

La Folia Friends' News

July 2018

La Folia



Images: Adrian Harris

The 2017/18 season has seen La Folia working in Salisbury and beyond, delivering projects and performances over a range of genres and preparing for the many opportunities ahead. Our new season is about to begin, with two performances of Howard Moody's opera **PUSH** in **St Thomas's Church** on **Saturday 25 August at 5pm and 8pm**.

Enclosed you will find your invitation to the reception following the 8pm performance of PUSH on August 25. We do hope you will join us to celebrate this momentous project.

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.

We are most grateful to our Friends for your continued support, and look forward to working with you to deliver new projects and develop partnerships in the coming year.

During the 2017/18 season La Folia has:

- given **3** performances, with **44** musicians, to **730** people
- delivered **42** project sessions, with **6** amateurs, for **240** participants
- welcomed almost **2,000** visitors to our website **www.lafoliamusic.org**
- appeared on social media over **80,000** times

LOOKING BACK

Launch of *Sei Solo* | 1 October 2017 | Odstock Manor, courtesy of Lady Marland

On a beautiful autumn afternoon in the spacious Long Room at Odstock Manor, 70 La Folia friends and supporters gathered to enjoy an exquisite programme of Bach's music performed by Howard Moody (harpsichord) and Jan Schmolck (violin): *Sonata for Violin and obbligato Harpsichord in A major* | *'Ciaccona' from the Second Partita for solo Violin* | *Prelude and Fugue in B minor* | *Sonata for Violin and Harpsichord in E major*.

Howard introduced two projects for young people with special needs, planned for delivery over the next two years: *Sei Solo* and *Continuing Songs*. He set out the reasons and motivation for La Folia's commitment to this work:

In a society where 'going it alone' seems to be creeping into every pore, it feels ever more important to ensure that the most vulnerable young people find an outlet through which they can express their own power, feelings and needs, and experience a sense of togetherness. For La Folia, our work with special needs groups in Salisbury and beyond has become one of our most potent responsibilities... La Folia makes no division between concerts and projects, workshops and rehearsals. Those words are merely labels. The core of our work is the music, aiming for the highest expression of that.

There was a profound response to both the music and the vision as the audience lingered to have further conversation with the musicians and the La Folia team over tea and cake. A perfect Sunday afternoon.



Songs of Courage | November 2017 – July 2018 | Barnardo's High Close School, Wokingham

This project took a long journey from its November starting point: the story of Rosa Parks' courageous refusal to give up her seat on the Alabama bus in 1955. By July, a narrative had developed encompassing both myth and reality through the story of Icarus and the torment of war epitomised by the destruction of Mostar Bridge in 1993 in the Bosnia Herzegovina conflict.



High Close School offers day and residential provision for young people with complex social, emotional and mental health needs, aiming to 'help students become more academically and emotionally resilient and to give them a better future'. These participants were some of the most fragile La Folia has encountered. It was a real challenge for many of them initially even to come into the room to meet the musicians, but gradually Howard and the team gently gained their confidence, rumour spread that something rather extraordinary was happening, more students

opted in and by the final public session of the project there were nine really brilliant songs for performance. The complex inner worlds explored through music are evoked in song titles such as: *The awkward silence is eating you up...*; *Dark soul, inside and out*; *The moon has collapsed...*; *Can I do it? Have I got the courage...?* But there was resolution in the grand finale *Give me confidence* and in what became the 'anthem' of the project – *Love is amazing, in a confident way... Show your feeling today – in a confident way.*

Hilary Armour of High Close School writes:

Songs of Courage has been a wonderful musical journey which has taken place throughout this academic year and has included almost every young person currently at High Close School. During workshops, musicians and actors have worked with our young people to explore themes of courage, human rights and some of the battles which take place within ourselves on a day-to-day basis. We have thought about what it is to challenge ourselves, to imagine what it feels like to live on the fringes of society and about the depths of emotions created by fear and love. We have thought about the pull of depression, the euphoria of success and how we might begin to take our courage in both hands and step off the precipice into the unknown with the promise of a new future... wherever the long road may take us.

Southern Cathedrals Festival | 21 July 2018 | Salisbury Cathedral

It is always a privilege to play in Salisbury Cathedral, and particularly in the final concert of the prestigious Southern Cathedrals Festival. A packed cathedral heard the choirs of Salisbury, Winchester and Chichester Cathedrals sing the unaccompanied *Lux aeterna* by Elgar, the orchestra strings play Kelly's *Elegy in memoriam Rupert Brooke* and the full orchestra and choirs combine for a glorious performance of Brahms' *Requiem*. Salisbury Cathedral Director of Music David Halls writes: *La Folia was superb on Saturday. Thank you... it was a very special concert.*

MOVING FORWARD

PUSH | 25 August 2018 | St Thomas's Church

We are really thrilled to be presenting this project in Salisbury – an opportunity to bring a message of hope to a city rather lacking it over recent months. PUSH is a community opera written by Howard Moody. Through music, it tells the extraordinary story of Simon Gronowski, who was pushed by his mother from a train bound for Auschwitz in 1943 and survived. Featuring internationally-renowned soloists, a community chorus of over 100 adults and children and La Folia Orchestra, PUSH is packed with memorable scenes and tunes, and carries a strong message of hope and belief in the 'power of human goodness'. **Tickets are available from Wiltshire Creative Ticket Sales at Salisbury Playhouse: 01722 320333 | wiltshirecreative.co.uk**

The story so far:

2014 In Brussels, Howard Moody meets Simon Gronowski who, to save his life, was pushed by his mother off a train bound for Auschwitz. Howard promises Simon that his next opera will tell his story

2016 Howard is commissioned by a partnership between Battle Festival and Glyndebourne Opera to write a piece to mark the 900th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings. Howard honours his promise; PUSH is created and performed in the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill-on-Sea and in Battle Church

2017 Wiltshire Creative wishes to have a Salisbury Festival Chorus project in 2018 to bridge the gap between Festival 2017 and Festival 2019 (to be curated by Jonathan Dove). After much deliberation, and thanks to anonymous financial support, it is decided that La Folia will produce PUSH in association with Wiltshire Creative

2018

January PUSH is performed in Chichester Cathedral by singers from the local community and musicians from the University of Chichester Chamber Orchestra

February Festival Chorus and Children's Chorus rehearsals begin for the Salisbury production

August 25 PUSH in Salisbury:

11.00am Simon Gronowski tells his story and answers audience questions, Salisbury Methodist Church. Chaired by David Bernstein

5.00pm & 8.00pm PUSH performances, St Thomas's Church

9.30pm Reception, St Thomas's Church People's Vestry.
All Friends are invited to attend

2019

January Performance of the Chichester production in the Speaker's Rooms in the House of Commons

March 15-17 Performances in La Monnaie, Brussels



Images: Adrian Harris

Sei Solo | 28 September 2018 | 10.30am | St Martin's Church, Salisbury



The culmination of a project with the students of Exeter House School and Exeter House Vocational Centre inspired by the string music of Bach. The story behind Bach's masterpiece *Sei Solo* mirrors many of the themes we explore with the students. How can their voices be heard? How can they use music to express themselves in a culture where intellect, words and regulation override their own language of instinct and feeling? When they sing, as our project audiences will testify, the deep humanity of their songs and voices makes us change the way we listen. This is an

opportunity to share the experiences of the students as they explore the music of Bach and create their own songs and dances in response, and to see the pieces they have made with visual artist, Susan Francis. **Free; not ticketed. There will be a retiring collection for future projects.**

Continuing Songs | 28 November 2018 | 6.30pm | Salisbury Arts Centre

We are delighted with our developing relationship with Wiltshire College, Salisbury, which enables us to continue to work with some students who have left Exeter House School, along with other young people who are new to our projects. Working alongside students on the Foundation Course, we will gather together songs they have created – old and new – into a recording. Do join us for the launch of their CD just in time for Christmas sales. **Admission is free but booking essential. Please contact Sue Kent: info@lafoliamusic.org | 01722 714249 to reserve your place.**

South Wilts Mencap Learning Disability Day | 26 June 2019 | Salisbury Playhouse

La Folia workshops were highly popular on Learning Disability Day 2017. 2019 marks Mencap's 60th anniversary so they are planning a celebratory event where we will be offering open music workshops throughout the day. **All are welcome to join in or observe.**

Evening Songs | 9 July 2019 | 5.30pm | Salisbury Cathedral

It is wonderful to be invited by Salisbury Cathedral to produce another *Evening Songs* project with the students of Exeter House School and Exeter House Vocational Centre along with Salisbury Cathedral choristers, devising words and music in response to the Evensong liturgy. 2016 saw our first *Evening Songs* in which history was made by adapting the ancient ritual of Evensong through the creation of new words and music, while still staying true to its intention. It attracted a congregation of over 700 and caused Precentor Tom Clammer to write, '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.' The BBC South Today footage has had over 140,000 views online and is available via a link on the homepage of the La Folia website. We return for another six-month *Evening Songs* project directed by Howard Moody, along with acclaimed tenor Mark Padmore. **We hope you will join the congregation.**

Voices in the Landscape | March 2019 onwards

In last year's newsletter, this was previewed as *Songs of the Valley*, a project focused on the Chalke Valley. It has now developed into a singing project across Cranbourne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as part of their Landscape Partnership Scheme funded by Heritage Lottery Fund. Meetings have taken place with the leaders of the scheme and there have been discussions with potential participant groups, so if all goes according to plan, we will begin preparing the first stage of the project in March 2019 to deliver between autumn 2019 and summer 2020. Further down the line there will be a large showcase event at Larmer Tree Gardens for the whole Landscape Partnership in which there will be a performance of *Voices in the Landscape*. This is the first project of its kind for La Folia and it feels significant to our development to be invited to expand our work in this way.

Dementia research project | 2019

Earlier this year, we applied for funding to support the development of our dementia research project *Continuing the Conversation*, in which we will explore the use of music therapy to facilitate on-going communication between people with dementia and their carers. The project will be delivered by La Folia's marketing manager Meg Brand, who is soon to qualify as a music therapist. Although we were not awarded a grant in this round of applications, we have been encouraged to apply again later this year once Meg has received her music therapy registration, with the funders commenting: *It was felt that yours is an interesting idea and a really worthwhile looking organisation within which to carry it out so is certainly to be encouraged.*

Work experience placements | ongoing

In July we welcomed our first work experience student who joined our musicians in the *Songs of Courage* project at Barnardo's High Close School in Wokingham. Max is a 17-year-old violinist who has just been awarded his ARSM diploma with distinction, gaining 49 marks out of 50. He will be applying to music college next year. It was a particularly challenging environment which he took in his stride, making a real contribution to the music, and we intend to extend this relationship with Max and others in our ongoing programme to train and develop musicians for our projects.

Max writes: *Thank you for making it possible for me to work with professional musicians and the chance to work like one! It was genuinely inspiring and made me really think about what I want to do in the future. The Songs of Courage were thrilling and it was amazing to see the students all in touch with their own ideas and speaking through individual voices. The genres of music were fantastic and as I do mainly classical music it made me think about studying jazz and improvisation along with a whole new type of music. Of course at times it was frustrating to work with the young people as they all wanted to talk and get their opinion out, but watching Howard calmly cope with the situation has shown me how I in the future might cope.*

As I am solely a violinist, it was absolutely a pleasure to work with Jeff Moore, as he could tell me what I was good at and what to improve on. He really opened my mind and showed me a whole new way to play the violin, one I hadn't been in touch with before. I am so pleased that I did this work experience because what an experience it was! I have learnt so much just in a few days and it gave me a more loving and free approach to performing. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity!

OUR TEAM

Jenifer Simm: trustee

In spring we bade farewell to long-standing trustee and board member Jenifer Simm on her retirement. We thank her for her consistent and generous support, her clear insight and her wisdom.



Image: Salisbury Journal

Lady Marland: patron

Penny Marland is a Probation Officer and from 2017 to 2018 was High Sheriff of Wiltshire and Swindon. She is a trustee of the Salisbury Museum, Chalke Valley History Festival, the Amber Foundation and Reach South Multi Academy Trust. She is also an Ambassador for the Trowbridge Museum Development project. We have valued so much Penny's active support as a La Folia Friend and are delighted that she has agreed to join us in a more official capacity.

Rebekah Bernstein: project manager

As we extend our activities, we need to develop capacity for delivering our work and so we are delighted to welcome project manager Rebekah Bernstein who joined the team in January to manage the *Sei Solo* project currently, and further projects going forward.

Rebekah began her career in 1999 at The Anvil, where she ran the education department. It was during this time she first worked with Howard. In 2005, she went on to work alongside Annie Blaber and Jane Pountney at Children's Music Workshop, where she was responsible for managing the Opera and Jazz programmes. She then set up her own arts organisation, Create2learn, and during the seven years it was in operation, Rebekah and Howard worked together on many projects, giving hundreds of children and young people the opportunity to work and perform alongside an outstanding team of professionals. Rebekah is passionate about bringing the arts to the forefront of education and learning and it has long been a mutual aspiration that she would at some point have a role within La Folia. We are delighted that the time has come!



RH Image: Adrian Harris

SUPPORTING LA FOLIA

2017/18 has yielded some exciting results for La Folia's fundraising, including new corporate partnerships with Fawcetts and Irwin Mitchell (Southampton) and a Grants for the Arts award from Arts Council England to support *Sei Solo* and *Continuing Songs*. Looking ahead, we have a new regular giving campaign launching in August to support delivery of La Folia workshops and performances where they are needed most, plus our first Crowdfunder appeal for *Evening Songs 2019*. **Full details are available on our website or by contacting Sue Kent: sue.kent@lafoliamusic.org | 01722 714249.**

Funding our core costs and the day-to-day running of the charity remains a priority, and there are a number of ways you can help:

- Become a La Folia ambassador and recruit a Friend or donor to our regular giving campaign
- Consider a Gift Aided donation to a specific upcoming project such as *Evening Songs 2019*
- Advocate for La Folia financial support from charitable trusts and foundations with which you have connections
- Perhaps you work for a business or company who would like to sponsor a project? Talk to us about how we could work with you and promote your partnership in regional media

Your donations are the simplest way to help us bring the gift of music to those whose circumstances would otherwise deny them the benefit. 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.



Did you know you can generate free donations for La Folia every time you shop online via **The Giving Machine**? There are over 2,000 participating retailers, including Amazon and John Lewis. Find out more and sign up here: thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/la-folia-music/

OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

Trusts and Foundations: Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust | The Arts Society Wylde Valley | Baily Thomas Charitable Fund | Barnardo's | Comic Relief | Foyle Foundation | RTR Foundation | South Wilts Mencap | Verdon-Smith Charitable Trust | Wiltshire Community Foundation | Woodward Charitable Trust

Schools and Colleges: Exeter House School | Wiltshire College, Salisbury | High Close School, Wokingham

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Corporate Partners: Fawcetts Chartered Accountants | Irwin Mitchell Solicitors (Southampton)

Individuals: Lesley and Susan Baker | Countess of Chichester | Michael and Irene Cooney | Sally Collier | Mary Dickson | Hazel Docherty | Lady Hawley | Elinor Kerr | Alison Mayne | Peter Mitchell | Olive Moody Lady Newbigging | Sheila Oglethorpe | Martyn Ralph and Sally Walden | Canon Judy Rees | Will and Billy Richardson | Nigel Salisbury | John Stephens OBE | Chantal and Michael Stokely | anonymous donors