



# Music 2003/4



## VINEHALL SCHOOL MUSIC SOCIETY Fifteenth Season 2003-2004

Having booked one of the world's great concert pianists, it was not at all surprising when the bookings for the new season descended like a tidal wave in the first week of August! We started the season with the Hugo Wolf Quartet who performed quartets by Mozart, Mendelssohn and Beethoven's great first Rasumovsky Quartet. As ever, it is lovely to hear the audience in the interval and at the end debating which work they had enjoyed most.

The second concert was meant to be by Radu Lupu. Unfortunately, the great man was unwell and we were left to find a pianist at very short notice. Fortunately, the Australian pianist Piers Lane was available and he stepped into the breach superbly. With performances of Schumann's C major Fantasy as well as works by Chopin and Rachmaninov the audience was treated to some exceptional playing.

In February we welcomed back the Fibonacci Sequence. This talented group of players combine to perform works which irritatingly cross the normal lines of instrumental combinations and thus tend to be heard mainly in the recorded format and not so much live. Hence we had a beautiful Mozart Flute Quartet, Ravel's Introduction and Allegro for Flute, Harp and Quartet and finished with Mozart's Clarinet Quintet.

The March concert was by the talented group of young musicians known as the Chamber of London. Unfortunately, the concert was affected by a replacement baritone, who had developed a cold and the vagaries of the Vinehall electrics, which plunged us into darkness as the Dvorak Piano Quartet was being performed. The players managed to play the slow movement in semi darkness, while I raced around pushing switches until light was restored!

The Oxford Orchestra da Camera is a group of talented players who came to Vinehall in their 'string ensemble' format. They performed works by Elgar, Dvorak and Tchaikovsky. It was lovely to hear a fuller string sound from a larger number of players. It is difficult to fit more than about eighteen on the Vinehall stage, so we were at our limits!

The May concert was given by the outstanding duo of the Austrian violinist Ben Schmid and the Chilean pianist, Alfredo Perl. Their performance of sonatas by Ravel, Beethoven and Schubert were absolutely first-class.

The season finished with a performance of songs by the American Mezzo, Barbara Rerick accompanied by Sir Richard Rodney Bennett. They chose a selection of songs by Spanish composers and a selection of songs by Sir Richard and then Harold Arlen, Cole Porter and an outrageous encore by Stephen Sondheim! The evening was made even more perfect by the warm sunshine and the Pimm's!



Sir Richard Rodney Bennett

I am deeply grateful to all those who have assisted me this season, the Everist family, Mrs Pat Webster, Mrs Elsie Smith, Miss May Johnson, Mrs Heather Howorth and the bursarial department. I am also very grateful to our chefs, who provide delicious suppers for our performers and Andy Rennie who has helped set up the Pre-Prep hall.

AGW

## BRUNDIBAR

*Brundibar was fun and I learnt a lot about Chetham's. They were very talented people and were very easy to work with. We are very privileged to work with them.*

**Matthew Pexton**

*Last week on the 19th September 2003 I performed in an Opera called 'Brundibar' with the rest of the senior choir at Vinehall and also the choir from Chetham's school of music in Manchester. Brundibar is about a boy and his sister who need to buy milk for their mother who is sick in bed but they have no money. They eventually get some money by singing in the street but when they say thank-you the Evil organ Grinder Brundibar steals it but is soon caught by the police. We were the chorus and sang in the songs and helped the children defeat Brundibar.*

**Harriet Colderick**

*We performed a Czech musical called Brundibar. It was about a boy and his sister who needed money to buy milk for their sick mother. They see Brundibar, an organ grinder earning money. So they get help from their animal friends and they sing a song and earn the money. But Brundibar tries to steal but they catch him. They buy the milk and live happily ever after. This musical was performed by captive Jews in the concentration camps as entertainment.*

**Arun Sau**

*We performed two performances, one in the afternoon and one in the evening, both being a great success. It was amazing how talented they were and also how modest. We did many practices with the staff and it was great fun. The story was also very inspiring about what children can really do when they want to do it.*

**Edward Neill**

*We loved doing Brundibar it was great. Chetham's were fab and were very talented. The sound was amazing. We thought that they were very friendly and we were very lucky to be in it. The Chetham's staff helped us with the Czech words.*

**Poppy, Felix and Georgie**