

Soundbites

Christopher Benham



Soundbites came into being in November 1996. So this month we celebrate our tenth anniversary!

As a music student in Colchester, I had been surrounded by lunchtime concerts. There were two each week given by staff and students of the college, another was held in the town's United Reformed Church and another a little further afield at Mary-le-Tower Church in Ipswich. I hoped the people of Hertford would prove as supportive as those in Essex and Suffolk.

Just four recitals were planned initially and Rose Pullum cleverly coined the term 'Soundbites' as the eye catching title. A small group of volunteers buttered rolls beforehand which had been donated by Pearce's Bakery. Retiring donations were put towards the cost of overhauling the fine Willis organ.

Ten years on and we have welcomed hundred of musicians to Hertford, buttered thousands of rolls, and made many new friends! The Organ was rebuilt and enlarged in 2001 and more recently, a new piano replaced the church's worn instrument. I hope the next ten years will be as exciting.

The first two concerts this month bring together the musicians who performed in those first four Soundbites concerts in 1996.

On **November 1st** clarinettist Vanessa Parker, horn player Richard Dilley and I will be joined

by other musicians for a performance of Poulenc's vibrant *Sextet for Piano and Wind*.

The following week, **November 8th**, soprano Lynn Toynbee and tenor Cecil Elliston-Ball will be joined by 'A Parlour of Singers' for a recital of solos, part songs and madrigals.

Three members of Haileybury's music staff joined forces two years ago and formed the Bradby Piano Trio. They performed for us last year and will return on **November 15th** to perform Shostakovich's *Second Trio*. 2006 is the 100th anniversary of his birth and it is fitting that a concert dedicated to his music should be included this season.

Beethoven's famous '*Pathetique*' Sonata and Debussy's *Clair de Lune* will feature in Lillian Watson's piano recital on **November 22nd** and Brahms is back on the menu on **November 29th** when newcomer Andrew Pummell will perform the *Clarinet Sonata in F Minor*.

The series will be rounded of on **December 6th** by the Simon Balle School Wind Band playing some seasonal favourites.

We look forward to welcoming you regularly to enjoy fine music, tasty food and a warm welcome.

...*from the Editor*

I hope you've enjoyed reading this month's magazine. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to it.

If you have ideas, suggestions, articles or even a response to something in the magazine please let me have it. You can contact me at 48, Norton Road, Letchworth Garden City, Herts., SG6 1AE, Drawer 41 in the Vestry, editor@allsaintsalive.freemove.co.uk or 01462 677865.

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