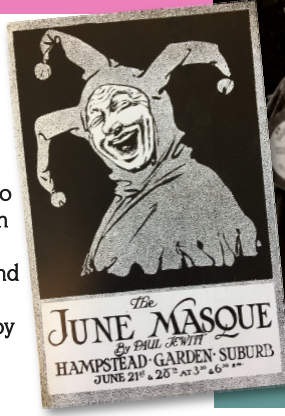


The June Masque

COLIN GREGORY

Local resident Dani Solomon recently submitted some fascinating photos of the 1913 June Masque. A drama group was one of the first societies to be established in the new Suburb and the presentation of plays began in 1908. The earliest performance of which we have any record is The Masque of Fairthorpe performed on the 'old pageant ground' near where the Free Church Hall now stands. The Masque of Fairthorpe was an allegory about the founding of the Suburb, where the wicked Jerry Builder is defeated by the

Good Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust, so the elves and fairies can continue to dwell happily in the woods and fields among the new houses. It was written by Paul Jewitt, an English teacher at William Ellis School, who lived in Temple Fortune Lane. Pageants in 1911 and 1912 were followed by the June Masque in 1913, also written by Paul Jewitt. The characters included the Sun, Summer Winds, Flora marshalling her flowers and several mushrooms. The Pall Mall



Photos supplied from the collection of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Archives Trust

Gazette's critic noted that after a conflict between the Winds, the Sun emerges to be opposed by a Barometer – "a dismal individual wrapped in a dressing gown" – but the Sun sends him packing so the inhabitants can enjoy their revels. Many of the performers were

children – girls played flowers and boys played mushrooms, who the critic thought played their parts in a "whimsical wayward fashion." After the show the performers passed through the Suburb in procession, carrying lanterns. A pageant based on the legend of

St George was staged in 1914 – with St George riding in on a real horse – but then World War I put paid to further pageants until in 1920 the drama group built their own open air theatre in Little Wood where they have performed ever since.

Echo Ensemble world premiere of Babel

SHELLEY-ANNE SALISBURY

The Suburb's multi-talented Noah Max treated Suburb residents to the first live performance of his latest oeuvre, Babel. The free event was held at Fellowship House as a thank you from Noah and the Ensemble for its kindness and support in making the Ensemble's musical activities possible during the pandemic.

The Ensemble played Glière, Handel, Rózsa and Beethoven before presenting Noah's Babel. A powerful piece, inspired, says Noah, by the canonical Biblical text, retelling the story of Babel using an open score to allow fluidity and greater interpretation by the musicians. It was certainly impactful, even unsettling, and the audience discussed their myriad thoughts afterwards with Noah and the rest of the Ensemble over a glass of bubbly in the courtyard of Fellowship House. A delightful evening and one to remember as Noah's career ascends ever higher.



Noah Max (4th from left) and the Echo Ensemble (Photo: Shelley-Anne Salisbury)

ACS appoints new Director of Music

DIANE LANGLEBEN

Alison Smart Fisher, professional singer, choral director and music teacher, has taken up the baton to conduct Alyth Choral Society (ACS). Alison studied at Cambridge University, the Royal Northern College of Music and Trinity College of Music. She has enjoyed a most successful career both as a solo performer and conducting choirs. Until recently, she sang with the BBC Singers.

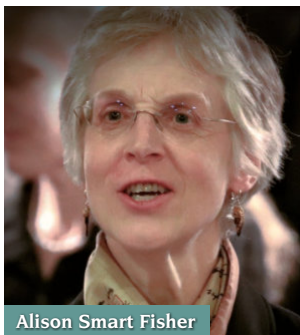
Since its inception in 1983, ACS has performed not only in North-West London, but also at such illustrious venues as the Royal Festival Hall, Barbican, St John's Smith Square, St Martin-in-the-Fields and St Paul's Cathedral. ACS has also sung at venues in Germany, the Netherlands, France and the North of England.

The choir's main repertoire comprises choral works with Old Testament themes, as well as non-religious music. In April ACS celebrated the Queen's 70th jubilee year with a concert including songs from the four home nations of the United Kingdom.

The next choral work will be a performance of Handel's stunning oratorio, Jephtha on 3 July. At the end of the year, 11 December, the choir will perform Purcell's Dido and Aeneas.

Alyth Choral Society is based at the North Western Reform Synagogue in Alyth Gardens, Temple Fortune. The choir welcomes new members of any denomination (or none) who enjoy choral singing.

Further information can be found at: alythchoralsociety.wordpress.com.



Alison Smart Fisher



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