Mozart in East Finchley

On Saturday 30 June the London Mozart Players are giving a concert at All Saints in Durham Road; it’s first in the area and the opening concert of the East Finchley Arts Festival. The orchestra is Britain’s longest-established chamber orchestra, formed in 1949 by the violinist Harry Blech, with a worldwide reputation for its performances and recordings.

The programme includes works by Mozart, Vivaldi, Purcell and Tchaikovsky, as well as the Oboe Concerto by local composer Geoffrey Hanson, Artistic Director of the Festival, with oboist David Tupman.

Over the last few years the LMP has established concert series in a number of outer London venues, including Chiswick, Wimbledon, Kingston and Upminster, and they hope that this concert will lead to a similar series being set up in East Finchley. These concerts are aimed very much at a local audience and are designed to be intimate and informal; the belief is particularly welcome. For the concert on 30 June anyone under 16 can buy a ticket for just £1. All Saints is well known for its acoustics, and is regularly used for recordings and rehearsals as well as concerts.

Lush provision

There are two strong local connections for the LMP in East Finchley: Ian Lush, the orchestra’s Managing Director, recently moved to Market Place, and Principal Cellist Sebastian Comberti is a long-standing resident of Chandos Road. Both are very enthusiastic about the prospect of regular concerts within walking distance of their homes! In the 30 June concert Sebastian Comberti is one of the two soloists in Vivaldi’s virtuosic Concerto for Two Cellos and Strings, together with his desk partner Julia Daoust. Ian Lush hopes that as many people as possible will support this event, so that they can be confident that a regular series would be well received. See also opposite for the programme.

For Love of Music

By Diana Cormack

How many four-year-olds do you know who would turn to their mother and say, “Mummy, I love Shostakovich”?

Michael Mistra did just that and now, over 30 years later, he is writing a book about the Russian composer!

His mother Anna lives in East Finchley and earlier this year she joined Michael in Paris, where they spent a week seeing together. But Michael’s main reason for visiting the city was to research his subject.

High notes

During his school days at St Michael’s, Highgate and the City of London School, Michael played the flute and he attended exhibitions for youngsters at the Royal Academy of Music. He studied at the University of Guildford, where he began conducting, and also did a teacher training course. Michael decided to go to the USA for his Master’s, which he achieved in Kansas City, followed by a Doctorate in Music. Nowadays he is Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Waterloo, where he began conducting and also did a teacher training course. Michael often goes to the Czech Republic for Master Classes.

His experience in the area of conducting has been to study in Bulgaria and has lectured in Glasgow on his beloved Shostakovich. Michael also manages to come to East Finchley to visit his mother from whom, she believes, he may well have inherited his love of music!

East Finchley Arts Week

30 June - 8 July 2001

Artistic Director Geoffrey Hanson

Saturday 30 June 7.30pm: London Mozart Players

Fantasia on one note - Purcell, Eine Kleine Nachtmusik - Mozart, Oboe Concerto - Geoffrey Hanson, Concerto for two Cellos & Strings - Vivaldi, Serenade for strings - Tchaikovsky.

Tickets: £12, concessions £10. Children under 16: £1
All Saints Church, Durham Road, London, N2

Sunday 1 June 10am: Festival Service

Preacher: Father Christopher Hardy SSC

Sunday 1 July 7.30pm: Thamseay String Quartet

Haydn Op 20 no 4 in D major, Beethoven Op 95 in F minor, Schubert Quintet Op 153. With Dichten Bidehe - cello

Tickets: £7, concessions £5. Children under 16: £1
All Saints Church, Durham Road, London, N2

Wednesday 4 July 7.30pm: Poetry Evening with Fleur Adcock & Kit Wright

Two contemporary poets read and discuss their work.

Tickets: £7, concessions £5. Children under 16: £1
All Saints Church, Durham Road, London, N2

Thursday 5 July 7.30pm: Trio Faronoll

Alan Davis, Jane Ryan, Andrew Hurst with Duncan Druce & Ralph Woodward play Early Italian Baroque Music for the recorder, violin, viola da garba, arch lute and chamber organ.

Tickets: £7, concessions £5. Children under 16: £1
All Saints Church, Durham Road, London, N2

Friday 6 July 7.30pm: National Youth Jazz Orchestra II

In a programme of Banise, Ellington and others. Mark Armstrong - Conductor.

Tickets: £7, concessions £5. Children under 16: £1
All Saints Church, Durham Road, London, N2

Saturday 7 July 7.30pm: London Ripoieno Society

Choral music by Purcell, Elgar, Britten, Bruckner and Vivaldi’s Gloria.

Geoffrey Hanson - Conductor.

Tickets: £7, concessions £5. Children under 16: £1
All Saints Church, Durham Road, London, N2

Sunday 8 July 7.30pm: Finchley Children’s Music Group

Christopher Gunning’s new work, Aunt Vita, partsongs by Schubert and Friday Afternoons by Benjamin Britten.

Grace Roosier - Conductor.

Tickets: £7, concessions £5. Children under 16: £1
All Saints Church, Durham Road, London, N2

But not only for Art’s sake

The sale of pictures, donated by local artists, at last year’s East Finchley Arts Festival raised over £2,000 for the North London Hospice, and it is hoped that better than in this year’s week long Arts Festival which opens on Saturday 30 June with a concert given by the London Mozart Players.

Featured in the same concert will be the Oboe Concerto of the composer Geoffrey Hanson, the Artistic Director of the Festival and its founder. An East Finchley resident, he is also Director of Music at All Saints Church in Durham Road where the festival events are held.

Fleur Adcock, the internationally famous poet and East Finchley resident, will read some of her poetry together with guest poet, Kit Wright. Early Italian Baroque Music features in the programme of Farnell - a prestigious group of players founded by East Finchley viola da gamba player Jane Ryan.

Regan Crowley, a member of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, who is the wife of Christopher Hardy, vicar of All Saints, leads their Thamseay String Quartet in a programme of Quartets. All this and the National Youth Jazz Orchestra 2, an evening of choral music and the East Finchley Children’s Music Group complete an exciting week.

All Saints Church has facilities for the disabled. Box Office 020 8883 5631