

# **Nicholas Yonge Society**

## **Report of the Trustees for the year ending March 31<sup>st</sup> 2015**

### **Constitution & Status**

The Society is an unincorporated body and a registered charity, number 802393. Its main address is that of the Secretary at 25 Mount Harry Road, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1NU.

The Committee of Management (Trustees) is empowered to act as necessary in order for the Society to achieve its objects..

*The objects of the Society are to advance the study of music, and in particular to promote an annual series of concerts.*

The Trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to public benefit.

### **Aims of the Society**

The NYS continues to pursue its aim of presenting high quality performances which provide a pleasurable cultural experience. Five concerts, involving internationally known artists, are organised for members and guest non-members. The Concert Secretary, in consultation with artists and agents, arranges for a wide range of composers and instruments to be heard. Young musicians, are given the opportunity to perform to live audiences thus developing their technique and musical repertoire. The Society favours trios, quartets and small ensembles with an occasional piano soloist, or singer. Programme notes, produced by members of the Society aim to be comprehensive and informative and musicians often introduce some of their pieces with additional information.

Sussex Downs College in Lewes is the venue for all concerts. Pianists attending the College Performing Arts Department can use the piano jointly owned by the College and Nicholas Yonge Society. Beginning in 2012, the piano has been loaned each year in June to the Lewes Chamber Music Festival.

The Committee is conscious that concerts must be affordable and any increases are only implemented in order to continue to afford first-class artists' fees. Subscriptions had remained the same for five years due to generous donations from members, but an increase was necessary for the 2014-15 season. In October 2012, the Society joined the Cavatina Chamber Music Trust whose ticket scheme aims to attract young people to chamber music. People aged eight to twenty five can attend concerts free; in return Cavatina reimburses the Society for each young person who attends. Information about this scheme was circulated to schools, colleges and music teachers in the area.

### **Review of the Year**

The season opened in October with the London Bridge Ensemble whose programme included a piano trio, duo for violin and cello and a piano quartet when they were joined by a viola player from the Heath Quartet.

This was followed in November by the Australian-British pianist, Jayson Gillham. His romantic programme combined a French first half with a second half of Chopin masterpieces.

The January concert was given by the London Haydn Quartet who play on period instruments. Their programme for us contrasted two Haydn quartets with a Beethoven quartet, giving us a rare opportunity to hear Beethoven played on period instruments.

Alessandro Ruisi (violin) and Dina Duisen (piano), young musicians sponsored by the Countess of Munster Musical Trust, gave us an excellent concert in February.

Our season was brought to a fine close in March by the Callino Quartet, who are noted for their work with contemporary composers. The Quartet played pieces by Ravel and Dutilleux and they were joined by a second viola for a sublime quintet by Mozart.

### **Committee of Management**

The following have served on the Committee during the year: Nicholas Tucker (Chairman), Janet Lyle (Secretary), Roger Clement (Treasurer), Sylvia Coward, Chris Darwin, Sophia Hartland, Jenny James, Janet Lovegrove.