

Proms at St Jude's Silver Jubilee



Chilingirian String Quartet

Proms at St Jude's celebrates its 25th season this summer, with a magnificent line-up of top musicians and authors, a set of new Heritage Walks and a special spit roast on Central Square. Running from Saturday, 24 June to Sunday, 2 July, this is a local festival not to miss.

A special story of long-time Suburb resident Peter Lobbenberg comes to life at the Festival with the world premiere of Letters from Lony, commissioned by Proms from Ronald Corp, Musical Director of Highgate Choral Society. The music is based on yearning wartime letters to Peter from his grandmother Lony, trapped in Nazi-controlled Amsterdam, which gradually unfold her story as her life becomes increasingly oppressive. Lony ultimately perished in Auschwitz without ever seeing her adored grandson.

Peter says: "Beyond revealing Lony's experience in those troubled times, these letters commemorate all those who suffered persecution during that period. Music powerfully helps ensure the terrible history of those years is never forgotten."

Mezzo-soprano Sarah Pring, the Chilingirian Quartet, and pianist Andrew Brownell combine for this deeply moving testimony to Lony's final years.

LITFEST

The first weekend of Proms brings its now traditional LitFest, held in association with The Henrietta Barnett School and supported by West End Lane Books. This year, half of the eight sessions are for non-fiction work and half for writers of what might today be called alternative facts.

In the first category, Woman's Hour doyenne, Dame Jenni Murray – now a Suburb resident

– will be talking to broadcaster Piers Plowright about A History of Britain in 21 Women; Guardian writers, Polly Toynbee & David Walker, will be discussing their new critique of the current government, Dismembered; historian Laurence Rees will present the themes of his masterful account of The Holocaust; and Dan Cruickshank will walk us through his architectural exploration of Spitalfields in conversation with Proms Patron, Sue MacGregor.

Joel Morris & Jason Hazeley brought a different twist to Ladybird books with their new series for adults on topics such as the Mid-Life Crisis and the Sicking. They will be discussing the art of pastiche with Suburb resident and comedy writer, Ian Davidson.

In a session on crime, Silent Witness scriptwriter, MJ Arlidge, pairs with novelist Susie Steiner to discuss the genre. Nina Stibbe, whose neighbours once included Alan Bennett and Jonathan Miller, will talk about her novel about life in an old people's home, Paradise Lodge. And former stand-up comedian and classicist Natalie Haynes will discuss her latest book, The Children of Jocasta.

There's a special offer on LitFest tickets this year: if you buy one full price, you can attend other talks the same day for a discount. And the lovely LitFest café will be running again with its delicious homemade cakes, sandwiches and snacks.

PRIVILEGED

The Choir of King's College Cambridge will be making the Suburb its only appearance in Britain on its tour this year,

performing Fauré's celebrated Requiem and works by Bach, Brahms, Bruckner, Byrd, Duruflé and Tomkins. Given the acoustic of St Jude's, this promises to be an enchanting evening.

Another highlight will be the return of Nevill Holt Opera for the fourth successive year, this time giving a concert performance of Puccini's Tosca. Under artistic director Nicholas Chalmers, the company continues to reinforce its national reputation, and we are privileged to have them join us. Particular thanks go to principal sponsor, Investec, for making this possible.

One of the world's finest clarinetists, Michael Collins, together with internationally acclaimed soprano, Grace Davidson, and Michael McHale, piano, will perform a programme including Schubert's Shepherd on the Rock and Mozart's sublime Clarinet Quintet. Grace grew up on the Suburb, so it is particularly pleasing to have her return here for this concert.

POPULAR

2017 marks the centenary of the first release of three Charlie Chaplin films – The Cure, Easy Street and The Immigrant – and in tribute, Proms has arranged for a screening of all three, while the Orchestra of St Paul's plays Carl Davis's hilarious and touching scores, live to picture. Artistic Director Ben Palmer, who will conduct the performance, has made a speciality of conducting films live to screen. "We're very excited about bringing these three films to the Proms," he says. "They're hilarious, but



Marie Sato



Grace Davidson

also very touching – it'll be a really fun evening."

In the same spirit, an evening of Simon & Garfunkel songs by tribute band, Bookends, should delight audiences looking for something different. With hits like Bridge over Troubled Water and Sound of Silence on the bill, you'll find yourself reliving the 1970s in no time.

HERITAGE

For those of you who enjoy the fresh air and some education with it, Proms is again running its popular guided Heritage Walks. Most take place in and around the Suburb and Hampstead Heath, exploring history, wildlife or architecture. This year, there's also a walk around the secluded Highgate West Cemetery and a trail following the buried Fleet River down to Gospel Oak, all led by highly experienced guides.

CELEBRATION

The last weekend of the Festival will offer a particularly celebratory feel. On Saturday, 1 July, not only will there be foot-tapping jazz, courtesy of the Big Band of Trinity Laban Conservatoire of

Pete Richards and Dan Haynes of Bookends



London International Orchestra



Min Kym launches the Proms

Min Kym, the virtuoso violinist, whose 1696 Stradivarius was stolen from Euston Station, launched Proms' 25th season at a special event held at The Henrietta Barnett School on 26 March.

She delighted guests by performing a programme including works by Massenet, Dvorak and Bach. She also talked about her new memoir 'Gone', due to be published in

April, which recounts the story of the loss of her precious violin.

Susie Gregson, Proms Executive, said, "We were thrilled to have Min Kym launch our Silver Jubilee, and it's fitting that she is both a musician and an author, given that our festival focuses on concerts and literary events."

The launch was also attended by Councillor David Longstaff, The Mayor of Barnet and

representatives of Toynbee Hall and the North London Hospice, the two charities to which Proms donates its surplus each year.

"I've attended Proms for the last three years and each time they have been nothing short of wonderful", said the Mayor. "It's fantastic that Proms has donated over £750,000 to good causes since it started and I wish it well for the next 25 years!"



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