

**Newsletter**  
**January 2022**

# La Folia



*September 2021*

Welcome from the La Folia team to a brand new year, and hopefully a less stressful one, as we all learn to live with the Covid pandemic. Following the retirement of Sue Kent in 2021, La Folia now has a new captain steering the ship, Cesca Eaton, who joined in July 2021.

*Cesca writes "I cannot tell you how overjoyed I am to be working with Howard Moody and all at La Folia. Sue's boots are extremely large boots to fill, but I will*

*try my very best to fill them!"*

With Cesca's feet well and truly under the desk, La Folia is now beginning to re-emerge from the depths of Covid hibernation.

We would like to thank all our supporters and donors for your continued support throughout 2021, and hope to welcome you to some exciting new ventures in 2022.

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## SEPTEMBER 2021



*We thank you dearest Sue*

## ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS

La Folia came out of hibernation on 19th September with a very special concert to 'celebrate life', to give thanks to Sue Kent for her amazing work over the years, to say goodbye to Megan Brand, La Folia Marketing and Communications manager, who looked after La Folia so brilliantly during

lockdown, in front of a welcome and long awaited audience of La Folia supporters.



*Farewell lovely Meg*

The event had as its genesis an end in marking Sue Kent's departure as La Folia's eyes and ears over so many years, her wisdom, intellect and clarity of thought navigating often-tricky corners to allow extraordinary projects to bloom ... and yet it also recognised our new beginning, our emergence from hibernation into a changed world, as we welcomed Cesca Eaton as our new Production and Administration manager and looked forward to enthralling and involving our musically diverse artists and individuals with and in the magic web of La Folia projects. It is fitting that we bookended this programme with improvised variations on the *La Folia* tune itself - the tune's ongoing 'perpetuum mobile' reflecting our continual reinvention, ensuring that our music making involves constant creativity, adaptation, interpretation, innovation and surprise at the beginning of our next phase!

La Folia took a tour of the seasons, in the Medieval Hall in Salisbury, with the help of Piazzolla/Moore, Bach, Barnard and Barley and musicians:

Matthew Barley, cello  
Buster Birch, percussion  
Helen Charlston, mezzo-soprano/glockenspiel  
Anna Cooper, violin/viola  
Sarah Homer, clarinet/double bass  
Bryony Moody, cello  
Daphne Moody, violin  
Howard Moody, harpsichord  
Ruby Moody, guitar / voice  
Jeff Moore, violin/accordion  
Thomas Wyman, voice  
Sebastien Varennes, voice



*Helen Charlston performing Springfield Songs (Barnard) with Sarah Homer and Bryony Moody*

A joyous concert consisting of the following programme:

*La Folia*

*Piazzolla Summer*

Bach

*Piazzolla Autumn*

*Barnard Springfields Songs*

Piazzolla *Winter*

*Celebrate Life / We'll stay friends forever*

Piazzolla *Spring*

*La Folia*



*Sebastien and Thomas join the La Folia players for a spectacular performance*

## **NOVEMBER 2021**



*Messiah rehearsal*

## LA FOLIA'S FIRST BAROQUE OUTING

La Folia created its first group of baroque musicians to make up the orchestra for a performance of the Messiah with the Esterházy Chamber Choir, conducted by Richard Dawson, in Lewes, East Sussex, on 20 November 2021. The orchestra, led by Alison Bury, was fixed with some of the top baroque players and some of the up-and-coming young baroque players in the UK. The soloists were:

Alexandra Kidgell - soprano

Rebecca Leggett - alto

Ruairi Bowen - tenor

Malachy Frame - bass

It was an uplifting and joyous performance from soloists, orchestra and choir alike. The concert was a sell out, with such an appreciative, mask wearing and socially distanced audience, who stood, as is the tradition, during the Hallelujah Chorus, and gave a standing ovation at the end.



*Messiah rehearsal*

*Howard Moody, Rebecca Leggett*



*Messiah rehearsal*

*Rebecca Bell, Alison Bury*

We received some lovely feedback too:

*"Honestly one of the warmest most wholesome concerts I can remember - just so much joy and fun in the room. Could tell the audience had been starved of Messiah!" (Ruairi Bowen, tenor soloist)*

*"It was one of the best Messiah's I've ever been involved with!" (Rebecca Leggett, alto soloist)*

*"I couldn't believe what an amazing sound those instrumentalists made! And the choir sounded fab too!" (Audience member)*

The aim is to continue developing projects to involve this new baroque group of players, to introduce special needs young people and children to baroque music and the instruments.

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## **FURZE PLATT SCHOOL PROJECT**

At the end of November we held another successful workshop as part of our collaboration with Furze Platt Secondary School, Maidenhead, to create a 3 or 4 year creative residency at the school in honour of their late Head of Music, Katie Johnston. Howard Moody and fellow La Folia musicians are working with the Furze Platt students to create their own compositions based on a theme written by Katie while she was at the school. Katie's parents, Andrew and Catherine Johnston have fundraised very successfully to enable La Folia to continue our work with the school, for which we are truly grateful. With more fundraising and workshops to come in 2022, the hope is to put on a grand performance at the end of the residency. It is our aim to keep Katie's wish alive to develop more instrumental playing in the school.

# LOOKING AHEAD 2022



## STONE SONGS

We are delighted to inform you that the postponed world première of ***Stone Songs*** composed by **Howard Moody** will now open the 2022 Salisbury Arts Festival and will feature the Festival Chorus and **La Folia** musicians and soloists, conducted by Howard, in a performance inspired by the Medieval chants that have resonated from the Cathedral's stones since the 13th century.

Salisbury International Arts Festival full programme will be announced on 1 March 2022.

**[To be the first to hear when tickets are available sign up here](#)**

**ON SALE MEMBERS:** Tuesday 8 March

**ON SALE GENERAL:** Tuesday 15 March

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## **IN THE PIPELINE FOR 2022**

We have a number of projects ready to go for 2022 once we have managed to secure funding.

### **Voices in the Landscape**

A collaboration with CCAONB (Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). A creative singing project with communities in the area, under the 'Landscape Partnership' scheme.

### **Singing Sculpture**

A collaboration with Roche Court Educational Trust, sculptor Julieann Worrall-Hood and Wiltshire Creative Community, to create a music, sculpture and film project to be exhibited at the Salisbury Arts Centre September-November 2022.

### **Evening Songs Project**

After our successful collaboration with Salisbury Cathedral in 2016 and 2019, we are now hoping to expand our Evening Songs Project to other cathedrals and schools with chapels around the country. Cathedral choristers and students with special needs join together to share their musical and creative skills to devise something completely unique: an innovative Evensong service that represents each young person's highly individual response to the Christian Liturgy. We are currently in discussion with Wells Cathedral, Chichester Cathedral, Cranleigh School and Rugby School, in the hope that, once funds have been secured we can recreate this very special Evening Songs Project

# SUPPORT US

We are extremely grateful for all the support you have given us in 2021, and wanted to remind you that there is a very simple way to generate donations for La Folia every time you shop online. If you sign up to The Giving Machine and select La Folia as your charity of choice, a percentage of what you spend will automatically be gifted to La Folia - at no extra cost to you! There are over 2,000 participating retailers, including Waitrose, John Lewis and Amazon. Find out more and sign up [HERE](#).

For information about making a donation to La Folia, please click [HERE](#)

Your donations can support specific projects, or can be used to fund our core costs and the day-to-day running of the charity.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our donors and supporters, our artistic director, Howard Moody, La Folia's Trustees and Adrian Harris (Finance Manager and Company Secretary) for their immeasurable hard work and enthusiasm to keep La Folia's vision alive, to bring professional music making to young people and adults who might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience it.

September concert images by Adrian Harris

Messiah rehearsal images by John Astbury

Salisbury Cathedral image by Ash Mills