

Sparkling 22nd season for Proms

MICHAEL ELLERHADES



Tasmin Little and Piers Lane

The weather turned a kindly face on Proms, with (mostly) sunny days and balmy evenings filled with music, talks, walks and fun for all ages, over the course of nine days at the end of June.

The festival sparkled, from the haunting beauty of Mozart's Clarinet Quintet played by the Endellion String Quartet to an unforgettable evening with Maria Friedman and Jason Carr performing the delightful music of Bernstein and Sondheim.

One of this year's highlights was Nevill Holt Opera's concert performance of La Bohème on the opening night. Also a hit with the audience was Tasmin Little, playing The Lark Ascending by special request, with Piers Lane on piano.

SELL-OUT

The Last Night of the Proms with the London International Orchestra was a sell-out, and soprano Lesley Garrett lived up to expectations. After showing her range of playfulness, melancholy

and drama, she returned to the stage in a glorious Union Jack evening gown, bringing the audience to its feet as her rich soprano soared above the orchestra for a rousing rendition of Rule Britannia. Audience participation was enthusiastic!

Audiences were treated to other first-class performances, including a passionate rendition of Taneyev's Quintet in G minor Op 30 by The Barbican Piano Trio and Friends and a highly acclaimed piano recital by Llŷr Williams.

HAPPY

Proms is for young and old alike, and it was great to see so many happy faces among the children attending the lunchtime concerts specially designed for them. The Nonesuch Orchestra had all the children joining in for their schools concert. Families also loved the Little Wolf Gang's musical storytelling – and nobody could resist the musical mayhem of Lucie and Roddy Skeaping's Musical Mystery Tour.

Other free lunchtime concerts were a delight from first to last. Of special note were prize-winning harpists Klara Woskowiak and Elizabeth Bass; young musicians Adi Tal on cello and Nadav Hertzka on piano; and the organ recital by Tom Winpenny in The Free Church.

PRICELESS

The Literary Festival weekend also offered priceless moments, including a conversation between Phyllida Law and Piers Plowright, with the author effortlessly charming all present. Itamar Srulovich and Sarit Packer of Honey & Co made everyone eager to learn Middle Eastern cookery and delighted the audience with free samples of cake!

Hugh Pym provided thought-provoking insights into the banking crisis and it was a privilege to hear Edna O'Brien, the 'doyenne' of Irish literature, reminiscing on a life of much experience. The kind hosting by

The Henrietta Barnett School is much appreciated.

This year's programme of walks was well attended, including exploration of the Suburb itself to hidden architectural treasures in the City of London.

GOOD CAUSES

As ever, the many volunteers that make Proms so special did outstanding work, from providing home-baked cakes for the LitFest Cafe and pouring Pimm's in the refreshments marquee to shifting furniture, stewarding and general organisation.

Proms at St Jude's raises money for two causes that touch many lives, Toynbee Hall's ASPIRE programme and the North London Hospice. The three young people who had graduated from the ASPIRE programme moved the audience with their short speeches, bringing to life the great work that Toynbee Hall undertakes.

LYNN MICHAELSON



Susie Gregson with Phyllida Law at the LitFest



Little Wolf Gang's musical storytelling enthralled its audience

NIGEL SUTTON

Spring Wordsearch winner

With almost all entries correct the winner this time had strong competition from other Suburb enthusiasts! Sarah Jefferies has lived here all her life and is now

looking after her mother and teaching English as a foreign language. She also enjoys meetings of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Astronomical Society.

WORDSEARCH

In the box below are concealed 20 names of rocks, stones or metals of FOUR or more letters; and an extra one highlighted to start you off (don't include it in your total!) Names may be read in all directions, straight or diagonally. Entries should be listed on paper or a postcard and sent to Diana Woodfield, 5 Erskine Hill, NW11 6HA with your name, address and phone number. The closing date is September 20. All correct entries go into a draw to win a £20 voucher from Joseph's Bookstore.

A	C	F	G	O	M	P	O	O	L	I	T	E	L	A
W	M	R	S	Y	S	N	D	I	Z	B	M	F	K	A
E	U	B	A	S	A	L	T	G	S	D	L	O	G	T
V	X	W	E	P	N	O	N	Y	A	I	J	H	D	R
M	Z	C	G	R	D	Q	I	E	P	F	A	E	I	E
J	E	B	O	T	S	X	L	A	P	I	S	Y	A	N
U	N	P	R	C	T	L	F	Y	Z	D	U	E	M	O
Q	O	A	H	S	O	S	Q	U	A	R	T	Z	U	T
N	T	I	B	G	N	E	C	J	K	I	E	K	N	S
H	S	L	A	T	E	Z	B	L	N	O	R	L	D	E
T	R	E	V	L	I	S	A	A	S	V	E	I	X	M
D	A	M	L	N	P	H	R	E	T	Z	P	G	A	I
R	C	I	J	Y	C	G	Q	C	R	Y	S	T	A	L
A	W	S	G	V	F	X	U	K	O	N	A	R	V	E
M	U	I	N	I	M	U	L	A	H	C	J	A	D	E

The wordsearch prize is sponsored by

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SPRING WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

The 15 Suburb street names were: Asmunds Hill, Childs Way, Crispin Mews, Devon Rise, Eastholm, Grey Close, Hill Rise, Holyoake Walk, Linden Lea, Ludlow Way, Meadway, Milton Close, Oakwood Road, The Orchard, Wild Hatch.

Trust keen to train young residents



Southway's superb hedges

There has been the customary series of guided walks (eight this year) as part of the Proms week fundraising for Toynbee Hall and the North London Hospice. As usual the Trust staff did their bit for these excellent causes, and the four walks led by the Trust were largely blessed by fine weather and ran smoothly.

The walk that was not so blessed took place on the morning

of 28 June and was rained off by a cloudburst about half an hour after the start. The walk was aimed at families, and was entitled 'What do houses do for us?'

Huddled under umbrellas and a street tree, with rain pouring down all around, the pavements awash and Southway almost a river, we watched as water cascaded down the steeply pitched tiled roofs, diverted into the valley

gutters, was collected by the eaves gutters, poured into the hopper heads and thence into the downpipes and away underground. What a demonstration!

What do houses do for us? – They keep us dry! ... and houses keep us warm in winter and cool in summer; they keep us safe and private when we want privacy, they help us welcome guests through front doors of amazing variety, they give us windows of many types to let in light and air and to allow us to see out. On the Suburb hedges link our houses together so that they blend and group together to support a sense of place and of community. The superb hedges on Southway, immaculately clipped to sharp angles with perfectly smooth sides and tops, impressed the children on the walk as being almost part of the architecture of the houses. Even in the

twenty first century everyone on the walk recognised the important symbolism of the chimney stack and the hearth below as the heart of the home.

Provided with clip boards, the children on the walk looked carefully at how Suburb houses are constructed from simple materials, like brick and tile, used imaginatively to make attractive architecture. They produced some lovely drawings to take home when, pretty thoroughly drenched, they returned to their houses to get warm and dry.

We'd love to try this walk again in dryer weather with a few more participants. If you're interested in joining us over the summer holidays or as a school group during term time, please contact the Trust Education and Publication Assistant Lauren Geisler on lauren@hgstrust.org or at the Trust office, 8455 1066.

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