



CAVATINA Chamber Music Trust

NEWSLETTER

One more year has flown away. 2005 was a landmark year in *CAVATINA*'s history: we have now reached 50 000 children and young people through our school concerts. The demand for these concerts is now coming from all parts of the UK and even from abroad, as the details below describe. The Jeremiahs who assert that chamber music is dead, are happily very wrong. We had a busy year and a few of the highlights of the year are summarised in this Newsletter.

The number of *CAVATINA* Friends is increasing all the time and we are happy to report that during 2005 at least 15 (out of 40) School Concerts were paid for out of the generous donations made by our Members. If every Friend would recruit one additional Friend, we could pay for 30 School Concerts and our life would become much easier. A challenge to all of you for 2006!!! Nella Marcus will be delighted to hear from you.

Peter Scheuer, *CAVATINA* Trustee

To our great regret, Professor Peter Scheuer has retired from the Board of Trustees of the *CAVATINA Chamber Music Trust* due to ill health. Peter joined us at the very beginning of the project in 1998 and has been a passionate, dedicated and creative member of the team. Wherever Peter went he spread the 'Good Word' about *CAVATINA* and single-handedly was responsible for gaining significant funds from a number of Foundations and recruiting new *CAVATINA* Friends. We wish to thank him for his valuable advice, ideas and generosity and will miss him greatly.



New *CAVATINA* Newsletter Editor

Dr Carol Lovelidge is our new newsletter editor. Carol and her husband, Gordon Pringle have been *CAVATINA* friends for some years. Carol responded promptly to Simon's plea for volunteers in last year's Newsletter. Carol is a neuroscientist and spent many years as a lecturer in Biochemistry at Guys Hospital Medical School. For the last 16 years she has worked as a scientific and medical writer and editor. Gordon is an outstanding cello teacher and chamber music coach and they have two children - both musicians. Carol comes with enthusiasm and ideas and is already enjoying her new job with *CAVATINA*. She finds writing the *CAVATINA* newsletter is much more enjoyable than writing the minutes of Editorial Board Meetings! Carol's e-mail address: calovelidge@yahoo.co.uk



***CAVATINA* goes International...**

When *CAVATINA* started eight years ago no-one dreamed that one day the *CAVATINA*-concept would find its way abroad. Gabor Takacs-Nagy, the eponymous founder of the famous Takacs Quartet and now a Professor in the Geneva Conservatoire, got very excited when he saw what *CAVATINA* is doing in the UK. It was decided to replicate the idea in Geneva using Gabor's students, and the whole project was organized by an outstanding arts administrator, Karin Rivollet. This resulted in five school concerts, undertaken by Quatuor Incanto from the Conservatoire de Genève, performed to 10-year-olds from L'Institut Florimont in Geneva.



Children in the Florimont Institute School in Geneva trying string instruments the first time in their lives!

Following the school concerts a large number of children and their parents attended a concert in the lovely Victoria Hall. Here is the 'feedback' letter which we received shortly afterwards:



"Two nights ago I went with our girls to the concert and I was incredibly pleased to see the Victoria Hall choc-a-bloc with children and their parents.

Last night, I met Karin at another concert and she told me that 300 people went to that concert, directly thanks to the presentation in the school. There were at least 100 children plus parents and siblings so I think we can qualify it as a TOTAL success. I was so thrilled and Karin was positively beaming. She told me that one mother had come to her and said that her child had always refused to take up an instrument but after this concert came to her and asked to be able to learn the violin. I think it's all very encouraging. Like Simon says, if only ONE child becomes a chamber music lover, it was worthwhile."

Lesley de Sanger-Takacs-Nagy

We have now been approached by a Prague-based group of musicians who want to initiate a similar project in the Czech Republic. China next?

Pro Corda young musicians playing in Prague

"Pro Corda, The National School for Young Chamber Music Players and CAVATINA Chamber Music Trust have been linked for many years and long may the partnership continue. The most recent joint project was a Pro Corda tour of the Czech Republic in December to give concerts in Prague and Olomouc, the capital of Moravia. The tour grew out of a long standing connection with The Wihan Quartet and three young Czech violinists who live in Prague and are members of Senior Pro Corda. Pro Corda expresses its gratitude to CAVATINA for securing a most wonderful venue for the first concert of the tour in Prague. A very large audience in the Church, dedicated to St Lawrence, in Hellikova Street listened spell-bound to works by Turina, Shostakovich, Dvorak and Schumann. The second concert of the tour was hosted by the Music School in Olomouc and took place in the Moravian Philharmonic Hall.



Prague glistened in the snow. The warmth and affection of the host families was memorable, and seven young talented musicians from England had a most rewarding time experiencing the delights of the Czech Republic for the first time."

Dr. Ioan Davies, Music Director of Pro Corda

University Ambassadors for CAVATINA Junior Friends

Daniel Ledermann, our first University Ambassador has been busy in Oxford and arranged the first Oxford University CAVATINA concert that took place on Sunday January 22nd at 6pm in the Holywell Music Room. To say that this was an immense success would be an understatement. Daniel's trio started with a performance of Beethoven's piano trio Opus 1 No 3 to be proud of; The Wihan Quartet followed with a sensational performance of Dvorák's 'American' Quartet which had the large, mainly student audience mesmerized. Finally we were treated to the Mendelssohn Octet played by the Wihan Quartet joined by the student Holywell Quartet. This was a vibrant and exciting performance in which the students were lifted to high realms by the energy and superb musicianship of their performing colleagues. This was truly a memorable evening and chamber music must surely have won some young hearts and audience for the future. We extend our warm thanks and congratulations to Daniel on his first success as our ambassador.

New CAVATINA Ambassador in Bristol University

We are pleased to announce that Luke Aldworth Davis was appointed as the CAVATINA Ambassador at Bristol University. Luke is currently in his second year at Bristol University, reading Music. He formerly played the piano but has concentrated on conducting following injury. Luke is active within the university's music life, sitting on the Music Society committee and conducting the University String Orchestra. Many of the CAVATINA Friends may remember Luke when he acted as the page turner during the wonderful Fidelio Piano Quartet concert.





Chamber Music Competition at South Hampstead High School

CAVATINA has a long and happy affiliation with South Hampstead High School and we have been delighted by the enthusiastic response of the staff and girls to *CAVATINA* concerts there over the years, which has led to the establishment of thriving chamber music groups at the school. This year marked the school's fourth Chamber Music Festival in which a remarkable 12 groups, including both string and wind groups and piano trios, participated. The festival took the form of a competition adjudicated by Maureen Smith, Deputy Head of String at the Royal College of Music, who chose a group which played the first movement from the Mendelssohn E-minor quartet, Opus 44, No 2 as winners. The members of the winning quartet were invited to be Junior *CAVATINA* Friends. *CAVATINA* donated a prize for the competition. The Wihan Quartet will be returning to South Hampstead to give a concert on May 18th.

CAVATINA Chamber Music Competitions in Cardiff and London

The two annual *CAVATINA* Chamber Music Competitions at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff and Trinity College of Music, Greenwich took place again in 2005 on March 11, and May 15, respectively and provided great entertainment for their enthusiastic audiences. In Cardiff there were three piano trios and a string quartet in the final. The Adjudicators were Edmond Fivet (The Principal of the Welsh College of Music and Drama) and Marion Friend (Director of Junior Trinity). The winning group was Trio Arte.

The Trinity College Competition final in which two piano trios and a string quartet took part, was adjudicated by Mark Messenger (Head of Strings at the Royal College of Music) and Naomi Sadler (Editor of the *Strad* Magazine). The Bomond Trio took the prize with their highly professional and wonderfully musical performance of Beethoven's piano trio in B flat major, Opus 97, *The Archduke*. We were delightfully entertained during the tea break in the Loggia by the Junior Trinity Tallis Quartet.

Both Competitions have become important events in the calendar of both Colleges. The winners of the first Competition in Cardiff - the Mavron Quartet, is making progress on the professional scene and also as an active ensemble undertaking 'outreach' work on behalf of *CAVATINA*.

The two competitions will be repeated in 2006 on 10th March at the RWCMD, Cardiff and on 7th May at TCM, Greenwich. The Cardiff competition will be the centre point of a ChamberFest. Two dates for your diary.

Prize for the winning caption...

This postcard (open air chamber music) was brought to our notice. Readers are invited to think of a suitable caption. The most amusing entry will receive a CD as a prize. Please send your entries to *CAVATINA*'s office.



Nella Marcus - *CAVATINA* Friends' administrator writes:

Another year has passed - another successful one for *CAVATINA*. Membership numbers continue to increase and retention is still high. We are grateful to all our Friends for this achievement - it could not have been done without your commitment and generosity. Many of our new Friends have come through your efforts in introducing your own friends to our activities and events, so we must say once again please carry on this good work. It has helped us to mount more schools concerts and so bring Chamber Music to children who may never have had the opportunity to hear it. So a big 'thank you' to all our Friends and we hope to see you at various events planned for the coming year. Thank you for your Friendship and have a wonderful year and - keep listening.

CAVATINA School Concerts



After three years we lost a very considerable sum generously donated for administration purposes by a charitable foundation. Our ensembles have now taken over their own administration for their concerts under the guidance and support of Pamela. Alas we had to release Sophie Prett from her part-time post which she performed so well and with great dedication.

Sophie Prett writes her 'goodbye'

"I thoroughly enjoyed my two years working as Administrator for CAVATINA School concerts. Seeing the children's faces light up at the sight and sound of musicians playing made all the work worthwhile! Receiving their concert feedback in words and pictures was also highly inspirational.

CAVATINA's involvement with music societies inspired me to offer my services to Hendon Music Society where I was appointed as the voluntary Chairman. Of course the Society is affiliated to the free CAVATINA Ticket Scheme for students aged 8-22 and has already increased its young audience, which is exciting.

Many thanks, Pamela and Simon, for all your help and encouragement throughout my time with CAVATINA; long may you continue your superb work!"

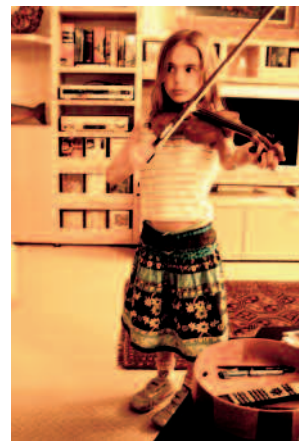
*Please contact Sophie for the Hendon Music Society brochure. Tel: 020 8954 9376
www.hendonmusicsociety.org.uk*

Carol Lovelidge - Newsletter Editor's first CAVATINA School Concerts

I have now had the chance to attend five school concerts since I signed on as the Newsletter Editor (at the moment Simon's assistant until I have learned the job thoroughly!). These were at two senior schools and three junior schools. I have thoroughly enjoyed all of them and been inspired and learned a great deal. I have been so impressed at the high professional standards of presentations and imaginative and innovative ways in which each group engaged their young audiences at all levels. I have also been impressed with the children themselves - well-behaved and willing to join in and contribute to the happenings, particularly the younger age groups. I look forward to many more and recommend strongly to all CAVATINA Friends to come to one or more of these wonderful events.

"I play the violin"

Alison Irvine's 6-year-old grand-daughter, Hazel, tried Simon's violin on a visit to our home last autumn. She drew the bow across the strings and liked the sound! Imagine Alison's surprise when she took Hazel to a children's workshop at Wigmore Hall and she eagerly put up her hand when the young audience was asked "Does anyone here play the violin?" Lessons are being arranged!



CAVATINA Chamber Music Trust

52D Maresfield Gardens, London NW3 5RX; Tel: 020 7435 8479; FAX: 020 7431 2737
e-mail: majaro@cavatina.net; www.cavatina.net

CAVATINA Friends Office: Nella Marcus, 16 Estelle Road, London NW3 2JY
Tel: 020 7428 9885 e-mail: neljoy@britishlibrary.net

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