

Nicholas Yonge Society

Report of the Trustees for the year ending April 30th 2017

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, agents and the Committee, 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. 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. From 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 have remained the same since the increase for the 2014-15 season. Some members add a generous donation to their subscriptions and some opt to become a sponsor, which offers some extra privileges.

Since October 2012, the Society has been a member of 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. The Concert Secretary gave a series of U3A talks on the same evenings as the NYS concerts, as an introduction to that evening's music.

Review of the Year

This excellent season opened at the end of October with a visit from the prize-winning, Van Kuijk Quartet. In a short time these young musicians have made their mark internationally. Their programme included favourite quartets by Debussy and Smetana.

Although concerts are normally held on fourth Fridays, we arranged for the brilliant Notos Piano Quartet to move their concert to the beginning of December, to enable them to take part in an international competition, (which they won). For us they played Walton's rarely heard piano quartet along with pieces by Mozart and Brahms.

The New Year began with a solo piano recital by Riyad Nicolas. This gifted young musician's programme included Beethoven's great Sonata Opus 110, along with works by Chopin, Scarlatti and Ravel.

This was followed in February by a return visit of the celebrated Vanbrugh Quartet. This concert was dedicated to the memory of our former, now deceased, Treasurer and Concert Secretary, Michael Marwood. Christopher Marwood played the cello in a varied concert ending with Beethoven's 'Serioso' Quartet Opus 95.

The season closed in March with a very welcome re-visit from the Kungsbacka Piano Trio who last played for us in 2006. Having won a number of prizes since their last visit, their programme this time included major pieces by Ravel and Schubert.

Committee of Management

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

Janet Lyle (Secretary)

15/06/17