

## High Class Concerts at St Mary's

By Sue Prentice

One of the highlights since the Covid restrictions were eased has been the resumption of concerts at St Mary's. We have long had a tradition for quality music at the church and have been privileged to have hosted some top class musicians. It is rare to find such high quality musicians on our doorstep and to have them play at our monthly lunchtime concerts in our church is very special and should be celebrated.

We are very grateful to Richard Marshall who organizes the concerts and has brought some exceptional musicians this last year and has an exciting programme lined up for 2022.

Our first concert in September was given by Callum Alger, a young Organist who really made our lovely organ sing. Callum is currently studying for a postgraduate professional performance diploma at the Birmingham Conservatoire in addition to being interim Director of Music at St Peter's Church Northampton. He has given numerous solo recitals as well as winning prizes in a number of competitions, appearing on BBC Radio3 and also releasing a CD.

In October we were privileged to host Giacomo Susani who gave a wonderful guitar recital including playing some of his own compositions. He studied at the Royal Academy of Music and now teaches guitar at the Junior Academy. He is a regular soloist and has taken part in many international competitions and is supported in his career by the Julian Bream Trust.



We concluded our concerts this year with a fabulous recital given by the pupils of the Yehudi Menuhin School. It is always so humbling to see these talented, young people play such wonderful music and to know that we have such close links with the school, our neighbours is a special thing to foster. We had an excellent turnout for this concert and hope that this will be repeated in 2022.

We have some top notch performers lined up in 2022 and on January 27<sup>th</sup> kick off our new season with Peter Cigleris and Dina Duisen playing a clarinet and piano recital.



Peter is in demand both as a solo clarinetist and a chamber musician. He has played on BBC Radio 3 multiple times and has performed for various music clubs and festivals around the UK. He graduated from the Birmingham Conservatoire and Royal College of Music and has performed internationally. He has a number of recordings under his belt most recently with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

He will be accompanied by Dina Duisen, again an internationally acclaimed pianist who performs both individually, as a chamber musician and as an accompanist. She currently works at the Royal College of Music and Royal Academy of Music.

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February our own Oliver Macfarlane will be accompanying Crispian Steele-Perkins who will be performing a trumpet recital. Crispian is a critically acclaimed international trumpeter who has performed over a number of decades with many of the world's leading orchestras. Crispian has done much to promote historically accurate trumpet playing. In addition to this work he has done a wide variety of television and film work, most famously he played the theme tune to the popular television programme [\*Antiques Roadshow\*](#).



We are so lucky to have such international stars as Peter, Dina and Crispian playing at St Mary's in 2022. Please do tell your friends and family and help us to publicise the concerts.

As well as enjoyable events the concerts are also a fantastic fund raising activity for the church. There is no need to book and we do not charge for entry, however we are grateful for generous contributions through the retiring collection.

