 to 20 per meeting so, in 1984, an EGM was held and the then chairman proposed a "make or break" strategy: halve the number of meetings and double the annual subscription. In return nationally known speakers would feature at each meeting. A vote was taken and the result was unanimously in favour of the proposal.

In 1985 membership of the society more than doubled and attendances were between 45 and 55. Speakers included **Lady Evelyn Barbirolli**, **Denis Matthews**, **Edward Greenfield**, **John Rutter**, **Robert Ponsonby**, **George Lloyd**, **Norman del Mar**, **John Amis**, **Michael Kennedy**, **Geoffrey Bush** and **John Crabbe**. A members "occasional series" was introduced where extra meetings gave the opportunity for members to speak on a favourite musical topic and "At Homes" were revived. Speakers from record companies came to introduce the new format CDs and outings to concerts became a regular feature.

The mid 1990s saw another fall in membership, but an enthusiastic new chairman gave the society a shot in the arm and once more the membership began to rise. Further big names came to speak including **Tasmin Little**, **Nicholas Daniel**, **Ronan O'Hora**, **Paul Spicer**, **John Steane**, **Lars Tharp**, **Robert Layton** and **Annetta Hoffnung**.

Today at the age of seventy-five and with its new name, inspiring leadership and still inviting well-known speakers [composer **Will Todd**, world-class pianist

Professor Roy Howat, baritone **Stephen Varcoe**, **Kevin Morgan**, Principal Trombone of the Bournemouth S. O. & conductor/countertenor **Tom Williams**], Leicester Music Society retains a steadily increasing membership and remains loyal to its original purpose: to enjoy music through informative and interesting talks in the company of friends.

Neil Crutchley, President of LMS



Our meetings are held at 19:30 on the second Tuesday of the month [except November 5th this season] at Clarendon Park Congregational Church, Leicester LE2 3BE



Neil Crutchley
President LMS

John Florance
Guest speaker

David Fisher
Chairman LMS

Come and hear first-class talks with superb recordings in a comfortable lounge with friendly members and free refreshments for only **£5**. Students [NUS card] in full-time education are **FREE** although an admission-paying adult **MUST** accompany students under 16. If interested in the whole series, admission to all meetings is covered by the annual subscription of only £30 which is a saving of 25% over the cumulative charge of £5 per meeting.

Website: www.leicester-music.org.uk Twitter: @LRMS1

NB: Leicester Music Society takes every care to ensure that the published programme will be maintained but reserves the right to make changes in circumstances beyond its control.

Brochure design:
David Fisher



David Calow
on Bruckner symphony
revisions (February 2022)



Christopher Morley
"Composers on
Record" (October 2021)

Will Todd is a renowned British composer, conductor, presenter & jazz pianist, best known for combining jazz & blues with traditional choral music. His most famous work, *Mass in Blue*, has been performed over 200 times. His opera *The Blackened Man* won second prize at the International Verdi Opera competition in 2002 & his 2022 commission for WNO: *Migrations* is currently on tour. His anthem *The Call of Wisdom*, commissioned for the Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving service at St Paul's Cathedral in 2012.



Will Todd
FRMS Guest Speaker
[5th November 2022]



An invitation to listen to some of the world's greatest music: -

11th October 2022: **Yvonne Bloor**: *Classical guitar recordings 1897-2022*

5th November 2022: **FRMS AGM** & **Will Todd** - see details inside

13th December 2022: *How things change!* by **Neil Roberts**

10th January 2023: **Robert Calow** on *Who's afraid of Paul Hindemith?*

14th February 2023: *Love in Music* by **David Fisher**

14th March 2023: **Kate Baker** on *My life in music and musicals*

18th April 2023: *The Great American Songbook* by **John Florance**

9th May 2023: **Neil Crutchley** on *Leicester Music Society at 75*

13th June 2023: **LMS AGM** and **Quiz**

You are warmly invited to join us to enjoy entertaining, informative and illustrated talks which are held from October to June. All the meetings are open to anyone interested in learning more about music.

2022-2023
75th Season

