

Photo: Andrew Roberts



Pre-COVID life, Lucy Knight performing at the Carnegie Hall New York

Treble & Trumpet

the magic of classical music

SHELLEY SOCHOR

Suburb-born opera singer Lucy Knight, a former pupil of the Henrietta Barnett School and chorister at St Jude's Church, has spent the past year trying to improve the musical lives of young children and their parents in lockdown. Lucy and her husband Matthew, also a classical musician, founded Treble & Trumpet when their work disappeared overnight at the outbreak of the COVID pandemic.

Unexpectedly stuck at home with a new baby, the opera singer and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra trombonist quickly became frustrated by the jangly nursery rhymes on Spotify and online. Lucy said: "For two new parents, on little sleep and with our careers abruptly halted by the pandemic, listening to these recordings was more than we could bear! We know so much about the benefits of listening to classical music, from brain development to stress reduction, and we felt that children and their parents deserved something better."

So with no live performances, and with the extra time on their hands, they started writing new arrangements and recording them in their home using borrowed equipment from friends. Their first album 'The Classical Nursery' has had an overwhelmingly positive response, and has been praised in the Telegraph, Express, Woman Magazine and on BBC Radio as a must-have for new parents and grandparents. The couple released the album for free on Spotify and the streaming services so that it could be accessible for all parents, including those who had similarly been excluded from the Self Employment Income Support Scheme, and they have also made a CD for the less tech-savvy.

Lucy told me how Treble & Trumpet's hope is to introduce children to the magic of classical music with their nursery rhyme arrangements, which see the likes of 'Baa Baa Black Sheep' alongside Bach's 'Sheep may safely graze'. Lucy said: "I've experienced first-hand how it's never too soon to introduce babies and children to classical music, and nursery rhymes are a wonderful way to do this as the whole family can sing along and get involved. Even though the past year has been a really difficult time for us, with our industry shut down by Covid, we have felt lucky to reach so many people with our music."

The couple are now busy creating new arrangements for their online listeners, filling a gap in the market for children's music which doesn't drive parents mad. The latest? An arrangement of 'Horsey Horsey' with Rossini's galloping William Tell overture. In the words of the nursery rhyme: Treble & Trumpet, "don't you stop"!

To find out more about Treble & Trumpet, you can visit www.matthewknightmusic.com or search for Treble & Trumpet 'The Classical Nursery' on Spotify, iTunes or any of the streaming services.



Lucy Knight with Darcey

Photo: Matthew Knight

Suburb Pianist

taking music to the canals



Masayuki Tayama on the Piano Boat

RHIANA HENDERSON

In Hampstead Garden Suburb, we are fortunate to reside in close proximity to a great many wonderfully skilled musicians. One concert pianist, Masayuki Tayama, has been here for at least 20 years. Masa's speciality is the complex yet thrilling music of Rachmaninov but he is equally at home with Bach or Mozart, and his interpretations of Beethoven's piano sonatas are intensely captivating.

You may have heard him perform at Southbank Centre, Wigmore Hall, or more locally at the Free Church or Last Night of the Proms at St Jude's. He was also Chair of the Hampstead Music Club for seven years.

His passion for the canals and their rich heritage was ignited by a narrowboat day cruise in 2011, when he became fascinated by the slow pace of life and tranquillity. Since then, Masa has completed 19 narrowboat holidays, is a dab hand at the tiller and an expert lock-operator. In 2017, a concert engagement came too close to a canal holiday, and so a digital piano was brought on board the hired boat for practising.

Now, he is the co-founder of the unique project, The Piano Boat; dubbed 'the world's most intimate concert hall', this provides guests the unprecedented opportunity to enjoy beautiful classical music whilst being immersed in the natural beauty of the canals. Masa's Piano Boat has 'grown' to almost twice the width of a narrowboat to accommodate a new Steinway Model A grand piano for the musical offerings on board and from July, you can book yourself a Brunch or Afternoon Tea Cruise complete with piano recital. If you prefer a longer stay aboard, you can even reserve the venue as an exclusive hotel boat for a few days – a Musical Holiday for two.

www.thepianoboat.com | @thepianoboat
The boat is moored on the Grand Union Canal in Uxbridge, West London



Welcome to St Jude's
Every Sunday at 10.30am. All welcome.



SAINT JUDE-ON-THE-HILL
THE PARISH CHURCH OF HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB
www.stjudeonthehill.com