

The Spirit of England

News from the English Music Festival

Issue 2 - August 2005



EMF to launch Friends scheme

I am delighted to announce the formation of the Friends of the English Music Festival. The Friends scheme will be launched with a champagne reception at Hampton Court Palace on Saturday 3rd December 2005.

Friends schemes are the backbone of many cultural organisations – providing a vital support network and a focus for shared interests. You have already shown your support for English music; now I need you to do more, and demonstrate further your commitment to this project. By signing up as an EMF Friend you will be able to play a major part in making the English Music Festival the success that it deserves to be.

Sign up as a Friend before the end of September to receive two free tickets to the launch party at Hampton Court. Details of membership benefits are listed on page 2. To join the EMF Friends, please complete the enclosed form and send it with your cheque to the Festival office. If you are a UK taxpayer, don't forget to fill in your details on the Gift Aid form, as this means that the EMF, as a Registered Charity, can reclaim the tax on your donation.

I look forward to welcoming you as a Friend of the English Music Festival.

Continued on page 2

Join us at the Palace

We are very fortunate to have secured Hampton Court Palace as the venue for the launch of the Friends of the English Music Festival.



Hampton Court Palace

This magnificent sixteenth century building has strong connections with English music – composers associated with Hampton Court's Chapel Royal include Purcell, Tallis, Byrd, Gibbons, Boyce, Fayrfax, Attwood and Morley.

This is your opportunity to meet like-minded people while enjoying champagne and canapés in the awe-inspiring surroundings of Henry VIII's Palace. After the reception Friends will be able to sample a foretaste of the EMF in the form of an English song recital by Peter Savidge and David Owen Norris.

Those attending the launch party will also have the chance to take part in a private tour of Hampton Court, exploring "behind the scenes" and discovering some of the Palace's many hidden treasures.

So put the date in your diary now – and send in your completed membership form!

Continued from front page

There are five tiers to the Friends' scheme, offering an extensive range of benefits. The standard package, available to all tiers of membership, offers:

- Invitations to exclusive Friends' events and concerts
- Opportunities to meet performers
- Priority booking
- Special last-minute ticket offers
- Access to selected rehearsals

Ally – for an annual £50 donation:

- The first level of Friends membership entitles you to all the standard benefits listed above and 5% discount on Festival tickets

Supporter – £100 annually:

- All the standard benefits, plus:
- One free ticket for a Festival concert of your choice
- 5% discount on any additional Festival tickets

Advocate – £250 annually:

- All the standard benefits, plus:
- Two free tickets for Festival concerts of your choice
- 10% discount on any additional Festival tickets
- Invitations to exclusive receptions for Advocates, Companions and Associates
- Your name in the Festival programme as an Advocate

Companion – £500 annually:

- All the standard benefits, plus:
- Five free tickets for Festival concerts of your choice
- 10% discount on any additional Festival tickets
- Invitations to exclusive receptions for Advocates, Companions and Associates
- Your name in the Festival programme as a Companion
- Access to the Artists' tent

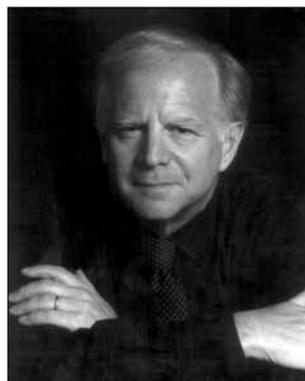
Associate – £1,000 annually:

- All the standard benefits, plus:
- One free pass for all Festival concerts
- 10% discount on any additional Festival tickets
- Access to the Artists' tent
- Invitations to exclusive receptions for Advocates, Companions and Associates
- Invitations to exclusive champagne receptions at Le Manoir with artists, EMF Vice-Presidents and other VIPs
- Your name in the Festival programme as an Associate

Dates, venues and a

The dates for the inaugural English Music Festival have been confirmed as Friday 20th to Tuesday 24th October, 2006. Please make a note of these – and don't book yourself for anything else while the Festival is on!

Many leading figures from the music world are now backing the EMF – recognising the importance of the Festival in putting English music back on the map. I am particularly delighted to welcome the distinguished conductor



Leonard Slatkin

Leonard Slatkin as the latest Vice-President of the EMF. Chief Conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra from 2000 to 2004, and a familiar face as conductor of the Last Night of the Proms during that time, he is now back in America as Music Director of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington DC

– but is still keenly watching developments here in the UK from across the Atlantic.

Since the last issue of *The Spirit of England*, I have been working to finalise the programmes for the first three festivals – 2006, 2007 and 2008. These are available on the EMF website (which is updated regularly) or, if you don't have internet access, by sending an SAE to the EMF office.

The principal EMF venue will be the abbey of Dorchester-on-Thames, but the Festival will also use the churches of neighbouring villages and a variety of other Oxfordshire venues, including Radley College and Raymond Blanc's award-winning restaurant and hotel Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons.



Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons

In addition to the performers announced in the last newsletter, newly signed-up artists include the internationally acclaimed counter-tenor Michael Chance, soprano Patrizia Kwella and violinist Philippe Graffin. I am delighted to announce that David Lloyd Jones, who will be known to you all as a conductor closely associated with the cause of English music, has agreed to be the Principal Guest Conductor for the English Music Festival.

Artists confirmed

I will make absolutely sure that, for five days at least, the county of Oxfordshire will echo to the strains of English music!

I have also been busy working on the details of the EMF educational programme, which aims to bring a unique experience

of English music to young people. State schools and independent schools alike are becoming involved in the



The Boys of Radley College in concert



Philippe Graffin

programme, including St Birinus Secondary School in Didcot, and Radley College. Educational activities will include talks in schools before and after the Festival, and joint school concerts.

Forthcoming events

Saturday 26th November: Elgar Society, Bristol. I shall be giving a talk on the EMF with musical excerpts.

Saturday 3rd December: EMF Friends' launch, Hampton Court Palace, followed by an English song recital by Peter Savidge and David Owen Norris. Join the Friends now and receive two free tickets for the reception.

By George!

I am very grateful for the donations I have received so far, and was quite overwhelmed by the response from you all following the last issue of The Spirit of England. Such generous donations have helped me to meet the day-to-day running costs of the EMF and provided a secure foundation on which to build for the future.

The most recent donation was from the Royal Society of St George Charitable Trust, one of the many grant-making trusts to whom I applied for funding earlier this year. So a big thank-you to the Royal Society of St George for supporting the EMF at this critical time!

Making the news

The EMF was featured recently in...

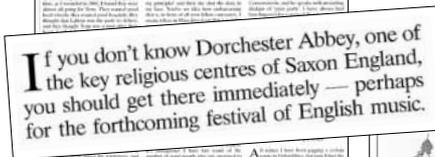
The Stage

You can read the full article online - the link is available on the EMF website "Links" page.



The Spectator

– editor Boris Johnson gave the Festival a plug in his Diary!



This England

– the glossy quarterly magazine is urging its readers to support the EMF.



And on the front page of Counterpoints – the magazine of the British Music Information Centre...

The Festival also had a high profile during the Classicale Show at

Olympia earlier this year, where we had our own exhibition stand immediately adjacent to one of the stage areas. This was the first exhibition devoted entirely to classical music and drew thousands of visitors, as well as many popular classical artists such as EMF Vice-President Julian Lloyd Webber. EMF leaflets and copies of The Spirit of England were distributed on the three days of the show, and there was a very positive response from everyone who visited the EMF stand or made contact with the Festival representatives.



Are you up to the challenge?

With so much already organised for 2006 and beyond, the one glaring hole in my plans is the lack of sponsorship money. I am working hard to get the funding in place in time for the first Festival but still need the help of all supporters and well-wishers. The only thing that could stop the English Music Festival happening is if I don't secure the sponsorship that the Festival requires. I need your help.

I would like each and every one of you to nominate at least five companies, whether large or small, or wealthy individuals, that you would be willing to approach on the Festival's behalf, or failing that, whose details you can pass on to me. If you are convinced you don't know any businesses at all, then come to me with the names of five contacts, business colleagues, friends or relatives I could talk to, who might be in a better position to help.

I am offering an incentive for this. Everyone nominating five or more companies or individuals, and providing their contact details, will be entered in a prize draw to win a Festival pass (covering all concerts at the 2006 Festival).

Use the form enclosed with this newsletter to tell me who you're nominating. If you need more forms, please let me know.

This will be such a huge help to me in the immense task of finding enough sponsors for the Festival to "make it happen" – and any assistance you can provide will be very much appreciated.

Vice-Presidents of the EMF:

Lord Armstrong of Ilminster - Lady Bliss
Lord Chadlington of Dean - Paul Guinery
Sir Simon Jenkins - Henry Kelly - Michael Kennedy
Julian Lloyd Webber - Professor Sir Patrick Moore
Sir Roger Norrington - The Marquess of Salisbury
Professor Roger Scruton - Leonard Slatkin
Ursula Vaughan Williams - Sir Rowland Whitehead Bt

And finally...

I've had an incredibly busy six months since the last issue of The Spirit of England. As you'll read elsewhere in this issue, dates and venues have been confirmed, more artists have signed up, and programmes for the first three years are now being finalised. I also have a date and venue for the launch of the Friends' scheme. This, in itself, will be a major step forward for the EMF. The Friends will provide a much-needed support network, and I urge you to join.

However, money is still tight, and, as anyone with experience of raising funds for charity knows, it takes a long time – and a lot of sleepless nights! – to get anywhere near your fund-raising targets. With the clock ticking away, and only 15 months to go before the first Festival, I need your help...

On a recent trip to Canada I was extremely impressed by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's Helpers' Group, and using their example I am hoping to form an equally proactive group to back the EMF. I urgently need volunteers to form an EMF Helpers' Group - people who are willing to give up some time and/or put their skills at the disposal of the EMF. Assistance is needed with tasks such as keeping the database updated, distributing leaflets and publicising the Festival, approaching companies for sponsorship, and helping me out with some of the day-to-day chores that running an ambitious project like this involves. Please fill in the enclosed form if you would like to join such a group and become more involved in this wonderful project.

Whilst in Canada I met up with EMF Music Director Bramwell Tovey, who once again stressed his commitment to the Festival and his enthusiasm for this immensely important cause. I also had the great pleasure of hearing Bramwell conduct the VSO in a fine performance of Elgar's Piano Concerto, with the ever-inimitable David Owen Norris as soloist, and what I believe must have been one of the very best performances ever of the Enigma Variations (conducted from memory). Both pieces were extremely well received by the Canadian audience – proving that English music has a truly worldwide appeal.

It is marvellous to have someone as talented as Bramwell on our side!



Em Marshall
Managing & Artistic Director



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