

Spring 2024

CHERUBIM A New Chapter



Chris Christodoulou

Classical music education is going through a challenging time, no question! But the achievements of Cherubim Young Musicians are bright spots in a murky world. Presently we support over 50 young musicians with the 'tools of their trade'; and that number is rising all the time as our instrument collection expands.

Now, the exciting news is that after 23 years of helping tomorrow's musicians today we're going start helping tomorrow's composers too. This year James B Wilson, our new Composer in Association will be creating new works expressly for our instrumentalists.

Find us at cherubimtrust.org/ &
youtube.com/c/CherubimMusicTrust



Marikit Akiwumi
benefits from the
Anne Holmes legacy

Welcome

It's been over a year since our last newsletter. Time to catch up!



Each newsletter represents a milestone on the tremendous journey Cherubim has made over 23 years.

From our first home-produced efforts to the effortless elegance of **Harry Sutherland-Hawes'** designs, we have now moved on to a creative relationship designer with **Ros Russell**, one of a number of people giving creative support to our frontline activity of lending instruments. A printed newsletter offers opportunities to celebrate more of Cherubim's activities

than online publishing can.

There are various significant developments under way, which you can read about. We have been joined this year by **Arturo Serna** as Deputy Director [see opposite]. And as a result of a very substantial bequest from the estate of **Anne Holmes**, a musician / educator / concert promoter [see p7] we shall be appointing a 'composer in association', **James B Wilson**, so that we can make a real-time contribution to the musical world. His first commission will be a new work for flautist **Lily Owens**. The purpose of all these activities is to raise our profile, since 'being found' is central to Cherubim's ability to serve our stakeholders.

We can't help anyone if nobody knows about us!

Michael Maxwell Stan
Director

A new silver flute

Supporters will already know of the extraordinary good fortune whereby we were able to buy a £16,000 Levit silver flute for Wells Scholar **Lily Owens** during 2023 thanks to donations from members of the Savile Club and the family and friends of our former Chair, **David**



Ganderton. It has therefore been named the '*Savile Club – David Ganderton*' flute.

Lily Owens has been appointed the youngest ever Principal Flute of the NYO, and performs Huw Watkins Flute Concerto in Wells Cathedral with Wells CS SO in the summer.

We are presently commissioning a work for her from James B Wilson, which we hope will receive a premiere in a year's time.



Lily Owens & James B Wilson

News

Arturo Serna has been working with us as Deputy Director in charge of instruments & outreach for six months. He is second generation El Sistema, Venezuela, having been initially taught by his mother, a violinist in the Simon Bolivar SO. He subsequently studied in France, Switzerland and holds a Masters in Conducting with Distinction from the University of Surrey. Now based in Sherborne, Dorset, Arturo conducts several west country orchestras.



Liliia Konstantinova is an exciting example of how Cherubim can help change young musicians' lives. Already an advanced harpist at 15 in Kharkiv, Ukraine, her mother fled with Liliia and her sister to Czechia after Russian invasion. Through the determined persistence of Trinity-Laban harp professor Gabriella Dall'Olio and her British foster-parents Penny & Mike Davies, Liliia was granted visa to study



in England, and is now attending school as well as music college. Sadly her mother and sister were unable to accompany her; and her father remains fighting in Ukraine. In May she will be giving a fund-raising

concert in aid of the musicians she left behind; some of whom are seen here in happier days.



Wells Cathedral School. As a result of our connection through Lily Owens and her teacher Susie Hodder-Williams we have now forged a relationship with the Music Department; and since this photo was taken on a visit there in November we now have an additional four instruments loaned to their scholars, including several loaned to us by Myra & Graham Bennett.



Kit Cookson with 'Myers' cello, Simon Smith Head of Strings, Alex Laing Director of Music, Katie Messenger with 'Rothermere-Gosling' bassoon, Ed Leaker Head of Wind, MMS, Susie Hodder-Williams and her student Lily Owens, Harry Jordan with 'Davies' cello.

We welcome

Esmé MacBride-Stewart has had a busy first year at the RNCM and Manchester University. She has also been active in performing on her Cherubim horn, most recently in the RNCM Brand New Orchestra, and at a concert of Verdi's Requiem with the UoM Music Society and Chorus. She has taken up conducting, and has been working with both the UoM Music Society SO and Wind Orchestra, as well as MD-ing a concert with the Musical Theatre Society. She is looking forward to an equally busy and exciting 2024!



.....

Theo Tinkler has been settling in at the RCM and consolidating his classical technique with his teacher Catherine Rimer. "I have really enjoyed finally being able to focus on historical performance techniques and practices, delving into baroque and classical treatises. I have also had the privilege of playing the Haydn in a side-by-side project with the Academy of Ancient Music; and was asked to play unaccompanied Bach, Dall'Abaco and scottish trad. at the Bethlem Gallery Arts Festival.



"During a module in French 18thC Music led by Prof. Reiko Ichise, I felt called to take up the viola da gamba, and will start in the new year, joining in the RCM Viol Consort. As a cellist in the RCM Baroque Orchestra I'm playing JS/JC/WF Bach in London and Oxford, and touring with them to Salzburg and Sienna. I have also

formed a HIP string quartet, primarily playing music from the classical era. As well as all of this, I continue to develop my technique on the 1828 **Corsby cello**, and am really enjoying continuing to find new sounds and depth to the instrument."

.....

Diego Hoshino's musical journey began in 2017 when he joined a local community orchestra offering free instrumental tuition to London children called The Nucleo Project. Choosing flute, which he had never played before, within just seven months Diego was accepted as a member of the National Children's Orchestra, staying for three years. Subsequently he was also selected for The National Schools SO, The



Sistema Europe Orchestra and Chineke! Junior Orchestra, with whom he toured Europe as Principal Flute. In 2019 Diego received a full scholarship to the Junior RCM, and started volunteering at The Nucleo Project to mentor younger flute players. Since 2020 he has been a Music Scholar at Wells Cathedral School, where he studies flute with Susie Hodder-Williams, participating in ensembles, orchestras and jazz studies.

.....

Yijia Cui's Autumn began with Shostakovich 8 with the CBSO. "To be playing with them was very special to me as I spent four years listening to their concerts during my time at college. Otherwise, a lot of pit work, beginning with the brilliant *Don Quixote* at the Royal Opera House and then spending November driving to Glyndebourne to be part of the Jerwood Pit-Perfect scheme, which I cannot recommend highly enough to new graduates. It was a real treat to be working with the incredible Glyndebourne Sinfonia and I count my lucky stars to have had the opportunity to have been in *Don Giovanni* and *L'elisir d'amore*. As part of the scheme we put on a chamber concert with members of the Glyndebourne Sinfonia, giving us a chance to share the stage with legends such as Sir John Tomlinson.



"Towards the end of November I played the Cherubim double bass in the RPO in two sold out Royal Albert Hall concerts with Lang Lang and Gina Alice Redlinger. The atmosphere was incredible. That was followed by performing Brahms and Mahler with the Bournemouth. "

.....

Harry Jordan writes: "I have really been enjoying getting to know the *Aitchison 'Davies'* cello over the past three months. In half-term I was lucky enough to take it on a three day familiarisation trip to Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York where I am considering studying. I met Professor Steven Doane and watched some chamber music coaching and concerts.



"Back at Wells Cathedral School, apart from my solo concerts, as the Symphony Orchestra's Principal Cellist I performed the cello solo [seen here] in the Duruflé Requiem in the Cathedral on Remembrance day, and Beethoven's Fifth as well as Corelli's Christmas Concerto. Outside school I am Principal Cellist in Somerset Choral Society's string ensemble; and played many carol concerts in the weeks before Christmas."

We plan to present him and Kit Cookson in a concert in Tisbury on 13th April.

Handel Choral Weekend

Cherubim Chamber Choir & Orchestra

Wardour Chapel, Wilts. October 2023

For 10 years we have presented a celebration of Cherubim Young Musicians each autumn. In 2018 we extended the idea by adding a volunteer choir to offer the choral majesty of Gabrieli, conducted by Greg Skidmore. Vivaldi followed and, after Covid, Purcell. The latest iteration featured Handel, and alumnus Harry Bradford took the Cherubim Chamber Choir and Orchestra into new territory of excellence.

You will find this and other performances on YouTube. Search *CherubimMusicTrust*. Apart from some striking vocal solos, the evening was also noteworthy for a sad event, being the last to be led by **Gabriella Jones**, for whom we bought the 1756 Kloz violin, in memory of Keith Dale. She is going forward with her successful career, and handing it to fellow HIP (Historically Informed Performance) musician **Andrew Taheny**.

The splendours of Wardour Chapel, and its excellent acoustics make a marvelous environment; and its galleries offer ample opportunities for spatial effects. One of the purposes of putting on such events is that it brings our Cherubim Young Musicians together for specialised coaching, and we hope that as our instrument

collection grows we shall be able to feature larger ensembles from our own resources.

We are particularly grateful to our design guru **Ros Russell** for the outstanding photos you will find on our website under the Gallery tab.

We also want to thank all our helpers at the various events. You know who you are, and the supporting role you play is greatly appreciated.



Harry Bradford



Gabriella Jones



Steve Jobbins



Music Alfresco

Cherubim Musicians

Fonthill House, Wilts. April 2023

At the invitation of Alastair Morrison, Lord Margadale, Cherubim was delighted to present a summer music festival in the sumptuous grounds of Fonthill House. Not only was it a great success in its own right, attended by 600 people, but thanks to the generosity of Lord Margadale and his brilliant team, it raised £10,000 for Cherubim and made a significant contribution to the Levit silver flute for Lily Owens.

And the event offered a unique opportunity for outreach, presenting classical music in an accessible environment for both young and old alike. We had an exciting array of performers including the distinguished manouche guitarist **Cornelius Corkery** who accompanied our versatile violinist **Casey-Joan Whyte** in gipsy jazz.

Thanks to the wonderful photography of **Chris Christodoulou** we hope to be able to repeat this winning formula elsewhere, and are advertising in the National Gardens Scheme brochure to find new possibilities.



Lord Margadale with Vivien Kröner, Nicole Ma, Ivan Rogachev, Alexia-Cristiana Pasquariello, Emily Ambrose



Casey-Joan Whyte



Lily Owens & Clara Gatti-Comini



Cooperative Drumming

Toril Azzalini-Machecler & Alex Miles
Wylve Valley School, Codford St Mary
Wilts. Jan-June 2023



We have long been concerned at the neglect of music in schools. Where is the next generation of musicians coming from, if kids don't receive even basic music skills?

In 2018 we put forward a proposal to the Coop to run drumming workshops in a local primary school; and funding was agreed before Covid, but in the aftermath



heard our smallest children drumming and forming bands in their outdoor learning area, and teachers in our school now feel more confident about including music in lessons.

aligning interests took a long while to align all the parties' interests. Having wanted to do something that went deeper than a mere workshop the final scheme involved Wiltshire drumming master **Alex Miles** giving six months of fortnightly drumming classes to Years 5+6 of Wylve Valley School, near Warminster, Wilts – book-ended by visits from Cherubim Young Musician & BBC Young Musician finalist **Toril Azzalini-Machecler**.

"Toril's performances were really inspiring and just to be able to see and hear real concert instruments played in our school hall was a honour for us."



*Photos by Clancy Steer.
[youtube.com/c/CherubimMusicTrust](https://www.youtube.com/c/CherubimMusicTrust)*



A film was produced by **Michaël Maxwell Steer** to show how quickly the children adopted Alex's rhythms and responded to his inspired tuition.

Wylve Valley Deputy Head **Jane Howie-Lee** said: "It not only benefitted the children involved, but also our wider school community. We saw and



Miscellanea

As Cherubim becomes better known we are increasingly offered valuable instruments for loan; and some have interesting stories attached.



One of the most remarkable is the French 19thC cello, loaned by the family of **Geoffrey Myers**; and now being played by Wells scholar

Kit Cookson. It was Myers' closest companion during the war as he lived in monastic seclusion decoding top level Enigma traffic as a senior intelligence officer at Bletchley Park.

He had acquired bilingual knowledge of German as a Daily Telegraph European correspondent. Having married a French pianist, Geoff enlisted in the RAF at the outbreak of hostilities, but the rapid collapse

of France left his wife and children trapped there. For several years, until they were able to escape Myers wrote a weekly letter to his family that, being unable to send, he kept, and this unique personal memoir has been the subject of two books.

For 35 years after the war Geoff kept his work on Enigma a complete secret, even from his wife.



He returned to journalism with the Daily Telegraph, but the whole family's enduring memory was of him playing this cello for relaxation, sometimes alone, sometimes in chamber music.

They felt that the best way to honour his remarkable life was to make his valuable cello available to a young musician.

Other faces you should know

Heather Conder

Social mediator, brings a sparkle to everything she does. In the year she has been promoting us on Facebook & Instagram our following has grown from thousands to tens of thousands, and is now the main way people find out about the Trust and its instruments.



Sarah Brooks

Admin-secretary, is a valued coordinator and focal point of the large numbers of instruments and the awardees who loan them. Sarah is also a choral singer herself.



Anne Holmes MBE

In 2023 Cherubim received a substantial bequest out of the blue from the estate of Anne Holmes MBE, a musician, teacher and concert promoter in Grimsby. We do not know when or why she selected Cherubim as her beneficiary; but are profoundly honoured, and determined to perpetuate her pioneering spirit.

Anne was a remarkable woman, and in every way a pioneer. Born in 1932 above her father's grocery shop in Hainton Avenue, Grimsby, with no access to music, Anne first heard a piano while doing her father's bread round, aged seven. She was transfixed by the sound and approached the house, asking to be allowed to listen. Within months Anne started piano lessons with Kathleen Davis, whom she had heard teaching a boy who went on to be a local music celebrity.

After the war Anne was attending Wintringham Grammar School, aged 16, when her mother died. She left



school and help her father run the shop, but never gave up the piano. Soon the word got out among local music teachers that Anne was a capable accompanist. Then in the late 1940s she was invited to play with the Cleethorpes String Orchestra in their monthly concert at the Winter Gardens. Slowly her reputation grew as her musical range extended, and

in 1961 she received the accolade of being appointed accompanist of the Grimsby Philharmonic Society, a choir which had developed a professional reputation under its conductor Alec Redshaw, and regularly featured top

level soloists like Kathleen Ferrier and Elisabeth Schumann. As she became increasingly active as an event organiser Anne also became president of the Grimsby Bach Choir.



Anne Holmes at a spinet with the Grimsby Philharmonic Choir

But by this time she also had a demanding day job as PA to Carl Ross, MD of Ross Fisheries, owners of Grimsby's largest trawler fleet which was actively diversifying into frozen brands and consumer products, whose son was one of the founders of Carphone Warehouse.

In 1978, Alec Redshaw died suddenly, and Anne was foremost among a group who decided to create a living musical memorial in his honour. Thus the Great Grimsby International Competition for Singers was born in 1980, under the presidency of Sir Charles Groves, with distinguished judges like Elizabeth Harwood and Grimsby-born Norma Procter, then at the height of her career. Held triennially the competition ran for 15 years, and among its prize winners was Roderick Williams.

The competition came to an end as a result of a dispute within the organising committee about which Anne was barely diplomatic in a newspaper article; but the same article, written in the 1990s, also recorded her pride that in one week she counted the appearance of 30 former competitors on BBCr3 in a single week. Anne received her MBE in 1977.

Along with all her other activities Anne was an active piano teacher into old age and the posthumous tributes from her pupils are deeply moving.

"We spent long hours at her pianos - she teaching me to play and us both setting the world to rights. From her I learned to find the love and expression in each musical phrase, but also what can be achieved in the local music community with rigorous organisation and determination. She left no stone unturned to champion the young people she worked with, myself included."

"Without her guidance and support, I wouldn't know where my life would have gone. Thanks to her, I am a confident musician and composer."

"If I inspire or change the life of any of my students a fraction of the way she did mine, I will die happy."



The first instrument we have bought in her name being a baritone sax for Cherubim Young Musician Marikit Akiwumi.

Gift Aid

I enclose a donation of £ _____

Amount in words _____

I am a UK taxpayer & intend that the appropriate tax be reclaimed on the above donation under the GiftAid scheme.

Signed _____ Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Mobile _____

Email _____

Cherubim Club Standing Order

Please give personal details above

To _____ Bank Sort Code | | | | | | | | | |

Full branch address _____

Account Name | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Account Number _____

Please set up the following Standing Order & debit my/our account accordingly.
Pay to Cherubim Music Trust, CAF Bank A/C: 00093268 Sort Code: 40-52-40

Amount of Payment £ _____

(in words) _____

Date of payments _____

Frequency: monthly/quarterly/annually *(Delete as appropriate)*

Commencing now until further notice

(Please note payment from a bank other than CAF will normally be received by the beneficiary three working days after the nominated payment date.)

We acknowledge the Bank will not undertake to: make any reference to VAT, or other indeterminate amount: advise payer's address to beneficiary: advise beneficiary of inability to pay: request beneficiary's banker to advise beneficiary of receipt.

Account Signature _____



**CHERUBIM
MUSIC TRUST**
(A CHARITY NO. 1066401)

Donating to Cherubim

The Trust relies entirely on public support. Apart from money, we welcome the donation of professional quality instruments, whether as a gift or as a loan, but ask donors to be aware that we can only accept instruments that are in top playing condition.

We acknowledge donations from J&R Barlow, G&M Bennett, Graham Benson, Terry Bird, Nigel Brodrick-Barker, Heather Brooks, Mrs J Campbell-Sharp, Chris Cauldwell, P&A Caunce, P&S Craig-McFeely, Barbara Dalton, Malcolm de Mowbray, Graham Dimmer, the Ganderton family, Mike Gee, Michael Godbee, Gwyneth Godding, John Higgins, David House, Philip Humphreys, Sir Raymond Jack, I&M Kendrick, David Lewis, Jenny Lisle, Lynette MacGowan, Jenny Malone-Lee, Euan Milroy, Gareth Neame, Adele Owens, Martin Pick, Andrew Probert, Ian Robertson, James Robertson, Michael Ross, Carol Shepherd-Blandy, P&A Simmonds, Tim Smith, Philip Sober, G&J Steer, Deborah Steer, Robert Stiles, Sally Tennant, Curzon Tussaud, Anne Vile, Andrew Ward, Judy Weston, Elisabeth Woodthorpe.

Cherubim Music Trust

125 Duck Street,

Tisbury, SP3 6LJ

mms@cherubimtrust.org

01747 870070

<https://cherubimtrust.org>

Accounts:

<http://cherubimtrust.org/about>

Donation:

cafdonate.cafonline.org/6846