

Tenth Proms at St Jude's



Henry Kelly introduces the first night of the Proms sponsored by the Residents Association.



Sally Botterill and Michael Holton enjoy the interval.

More concerts – eight evening and six lunchtime, plus two concerts held away from St Jude's to commemorate Barnett Day on June 17. The two outreach concerts consisted of a flute and piano recital at North London Hospice for patients and relatives, and a concert at Toynbee Hall given by the Nonesuch Orchestra, together with children's choirs from Garden Suburb School, Essendine Primary (Maida Vale), Sir William Burroughs (Tower Hamlets) and a few children from Highgate, Haberdasher Aske's and Channing. The concert included the premiere of a Jubilee Song commissioned by a Proms Benefactor. A poem by John Mole, the first Official Poet of the City of London, was set to music by Ronald Corp, composer and director of the London and Highgate Choral Societies and founder and director of the New London Orchestra and New London Children's Choirs.

More money raised – over £20,000 after costs, to be distributed between Toynbee Hall and North London Hospice.

More people attending – in excess of 2500 enthusiastic concert goers.

More money made from refreshments and donations – 800 rounds of delicious sandwiches, made daily by the hardworking catering committee, were consumed over the week by hungry music lovers.

YVONNE BAKER



On the night sponsored by the Trust – Chris Kellerman, David and Joyce Littaur, John Wheeler, the mayor Cllr Joan Scannell, Cllr Brian Coleman, and Alan Walker who chairs the Proms committee.



The choir from Brookland Junior performed in a lunchtime concert.



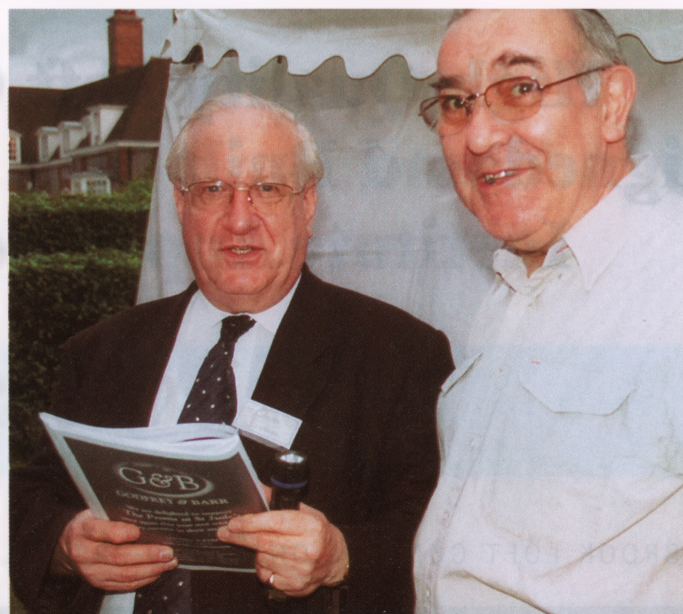
The Bronte String Quartet, John Thorne, Katharine Gorsuch, Sara Trickey and Daisy Gathorne-Hardy.

Reviews

The First Night of the Proms, was a concert given by David Lardi and the Finchley Chamber Orchestra, a larger band than their name would imply. After a spirited rendering of Glinka's overture to *Ruslan and Lyudmila*, we heard a fine performance of Tchaikovsky's first piano concerto by the New Zealand-born pianist Megumi Fujita, stepping in at short notice, who brought out the remarkable originality of the work. The concert closed with the dignified and stirring strains of Brahms's Fourth Symphony.

The following evening was a rare delight – a song recital by soprano Gweneth-Ann Jeffers, accompanied by Graham Johnson. We felt privileged to be entertained by such a distinguished duo. Johnson is the Gerald Moore of our times and, like Moore, he displays unfailing empathy with both music and singer. Jeffers had chosen a well-balanced programme of Richard Strauss, Britten, Debussy and Gershwin,

David Crossley enjoys a break from stewarding, with Stanley Cohen.



her sensuous tone being particularly well suited, we thought, to the first and last of these composers.

On the Tuesday evening we were treated to a concert of almost entirely Jewish music by our local Alyth Choral Society (who regularly join forces with the choirs of St Jude's and the Free Church) and the Zemel Choir. The star of the evening was Vivienne Bellos, who not only conducted throughout but gave a moving performance of four psalm settings by Dvorák. The Zemel Choir took over after

the interval with a varied selection of sacred and profane choral pieces, including a recent setting by Alexander Knapp of the anonymous funeral poem *Do not stand at my grave and weep*.

On Wednesday we had the BBC Concert Orchestra, in a concert of music for string orchestra by Mendelssohn, Elgar, Haydn, Vivaldi and Dvorák, with local musician

Robert Max as both conductor and cello soloist. We felt the orchestra must have enjoyed playing as a string band: their tone and phrasing were immaculate and perfectly suited to the warm, resonant acoustics of St Jude's. Particularly impressive were their renditions of Dvorák's E major serenade and Mendelssohn's Tenth String Symphony. We thought, however, that the high spot was Robert

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