

The Proms at St Jude's - from strength to strength

The Proms at St Jude's goes from strength to strength and was an enormous success, from both an artistic and financial point of view. We were also lucky with the weather, which was fabulous – the sun shining every day, with the exception of the first Saturday, when people had to run a gauntlet of umbrellas to get from the marquee to the church.

Over the seven performance days, a total of 2,000 people attended concerts and a record £19,000 was raised for charitable causes – an increase of 50% on last year.



(Above) Eddie and Ann Tanner take shelter on the way to a concert.

(Below) Anete Graudina, Suburb violinist, and Simon Davis gave a lunchtime concert.



HOME SHOPPING

020 7431 8686

www.knightfrank.com

80 Heath Street
London NW3 1DN
hampstead@knightfrank.com



The main recipient of the funds (75%) will be Toynbee Hall, via the Dame Henriette Barnett Fund. Toynbee Hall was started by Canon and Dame Henrietta Barnett more than 100 years ago and helps disadvantaged families and young people in the East End. The balance (25%) will go towards the repair of the organ at St Jude's.

The week began with a popular orchestral concert – Robert Max conducting Beethoven's Emperor Concerto and Schubert's 9th Symphony and concluded with a lively Last Night of the Prom's at St Jude's, including much patriotic flag waving and audience participation, in a rousing rendition of Pomp & Circumstance and Jerusalem. In between Grace Davidson thrilled as one of the soloists in Haydn's Creation, Alon Goldstein, the Israeli award-winning pianist, gave a matchless display of virtuosity, Erich Gruenberg and Erike Geldsetzer joined the Concilium Orchestra in a exhilarating account of Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante. There was also much enjoyment to be had from the Barnet Schools Wind Orchestra and Midsummer Night's Jazz, with the talented George Fogel Quintet, which succeeding in attracting a younger audience, which delighted us, as we feel it is important to appeal to all age groups.

The free lunch time concerts were also hugely enjoyed by an audience ranging from babies in prams and toddlers upwards. We were delighted to welcome groups from Jami House, The Michael Sobell Day Centre (who came to three concerts) and children from Annemount and Brooklands schools, who were all appreciative and brilliantly well behaved. Lunch was eaten on tables

inside and outside the church, or on the lawns in the sunshine.

The Proms was enhanced by the provision of refreshments. Delicious home-made sandwiches were served as well as umpteen glasses of wine and cups of tea and coffee. It all contributed to a party atmosphere every night.

The Proms is very grateful to the artistes, sponsors, advertisers and Friends of the Proms, without whose generosity it would not have been possible to raise such a substantial amount of money.

Plans have already begun for next year's 10th Anniversary and we hope for an even more glittering and successful Proms. Provisional dates for the diary are June 15 to 22. Look out for further information but, in the meanwhile, if you would like to be added to our mailing list, or would like information on becoming a Friend of the Proms, being a volunteer during the Proms week, sponsor or advertiser, please phone Yvonne Baker on 020 8455 8687.

Gala Opening Performance

There was a full house for the Gala Opening Concert, sponsored by the Residents Association – hardly surprising with such an enticing programme.

Robert Max conducted the Covent Garden Chamber Orchestra in two of the greatest masterpieces in the music repertoire. In the first half they were joined by the pianist James Kirby in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.5, *The Emperor*. And though occasionally one sensed a slight hastiness in some of the more bravura passages, it was overall a majestic and commanding performance by orchestra and pianist.



Annemount pupils were enthralled by Schubert's Trout quintet and enjoyed getting to know the instruments afterwards.



The Youth Music Centre choir teamed up with Highgate Junior School Orchestra and North London Junior Strings for the opening lunchtime concert.

The second half of the concert was devoted to Schubert's Great 9th Symphony in C major. This is a dramatic and exciting work, with Schubert's hallmark of melodious themes, strong rhythms and rich harmonies. It is a work on a grand scale, making demands on players, the conductor and orchestra, which rose to the occasion to do it full justice.

VERA SEGAL

Celebrity Orchestral Concert

Tuesday evening's concert was given by the youthful combination of conductor Orlando Jopling and the Concilium Orchestra, joined by the celebrated violinist Erich Gruenberg (on this occasion

playing the viola) and his German-born pupil Erika Geldsetzer. The orchestra was formed by ex-members of the Trinity College of Music chamber orchestra, who decided after graduation to continue playing together as a group.

The orchestra began with a lively account of an early symphony (No 17 in G, K 129) by the 16-year old Mozart. This was followed, in complete contrast, by Schoenberg's symphonic poem *Verklärte Nacht* ("Transfigured Night"), originally written in 1899 for string sextet but later adapted by the composer for string orchestra. Written in an elaborate late romantic style, outdoing Wagner in its chromaticism and complex



The George Fogel Jazz Quintet concert (above) attracted young enthusiasts (below).



(Below) Helen Rboose doubled as performer and Proms committee member who, with David Littaur organised the concert programme.

