

Newsletter
August 2022

la folia



Stone Songs 2022

Photo: Finnbar Webster

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

MAY 2022



Howard Moody, composer, with the Salisbury Festival Chorus.

Photo: Finnbar Webster

STONE SONGS TRIUMPH

Howard Moody's new choral work, **STONE SONGS**, finally kicked off the Salisbury International Arts Festival on 27th May with two sold out performances in the beautiful Salisbury Cathedral.

Produced in partnership with Wiltshire Creative, and featuring the 120 voices of Salisbury Festival Chorus, top class orchestral musicians, and a stellar line up of soloists, the piece was due to be premiered in May 2020, but, due to Covid restrictions, it had to be postponed.



Photo: Finnbar Webster

Written 800 years after the laying of the Cathedral's foundation stone, *Stone Songs* is a work that reflects on the skill, vision and dedication that it took to build such a magnificent building, and inspired by the ancient chants that have resonated from the stones since the 13th century. A promenade performance with the audience able to roam freely amongst the singers and the stones, the orchestra was joined by two of the Cathedral's very own stonemasons, Alan Spittle and Joe O'Connell, adding their unique chipping and tapping to the orchestral sound. [**CLICK HERE**](#) to read Joe's blog about his experience.



Joe O'Connell (L) and Alan Spittle (R)

Photo: Finnbar Webster

We have received numerous comments from audience and performers alike, here are just a few:

"A tremendous piece of music and spectacle - this was a triumph!"

"It has been truly an uplifting and positive experience. I have come home from every rehearsal on a complete high. Really wonderful, emotional music."

"The soloists were fabulous and David [Halls] and the band, the stonemasons, the jazz, the blues - the beauty of the soloists' chants and that violin absolutely heart rending . . . and of course the medieval madness, wow, wow, wow!"

"To me, it is always a privilege and joy having the chance to sing in our wonderful Cathedral. Without doubt my experience on Friday was the most memorable; so exciting, emotional and up-lifting."



L-R: Nazan Fikret, Helen Charlston, Howard Moody, David Halls, Nick Pritchard, Sam Poppleton, Jamie Woollard

Photo: Finnarr Webster

If you would like to read more about STONE SONGS, read the programme notes and/or download a copy of the libretto, please [CLICK HERE](#).

JUNE 2022



Adrian Zolotuhin (L) student plays the balalaika (C) Buster Birch (R)

FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

In June we held the final two workshops of four at Furze Platt Senior School in Maidenhead. The four workshops were made possible by the magnificent fundraising efforts of Andrew Johnston, whose late daughter Katie was the Head of Music at the school. Andrew and his wife Catherine wanted to encourage current pupils at the school to enjoy making music together, in particular instrumental music, about which Katie was so passionate. Thanks to Andrew, La Folia was able to run four workshops over the year, with the final two in June concentrating on Katie's own composition "Memory of a Friend".

The workshop on 10th June featured Howard Moody (keyboard), Adrian Zolotuhin (balalaika and guitars), Buster Birch (drums/percussion) and Zara McFarlane (vocals). They worked with 45 students, split into two groups, on Katie's composition "Memory of a Friend", giving it a contemporary take using jazz, rock and pop influences.



Howard working with the students

The students responded to our musicians' performance of Katie's piece with their own creations. Throughout the workshop the students worked on song writing, orchestration of the piece for rock band and improvisation, breaking out into smaller rooms to work on their own lyrics and musical responses, with the two groups coming together at the end of the day to share their work.

On 17th June the same students returned for the final workshop. This time Howard took a more classical approach to Katie's piece "Memory of a friend" and was joined by Max Jones-Lachman (violin), Anna Cooper (viola) and Garwynn Linnell (cello). The musicians played Mozart's piano trio at the start of the workshop to introduce the students to his work and composing for a classical trio. Using the same lyrics from the previous workshop, the students created their response to Katie's piece, making their own more classical versions. The students played their cellos, violins, flutes, clarinets, trumpet, guitars, vocals and keyboards to perform their newly created work.

We were honoured to have Andrew and Catherine Johnston with us for the whole day, along with Lucy Salisbury (La Folia Trustee).



Andrew Johnston



Andrew (far R) joins the students

In the afternoon session, we moved into the school's theatre where the musicians performed Katie's piece, Andrew made a very moving speech,

and the whole day finished with all the students sharing their compositions with the Johnstons.



Howard (piano), Max (violin) Anna (viola), Garwynn (cello) with Furze Platt students and Catherine Johnston (far R)

We received some lovely feedback from the students:

"I really liked the improvising" (Ruby)

"I really like feeling the music. These workshops teach me how to improvise. [The musicians] are really amazing. If you want to be something you can be like them" (Amy-Jane)

"It's not just about music, it's about being social." (Farhat)

"I've enjoyed putting lyrics to Katie's piece. It makes me feel a bit powerful because you can use your voice." (Poppy)

"Katie's piece definitely reminds you of memories and makes you think of that." (Joshua)

Thank you for having us Furze Platt – until the next time.

LOOKING AHEAD TO AUTUMN



VOICES IN THE LANDSCAPE

In partnership with Chase and Chalke Landscape Partnership Scheme we are delighted to announce that we will be running a number of workshops in the beautiful Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

'Voices in the Landscape' aims to invite a wide range of organisations, communities and individuals to engage with the landscape through song. Through exploration of local songs from the past and the creation of new songs for the present and future, participants will find ways of expressing their perception of and their response to their environment. It will also develop opportunities for the more isolated in the community to take part in musical activity locally and join communities together through creating together. A Cranborne Chase 'Voices in the Landscape' song book will be created leaving a lasting legacy.

The workshops are open to anyone, but if you know people in the following categories, who you think would like to take part, we would love to hear from them:

- Hard to reach and hard to engage young people
- Ukrainian visitors and other refugees
- Anyone with a disability
- Older people living with dementia
- Anyone from an isolated community

The first workshops will be held at the end of September 2022 - please email cesca.eaton@lafoliamusic.org for further information.

IN THE PIPELINE FOR 2023

We have a number of projects and concerts that we are hoping to put on in 2023, once we have secured funding. We are currently in discussion with Wiltshire Creative to collaborate again in next year's Salisbury International Arts Festival, and we have many

Intrigued? Watch this space, our website and social media for latest news

We rely entirely on donations from individuals and grants from Trust Funds and Foundations, and without this generous support we could not keep La Folia's vision alive, to bring professional music making to young people and adults who might not otherwise have

SUPPORT US

We are extremely grateful for all the support we have been given in 2022, and wanted to remind you about how you can shop online and generate donations for La Folia at the same time. 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](#).

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

Thank you.



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