



Photograph by Ash Mills

**Season 2015/16 has seen many developments for La Folia and we are most grateful to Friends for their invaluable help and support.**

**During the season La Folia has:  
performed 8 concerts, with 20 musicians, to over 1500 people;  
delivered 28 project workshops, with 3 amateurs, for 94 participants;  
engaged digitally with 136,564 online followers.**

**We continue to present live music of the highest quality in both expected and unexpected places, particularly for those who might otherwise not have the opportunity to experience it.**

# *Looking back and looking forward*

## EVENING SONGS | 12 JULY 2016 | SALISBURY CATHEDRAL

I dream of choral evensong in every Cathedral sung by Special School choirs who will show us what the phrase “My soul doth magnify the Lord” really means!

These were Howard Moody’s words when introducing **the singing trust** in the Friends’ newsletter of July 2015. And in July 2016 that dream had its first manifestation as the students of Exeter House Special School and the Cathedral Choir sang Evensong together in Salisbury Cathedral at the culmination of the season’s *Evening Songs* project.

After attending La Folia’s *Magna Songs* special needs project performance in the cathedral last July, Ian Wicks, Director of Music and Head of Teaching and Learning at Salisbury Cathedral School, wanted the choristers to share something of what he had himself experienced. Over six months, students from Exeter House and Salisbury Cathedral Schools together devised words and composed music for the Evensong service, responding to the liturgy in highly individual ways, as well as learning some of the traditional texts aurally. All their own words were set to their own tunes, and also used were a 13<sup>th</sup> Century chant from the ancient collection in the Cathedral Library, a 16<sup>th</sup> Century chant by Thomas Tomkins and one of Vaughan Williams’ *Five Mystical Songs*. The Evensong was completely innovative; such a collaboration had never happened before in Salisbury Cathedral, nor, it is understood, in any cathedral, although other cathedrals are now expressing interest.

We were unprepared for the impact this service would have. A typical Evensong congregation is about 50; we could not have known that 700 people would stream into the cathedral. Nor could we have anticipated how moved the congregation would be by the palpable joy and friendship of the singers, nor how that congregation would respond with both tears and huge applause. And as this is the first La Folia project to hit social media we were amazed that 129,401 people have so far viewed the BBC South Today YouTube video and 1518 people have shared it with others. For those who missed this extraordinary event, you can experience something of it online:

<https://www.facebook.com/BBCSouthToday/videos/1079271155496807/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WMcAx7mRcE4&feature=youtu.be> for the film made for us by Ash Mills, which will shortly be available on our website.

We are most grateful to the Cathedral for the warmth of their welcome and their total support of every aspect of our project. The last word should go to Canon Precentor Tom Clammer who wrote, “It was absolutely a pleasure to host and to be involved in this service, about which I am getting comments and emails daily which all say the same thing: that this was one of the most, if not **the** most important thing the cathedral has ever done. It has undoubtedly been transformational for all of us.”

*Supported by **the singing trust***

### THE SINGING TRUST

This is a ring-fenced strand within La Folia, raising funds for expanding our work in special schools to create a legacy for the future. *Evening Songs* was funded entirely through **the singing trust** and is the first project to have been supported in this way. Donors to **the singing trust** made this project possible and we are most grateful to:

The Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust | The Countess of Chichester | Muriel Daniels | Exeter House School | The Geoff and Fiona Squire Foundation | Geraldine Fairfax-Cholmeley | The Girdlers Company | Harnham Croft Nursing Home | Lady Hawley | Vanessa Herrick | Will and Janine Hillary | La Folia Friends | Alison Mayne | Valerie Mitchell | Olive Moody | NADFAS | Derek O’Callaghan | St Thomas’s Church Community Fund | The Verdon-Smith Family Charitable Trust | Wiltshire Community Foundation | Wiltshire Council | anonymous donors.

### ARTCARE ELEVATE PROJECT 2016

Thanks to the generosity of Salisbury Independent Hospital Trust we were delighted that it was unexpectedly possible to hold another series of concerts in the ArtCare *Elevate* programme within Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust. We made three visits: Joely Koos (cello) | Ken Aiso (violin) | Morgan Szymanski (guitar). Mark Withers (clarinet) will complete the series in September. We thank Rebecca Seymour of *Elevate* for this opportunity and her enthusiastic support, and John Carvell for his continuing interest and commitment.

*Supported by Salisbury Independent Hospital Trust*

## **HARNHAM CROFT CARE HOME**

Harnham Croft Care Home has a very active programme of charitable fundraising and has chosen La Folia as its beneficiary for 2016 – most particularly **the singing trust**. Our fundraiser Robin Peters is masterminding a number of fundraising initiatives: a garden party has taken place and there are La Folia collection boxes well in evidence around the home. Future activities include a sponsored walk in the New Forest on September 17 and a sponsored ‘Rocket Race’ assault course in Henstridge, Somerset on October 29. There is enthusiastic take up for both these from care home staff and families, and also from staff at Exeter House School, which is very encouraging; places are still available!

For our part, La Folia has taken musicians into Harnham Croft to give recitals to the residents: Joely Koos (cello) | Ken Aiso (violin) | Morgan Szymanski (guitar). Also, a group of residents attended *Evening Songs* where they particularly enjoyed seeing and hearing the young people who will benefit from their fundraising efforts. We hope that some of those young people will be able to visit the home during the autumn and also that it will be possible for Howard to lead a song project with the residents.

## **CHORAL FOUNDATION CONCERT | 23 MARCH 2016 | SALISBURY CATHEDRAL**

In Holy Week we were privileged to perform again James McMillan’s *Seven Last Words from the Cross*.

## **OAKLEY SCHOOL GOES TO GLYNDEBOURNE | SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015**

Following a workshop with Howard Moody and Glyndebourne baritone Robert Davies, 20 Year 9 students, along with staff from Oakley Special School in Tunbridge Wells, attended the schools’ performance of Verdi’s *Don Carlos*.  
*Sponsored by Paul Manweiler*

## **AWARD**

La Folia is delighted to have received the MENCAP Betty Williams Award 2016. It is given to ‘the organisation that has done most to support people with a learning disability in South Wiltshire in the last year’ so we are honoured to have been chosen.

## **STRENGTHENING OUR TEAM**

This year our team has extended further through the freelance services of Megan Brand who has established our social media presence to great effect over the past few months and goes on to be La Folia marketing manager next season. Megan is an English graduate experienced in arts marketing and also a musician currently training as a music therapist – a combination of skills and awareness that has been invaluable in promoting *Evening Songs*.

## **LOOKING FORWARD**

### **THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT | 15 OCTOBER | 7.30 | ST MARTIN’S CHURCH, SALISBURY**

Howard Moody founded Sarum Chamber Orchestra in 1986 after leaving university, with the specific intention of developing a professional orchestra for Salisbury, drawing players from musicians living or working in Wessex.

It is real cause for celebration that, 30 years later, albeit with a different name and with many and varied manifestations along the way, that orchestra is alive and well. While many arts organisations have disappeared over the recent years of financial and political crisis, flexibility, prudence and Howard’s extraordinary vision have combined to enable us to weather the vicissitudes and indeed to flourish.

We seek to mark this achievement with a performance which honours both the past and the present, the programme including international oboist Nigel Shore returning for the Bach *Concerto for oboe d’amore and strings* which he played at the first concert, and also Bach’s *Concerto for oboe and violin* with Daphne Moody, who began the orchestra with Howard. There will be short pieces from other composers who are part of our collective memory and the performance will end with Tchaikovsky’s sumptuous *Serenade for Strings*. Also, fundamental to this concert, will be students from Exeter House School with a selection of the beautiful and profound words and music they have created in projects with us over recent years. Our work with people with special needs has been a joy and a revelation and central to our survival and development; it has taken La Folia to international acclaim as trail blazers in this field. Following the concert, an informal reception to which all are welcome will be held in St Martin’s Centre, adjacent to the church. **We hope you will be with us for this very special occasion.**

**Tickets £20 | £15 restricted view | under 18 free**

**Available from Salisbury Arts Centre box office | open Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 3pm | 01722 321744**

**Or online 24 hours through [www.salisburyartscentre.co.uk](http://www.salisburyartscentre.co.uk)**

## 2016 Dates for your diary:

Saturday 17 September	sponsored walk
Wednesday 21 September	Mark Withers (clarinet) at Salisbury Hospital
Saturday 15 October	30 <sup>th</sup> anniversary concert
Saturday 29 October	Rocket Race

## PLANS FOR 2017

### REQUIEM

This is La Folia's major project for 2017 and is entirely dependent on whether our recently submitted Arts Council funding application is successful. Inspired by Howard's *Brussels Requiem* commissioned by Brussels Opera in 2010, which some of you saw at La Monnaie on a Friends' visit to Brussels, it is arguably our most ambitious project so far. With its themes of peace, wonder, anger, freedom, paradise, life and death expressed in nine different languages, Howard's *Requiem* is indeed a piece for our time.

An extended series of creative workshops from January to June will involve 8 schools (including 4 special schools), 3 Arabic musicians and an Arabic dancer from Brussels, 3 amateurs, 4 jazz musicians, a further dancer and a visual artist. At the final performance on **7 October 2017** in Salisbury Cathedral, Howard's *Brussels Requiem* will be augmented by music from the workshops and performed with over 200 singers (including La Choraline from Brussels Opera), a 40 strong orchestra, and international soloists Elin Manahan Thomas (soprano) and Robert Davies (baritone). **Not to be missed** so all power to our grant application!

### HOSPITAL SONGS

La Folia has been invited by ArtCare at Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust to lead a music project focused on dementia. Again this is entirely funding dependent and applications will begin in September for project delivery in spring 2017. The project will involve Howard engaging in action research in the hospital, then making songs with patients, drawing together artists already working in the hospital to join with La Folia players and presenting the outcome in both small and large scale performances within the hospital. The intention is that this work will in time extend into the community.

### WILTSHIRE COLLEGE

We are currently in very productive discussion with Wiltshire College in the expectation of being able to continue our work with Exeter House alumni when they become students there.

## SUPPORTING LA FOLIA

We are sometimes approached by Friends who would like to help further, so here are some practical suggestions:

- We have a massive 120 places in Salisbury willing to take publicity, so need help to distribute posters and fliers for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert. The sites have been carefully researched, so no embarrassing cold calling required!
- If we are able to create *Requiem* we will need occasional overnight accommodation for visiting artists.
- Join the sponsored walk on September 17 or sponsor someone who is walking – like Sue Kent perhaps!
- Join the Rocket Race on October 29 or sponsor fundraiser Robin Peters.
- Advocate for La Folia financial support to charities or businesses with which you have connections.

### CONTACTS

- **Robin Peters | 07788 892148 | [robin.peters@lafoliamusic.org](mailto:robin.peters@lafoliamusic.org)** for all aspects of funding including
  - applying for the sponsored walk
  - applying for the rocket race
  - sponsoring Robin for October 29 Rocket Race
- **Sue Kent | 01722 714249 | [sue.kent@lafoliamusic.org](mailto:sue.kent@lafoliamusic.org) | 2 Green Drove, Fovant, Salisbury SP3 5JG** for
  - offers of publicity distribution
  - offers of accommodation
  - sponsoring Sue for September 17 walk!
  - Friends membership
  - any other La Folia matter

**We are most grateful for the support of Friends in the development of La Folia's work; thank you so much for your ongoing encouragement and generosity in so many ways.**