

Dear All

I knew I shouldn't have wished you all a happy Christmas in my last email, neither should I have said that I wouldn't be emailing again before the New Year! There are a few little bits of information that you might be interested in – and they can't wait until the New Year!

Firstly, Pavel Kolesnikov and Samson Troy will be giving a rare performance of Bartok's Sonata for two pianos and percussion next Monday, 2 December at 1pm as part of Radio 3's live Lunchtime Concert Series from the Wigmore Hall. They have thrilled us with their performances in the past, and I am very happy to announce that Pavel will be returning to the Gower Festival on Saturday 4th July next year at St Peter's Church, Newton.

Secondly, The London Conchord Ensemble have written a very glowing report about their visit to the Gower Festival on their website. The relevant parts read as follows:

"As our thoughts turn to the Christmas season, London Conchord takes a moment to reflect on our busy Spring and Summer seasons from the past year:



London Conchord Rehearsing for Gower Festival 2019

In June, the Gower Festival invited London Conchord to be the first Ensemble-in-Residence in the festival's history. Over the course of three days, Conchord presented four concerts in different venues in this stunning part of the world. We opened the festival with a Viennese programme showcasing some of the works from our recent "Vienna" CD: Zemlinsky's Clarinet Trio, Brahms's Piano Quintet, and Schoenberg's wonderful arrangement for chamber ensemble of Johann Strauss II's Kaiserwalzer. The second concert was in the remote and exquisite church at Reynoldston, and treated the audience to some intimate earlier music by Bach (father and son) and Purcell. The musicians rounded off their residency with an all-Mozart programme in the magnificent surroundings of the Glyn Vivian Art Gallery in Swansea.

One of the highlights of the residency in the Gower (aside from coastal walks and a dip in the sea!) was the school concert/workshop in a primary school in Sketty. Daniel Rowland had 500 children in

the palm of his hand as he and the other ensemble members led them through a musical voyage of discovery. The students' singing and responsiveness was amazing and huge fun was had by all!

