

## Chairman's Report

By the time you read this, you'll probably be looking forward to Easter and all the wonderful musical events that will take place, but I'm writing this on New Year's Day 2018 with the New Year's Day Concert from Vienna playing in the background. New year is typically a time to look back at the past year, but more importantly to look forward.

In 2017, the recorder continued to make huge progress with many young ensembles and soloists releasing new recorder albums. Several of these were listed in the December edition of the magazine which had a new look, being the first edition to be published by Barbara Laws. I hope you agree that the new look magazine was a great read, and included several articles highlighting the achievements of some of our younger players. I especially enjoyed the interview with Tom Ridout who unusually plays Jazz Recorder, and was a finalist in the BBC Young Jazz Musician of the Year Competition, and also released in a new album in 2017.

The centrefold music also took a new and exciting turn, with Moira Usher contributing an article on unbarred renaissance music and the centrefold including an excellent "pull out" example for you

to try in your branch. I do hope you'll give it a try.

2017 was of course our 80th anniversary year which we celebrated in Cambridge at our festival in April. The festival kicked off with a gala concert in the University Concert Hall and sold out the 500 seat venue.

When we booked the hall the university was sceptical about taking the booking, but were subsequently staggered when they saw what a huge success it was, with the hall packed out with recorder players and fans. The line up, which included Michala Petri, Piers Adams, Tom Beets, Charlotte Barbour-Condini and Sophie Westbrooke was spectacular and rightly lived up to its billing as an "All Star Recorder Concert"!

And looking forward we are now close to the 2018 SRP Festival which will be hosted by our Wessex Branch and will take place in Eastleigh from April 14 to April 15. I've been looking at the programme and, it looks better than ever with many varied playing sessions, a master class with Tom Beets, and Tom is joined by Philip Thorby on Saturday evening for what is sure to be a wonderful concert. If you haven't already booked do so soon, as places will be limited to ensure that the playing sessions aren't overcrowded, a potential issue with the

growing popularity of our festivals. We will also be announcing at the festival the programme of festivals for the next few years, and without giving the game away we will be going north in 2019 which is something I'm especially looking forward to.

Since becoming Chair of the SRP two years ago, I have strived to make our society fit for the 21st century and to ensure that we don't just survive, but flourish for many more years to come. This may mean some radical changes to the way that we manage the Society and also looking to you our members to further support our charity to make music and recorder playing available in schools. Only this will help to continue the current wave of success that the recorder is enjoying, by encouraging young players to consider the recorder not just a stepping stone to a "real" instrument but their instrument of choice. I hope that every branch will send a delegate to the annual conference which will take place at the festival in Eastleigh, as this will be your opportunity to have your say in how the Society operates and to agree our priorities for the coming year, although of course, you can always email me if you have any comments or suggestions at [chair@srp.org.uk](mailto:chair@srp.org.uk)

Vic Morris