



ANDREW BOTTERILL

## Chamber Music concert at Fellowship House

On a cold miserable Sunday afternoon, before the third Lockdown was imposed, I walked up to Fellowship House, to enjoy the luxury of a live Chamber Music Concert. It was organised by Anete Graudina, a brilliant violinist, who some of you know from her classes at Fellowship House. Anete was born in Latvia and studied the violin in Riga and Moscow. She has performed widely as a recitalist and soloist in venues such as St James's Church, Piccadilly, the Edinburgh Festival and Burgh House in Hampstead, as well as internationally. Anete had invited some of her students, friends and professional artists to play and they had only one rehearsal together before the performance. She told me she likes to ask some of her students to join her; a cunning plan to encourage them to practice more and play better.



From the moment the notes of the Bach Violin Concerto sounded, you could hear a pin drop. This was followed by music composed by Telemann, Schubert and Pachelbel. I was lucky enough to get a seat inside, but Anete had thoughtfully provided cushions and rugs on all the outdoor seating in the courtyard. When it grew darker tea lights twinkled around the edges. It was so beautiful. When I asked her how she felt playing to a live audience again her face lit up and she said, 'it is simply a blessing for a musician to play live music, it is the most beautiful thing in the world'. She owns a magnificent Guarneri Violin which she cherishes. The story of how she came to own this started when, quite by chance, a schoolfriend wrote a book about Latvian violinists, and asked Anete for some help, both writing and financial. Anete happily agreed but was very offended that not even one line about her appeared in the book. It was then she decided to make a CD, to prove she existed, but she needed a better violin so she began to search and in 2016 found her violin - made by Guarneri. Anete told me that when she played it, she felt that she could not live without it.

Her repertoire is varied, and she is a founding member of Tangissimo, an ensemble which is dedicated to celebrating Piazzola's tango music. She aims to introduce people to all kinds of music.

Anete hopes her next concert will take place at Fellowship House on Sunday 21 March 2021 at 2 pm. She told me, with delight, that she had also just been booked to play in Leipzig in Mendelsohn's house, in March 2022 - she felt it was a blessing to play in the very same room where Mendelsohn had played. There is also a chance that she will be able to play the wonderfully named 'Music for our Soul' at the Latvian Embassy in London. The Embassy's piano was rented and when she discovered they could not afford it any more, she went out and bought another one! Having a new piano she felt there must be concerts, so she collaborated with a teacher from Riga where she studied, to arrange for her students to come to London and for Anete's students to join them there. These concerts take place (or did take place) three times a year at the Embassy. I look forward to being invited once Lockdown is behind us.

Anete is a very special person, and those of our readers who join her classes in Fellowship House are indeed fortunate.

SIMONE HALFIN

## Echo Con Brio

February. Hard lockdown but Fellowship House once again lit and warm. Young players bent over their instruments. The sound of chamber music floating across the beech hedge. Light at the end of the tunnel and surely a move towards broad sunlit uplands. Buried deep within the Government's Covid rules is the possibility for professional musicians to rehearse for a concert in a Covid secure way. Thanks to

Suburb Councillor John Marshall, confirmation was obtained to allow Suburb resident Noah Max's Echo Ensemble to be welcomed into Fellowship House for a series of rehearsals. It's been wonderful to be able to reopen the building to help out hard up musicians and they have kindly offered to reciprocate by providing a free concert for Suburb residents at Fellowship House sometime during the next year. We can't wait!

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Noah Max



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## The NHS: Britain's National Health Service, 1948-2020

Susan Cohen's illustrated history of the NHS begins with a depiction of how things were when access to medical services

was entirely dependent on the ability to pay and goes on to trace the medical advances and the social reforms which eventually

led to the introduction of the National Health Service on 5 July 1948. She explains the enormous undertaking that brought together all the various medical services to ensure free diagnosis and treatment for all.

She then analyses the various challenges the NHS faced in its seven decades. The need to change management and organisations, often in controversial political circumstances, and the introduction of new medical developments such as transplants and IVF have all been needed to transform the way medical services are delivered and administered. The book includes personal recollections from healthcare professionals, as well as patients. Sylvia Diggery, the first NHS patient recalls how she was asked by Aneurin Bevan (the minister of health responsible for establishing the NHS) "if she was aware of the significance of the occasion", he

went on to say "it was a milestone in history - the most civilised step any country had taken."

The epidemic that we are all dealing with has demonstrated what a valuable institution the NHS is and how lucky we are to be able to access it.

MARIE-CHRISTINE O'CALLAGHAN

*The NHS: Britain's National Health Service, 1948-2020, Susan Cohen, Shire Publications, 2020, 64p, ISBN 978-1-78442-482-4.*

*Susan Cohen is a local Suburb resident, a social historian and author by profession.*



Aneurin Bevan, Minister of Health, on the first day of the National Health Service, 5 July 1948 at Park Hospital, Davyhulme, near Manchester (University of Liverpool Faculty of Health & Life Sciences)

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## Bigwood Fox

*He sensed my hesitation, untangled my thoughts, disappeared before the sound of heartbeat crossed the clearing. Why do foxes think they're God's gift?*

*I followed, felt the ground give, squelch of boots in mud and moss, heard the crack of twigs as I plodded after him. He scampered away, called me on, barked my name.*

*The rain came so cold it scorched my cheeks and still the fox howled onwards, turned his head towards me as he fox-trotted through the fist of the forest.*

*On till gloom became darkness. We stopped. He faced me. His drowned eyes stared as he nosed the air; his coat was frost, his mouth spit and steam.*

*I crouched to within a sniff of his face, dared to ask, "Do you believe... and who will remember you when you die?" "It's not about belief", he said.*

*I reached and touched his head, felt slicked down crisp fur, saw that fox as I would never again. Then he licked me, turned, bounded off, faded into the thick morning mist.*

Peter Phillips

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