

Dear All

Only two days to go and this year's festival begins! I hope you are looking forwards to it as much as I am.

Each day throughout the festival, as in previous years, I will endeavour to send out an email giving you useful information with regards to each concert and updating you on things like ticket availability etc.

Also, from Monday, the Mumbling Maestro will be back with his musical musings - hopefully bringing a smile to your face each day.

Our first concert will be on Monday when the London Conchord Ensemble will be opening the festival with the first of three days of concerts by the ensemble. There are a few tickets left for this concert. If you, or your friends, wish to purchase any, please contact the box office at The Grand Theatre until Sunday evening (01792 475 715). After that any tickets left will be available on the door of the church.

The Ensemble will be playing Johannes Brahms' Piano Quintet in f minor (Opus 34); Zemlinsky's Trio in d minor for Clarinet, Cello and Piano (Opus 3) and Johann Strauss II's Emperor Waltz Opus 437 arranged for flute, clarinet, piano and string quartet.

There is parking in the neighbouring area at St Peter's Church in Newton. If you require disabled parking please let me know as soon as possible and I will find out if there are any parking places still available.

Cheers will be at the concert to provide the usual drinks both before the concert and during the interval. There are very good toilet facilities in the church hall.

May I also take this opportunity to remind those of you who have already booked their places, of the Friends Pre-Concert drinks reception at 6.30pm. If you haven't let me know that you wish to come, and now find you are able to attend, please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

The Festival Programme will be available both at the reception and in the church. This year the cost is only £3, remarkably good value for one concert, let alone the whole Festival. Please make sure you purchase your copy so that you have a further insight to the music being played at each concert you attend, a little about the performers and the churches they are playing in, but also to support the Gower Festival. A big thank you must go to the small group of people who have collated the information, proof-read and printed the festival programme. When you open it you will see what a fantastic job they have done. It has involved a lot of work and a lot of stress!

Roger and Angie Taylor are sponsoring this concert, and we are very grateful to them, and to all the other sponsors of this year's Festival, for their generosity. Without our sponsors it would be difficult to be able to have musicians of the calibre you will hear this year. If you would like to consider sponsoring a concert during next year's festival, please get in touch and we will send you details of how you can do that.

I look forward to seeing many of you on Monday,
Best wishes,
Anne (Pope)