

Nicholas Yonge Society

Report of the Trustees for the year ending April 30th 2018

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 are produced by members of the Society. 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 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. 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 as an introduction to the evening's music.

Review of the Year

The 2017-18 season had a particularly international array of superb groups. The season was opened by the British, Magnard Ensemble, a young, dynamic, wind quintet . They have been adopted by the Cavatina Trust's ensemble scheme and are known for their outreach to younger audiences.

The splendid Danish piano trio, Trio con Brio Copenhagen performed in November, followed in January by the American, Escher Quartet, prior to their appearance at the Wigmore Hall. The Romanian Arcadia Quartet, returned in February, having given us a wonderful concert in 2015. They continue to win international prizes. The season closed in March with the Dutch-based German/British/Dutch-Chinese Amatis Piano Trio. For members, all five concerts were provided for just £50. Single tickets were available for £15 each.

Committee of Management

The following have served on the Committee during the year: Chris Darwin (Chairman), Janet Lyle (Secretary), Roger Clement (Treasurer), Sylvia Coward, Jenny James, Janet Lovegrove, Mandy O'Keeffe, Liz Hollington.