

La Folia Friends' News

July 2019



The 2018/19 season has been one of great contrasts as La Folia has worked within the Salisbury community and beyond, presenting projects and performances of the highest quality across musical and geographical boundaries.

We are most grateful to our Friends for the continued support which enables our work and we look forward to sharing our music-making with you in the coming season.

During the 2018/19 season La Folia has...

...given **8** performances and **1**
'In Conversation' event, with **55**
musicians, to **2,800** people

...delivered **91** project sessions, with **9**
animateurs, for **280** participants

...appeared on social media over
135,000 times

...welcomed almost **3,000** visitors
to our website:
www.lafoliamusic.org



LOOKING BACK

PUSH | August 2018 | Salisbury Methodist Church | St Thomas's Church

The two performances of Howard Moody's opera *PUSH* along with the 'In Conversation' session with Simon Gronowski made for an unforgettable day. Simon's story is one of survival when, as a child, he was pushed by his mother off a train to Auschwitz to save his life. Messages of forgiveness, reconciliation, hope and 'the power of human goodness' resonate throughout the opera, inspired by Simon's own words. Salisbury Festival Chorus were joined by director Simon Iorio and professional soloists and instrumentalists to deliver intense and powerful performances to deeply-affected capacity audiences.

During the year, *PUSH* received performances by other groups: in the Speaker's Rooms of the House of Commons and at La Monnaie, Brussels Opera. Further performances are planned over the next few years, both at home and abroad.



Images: Adrian Harris

Sei Solo | September 2018 | Exeter House Special School and Vocational Centre | St Martin's Church, Salisbury

This project was Howard's response to an overheard remark that Bach's music wasn't suitable for young people. He turned his sense of outrage towards creating a project for pupils at Exeter House with Bach's music at the centre. *Sei Solo* explored the string music of Bach through listening, and through creating songs, dances and visual responses. This culminated in an informal sharing with an audience of 100 people where any thought of the 'unsuitability' of the music would have been dispelled in a moment by the participants' profound and joyful responses.



Images: Adrian Harris

Continuing Songs | October - November 2018 | Wiltshire College & University Centre, Salisbury | Salisbury Arts Centre

Two long-held ambitions were realised in this project: to extend our relationship with students from Exeter House, now on the Foundation Course at Wiltshire College & University Centre, and to make a recording of existing songs devised over several years, along with new ones. As we have a sound engineer of considerable experience on our team, it was possible to collect the very best versions of each song along the way and create a CD of the highest quality. Entitled *Celebrate Life*, its launch at Salisbury Arts Centre was an exuberant affair to say the least, but among the noise and laughter were some poignant moments as families and friends saw young people on stage achieving things they had never thought possible. The CD is available to purchase through a link on the homepage of our website: www.lafoliamusic.org



Images: Adrian Harris

Earthrise | May 2019 | Salisbury Cathedral



Image: Ash Mills

In a much-valued collaboration with Wiltshire Creative as part of the revival of Salisbury International Arts Festival, we presented two performances of Alec Roth's extraordinary and evocative *Earthrise* underneath Luke Jerram's sculpture *Gaia*. We welcomed eight professional singers into La Folia for this event - and for the future, we hope. Along with violinist Jeff Moore and violist Anna Cooper, the singers opened the performance in the cloisters, leading the promenading audience into the Cathedral to come upon Luke's breath-taking sculpture and its accompanying soundtrack. Alec's piece was then performed by an ensemble of La Folia instrumentalists and singers with Salisbury Festival Chorus, conducted by Howard Moody, before musicians and audience alike streamed out of the great west door into the night.

South Wilts Mencap Learning Disability Day | June 2019 | Salisbury Playhouse | Salisbury City Hall

There was much interest in La Folia's stall at this event, with its extensive information about our work and CD sales point. Former Exeter House student and *Evening Songs* team member Thomas Wyman did a great job engaging with the public and bringing to life his personal experience of projects. We also met staff from educational establishments where past project participants are now students and we have been invited to follow up those connections.

Memory Project (working title) | July 2019 | Furze Platt Senior School, Maidenhead

This pilot day was in memory of Katie Johnston, a much-loved young music teacher at the school who died last year, and whose family live locally just across the Dorset border. We anticipate celebrating Katie's life and achievements with a creative project at the school to mark the opening of a new performance hall. Howard Moody, Charlotte Shaw and Jeff Moore spent a truly inspirational day with pupils and performing arts staff to gather ideas and information for the project.

War and Peace | July 2019 | Trafalgar Park

As patron of **the singing trust**, tenor Mark Padmore offered to perform his programme 'War and Peace' in aid of our work with young people with special needs. By kind permission of our host, Michael Wade, the event was held on a summer afternoon in the elegant surroundings of the baroque hall and terraced garden at Trafalgar Park. A capacity audience enjoyed a recital of astonishing beauty and pathos by Mark, accompanied by Howard Moody and with readings by actor Colin Brown. The programme reflected Mark's 'attempt to keep pity alive – pity at what has been done and what continues to be done across the world'. Followed by afternoon tea, this was an event to live long in the memory.



Images: Adrian Harris & Kate Burrough (cakes)



Images: Ash Mills

Evening Songs | July 2019 | Salisbury Cathedral

It was 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. It was also a challenge to follow what had been seen as a ground-breaking episode in liturgical history in 2016. But follow it we did, this time joined by students from Wiltshire College & University Centre and our team of amateurs including soprano Charlotte Shaw and tenor Mark Padmore. As before, the traditional Evensong liturgy remained, and we decided to keep the canticles and the anthem from last time, but all the words and tunes for the responses were devised by the young people themselves. A congregation of over 800 gave the singers a much-deserved and somewhat tearful standing ovation as they made their way down the nave after the service. We thank the Cathedral for their active support and collaboration and the Dean for his words: 'That was a remarkable and special gift to Salisbury Cathedral, and I am very grateful to La Folia for making it possible. Thank you as ever.'

We are also grateful to La Folia patron Lady Marland for hosting a most convivial and successful reception at the Wardrobe Museum after the service, to inform wider understanding and encourage practical support of our work.

Apprentice Programme

This season has given the opportunity to two young musicians at the beginning of their careers to experience working on a La Folia project, under the mentorship of the team. Chosen through an open audition process, Elsa Hariades and Christopher North joined *Evening Songs* for the duration of the project, experiencing new ways of making music and in their turn mentoring and giving confidence to project participants through their own musicianship and the trusting relationships they established.



Images: Ash Mills

MOVING FORWARD

Many opportunities await La Folia in the coming season and beyond. Some are almost fully-formed and others are in the very earliest stages of planning. Here is a taster:

Continuing the Conversation

This project is developed in collaboration with registered music therapist Meg Brand (also La Folia's marketing manager) and composer Richard Barnard (www.richardbarnard.com). Based in rural Devon, it will commission a suite of pieces representing musical interactions between people living with dementia and their relatives or carers, using extracts from music therapy sessions as inspiration. These sessions will begin in September 2019 and the project will culminate in a performance and recording of the new work by La Folia musicians, currently planned for February 2020.

Requiem

A pilot project takes place this autumn with five Salisbury primary schools, introducing them to the concepts and music of Howard Moody's *Brussels Requiem*. Creative workshops in schools and in Salisbury Cathedral will prepare for a future large-scale performance of the piece.

Voices in the Landscape

This project was announced in the 2018 newsletter. Negotiations between Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Landscape Partnership Scheme and The National Lottery Heritage Fund are now in their final stages so we expect to begin creating our project in rural communities in and around the AONB in the near future.

Memory project (working title)

The new hall at Furze Platt School, Maidenhead opens in September 2020. We expect to create music to mark the opening in a project during academic year 2019/2020.

Evening Songs

We have received serious expressions of interest from three cathedrals in La Folia creating *Evening Songs* projects for their communities. These are such exciting opportunities which are under active discussion.

OUR TEAM

Welcomes, farewells and changes.

Charlotte Shaw

It has been a pleasure to welcome soprano Charlotte Shaw to our animateur team this season. Charlotte is a much sought after soloist in opera (Glyndebourne, English National Opera), oratorio (Orchestra of the Age of the Enlightenment, Gabrieli Consort) and in recital. She first joined us for *PUSH* to strengthen the chorus, then sang in the vocal ensemble for *Earthrise*. We have much valued her contribution as animateur to *Sei Solo*, *Evening Songs* and *Memory* projects and are delighted that she will be joining us again next season.



Image: Adrian Harris

Louise Govier

This season, we have been pleased to welcome Louise Govier to the La Folia board. Louise first 'discovered' La Folia when she was commissioned by Salisbury Festival to research arts organisations in the area that were offering opportunities to young people, and in recent years she has been a member of the Festival Chorus. Louise is National Trust General Manager for Mottisfont and SW Hants Group and thus brings a wide range of skills and experience to La Folia.

Thomas Wyman

It has been with particular joy and satisfaction that we have welcomed Thomas Wyman to our project team as a peer mentor. From a very young age and throughout his time at Exeter House School, Thomas played a very active part in La Folia music projects. He has kept in touch since leaving school and took part in the *Continuing Songs* project, where the focus quickly shifted from Thomas as project participant to Thomas as member of the La Folia team. He was gently and unfailingly encouraging and sensitive to all the participants, particularly those who hadn't worked with La Folia before, so we invited him to join us in a supportive role in *Evening Songs*. We have now offered him a position as peer mentor on future projects to make music with us and help others share the joy of that experience.

Rebekah Bernstein

Rebekah (Bex) has been managing La Folia projects for some time now and will be taking over administration of our 'Friends' in August 2019. Bex will be in touch with you as you renew your membership.

Vanessa Coryndon

We are sad that Vanessa Coryndon has recently retired from the La Folia board. Vanessa has been a dedicated supporter from the very first Sarum Orchestra concert in 1986 and has been an invaluable trustee for the past six years. We shall miss her local knowledge, wisdom, ready empathy and warm smile, but are delighted that she will remain as a Friend and a much-valued volunteer.

Sophie Wilkinson

Since joining the team on a freelance basis in 2014, Sophie has overseen the development of our website and managed its content, in addition to masterminding the La Folia press archive. Sophie will sadly be leaving the team at the end of the current season in order to focus on her full-time marketing role at Mottisfont. We will miss her enthusiasm, efficiency and warm presence.

SUPPORTING LA FOLIA

2018/19 has yielded some exciting results for La Folia's fundraising, including the launch of our regular giving campaign, which supports delivery of La Folia workshops and performances where they are needed most, plus our successful first Crowdfunder appeal for *Evening Songs 2019*.

Funding our core costs and the day-to-day running of the charity remains a priority, and there are various 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 *Continuing the Conversation* or *Requiem*
- 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

If you would like to discuss ways in which you could further support our work, please contact Sue Kent: sue.kent@lafoliamusic.org | 01722 714249.

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.

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Company registered in England 06325700 | registered charity 1121049



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OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

Trusts and foundations: Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust | The Arts Society Wylve Valley | Baily Thomas Charitable Fund | Comic Relief | ESG Robinson Charitable Trust | Foyle Foundation | Freemasons: The City Lodge | Geoff and Fiona Squire Foundation | Girdlers' Company Charitable Trust | Golsoncott Foundation | J P Marland Charitable Trust | Michael Tippett Musical Foundation | Music for Autism | RTR Foundation | South Wilts Mencap | Verdon-Smith Family Charitable Settlement | Viscount Amory Charitable Trust | Wallace Curzon Charitable Trust | Wiltshire Community Foundation | Woodward Charitable Trust

Project partners: Exeter House School | Salisbury Cathedral | Wiltshire College & University Centre | Wiltshire Creative

Public funders: Arts Council England | Devon County Council Councillors Locality Budget Fund | Wiltshire Council: Amesbury Area Board | Wiltshire Council: Salisbury Area Board | Wiltshire Music Connect

Corporate partners: Fawcetts Chartered Accountants | Irwin Mitchell LLP

Individuals: Carole Bexon | Pamela Brotherton | Ann Burn | Earl and Countess of Chichester | Crowdfunder contributors | Alison Evans | *Evening Songs* retiring collection | Mary Dickson | Hazel Docherty | Andrew and Catherine Johnston | Alison Mayne | Lady Marland | Peter Mitchell | Olive Moody | Sheila Oglethorpe | Martyn Ralph and Sally Walden | Debbie Rigg | Nigel and Lucy Salisbury | Robert and Jo Seaton | Kate Snow | Lucilla Stephenson | Anita Thomas | Judy Weston | Peter Wilson | John Woods | two La Folia Friends | anonymous donors