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Society of Recorder Players, Devon Branch.

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Programme 2021 - 2022

Due to Covid, this programme is provisional, and there have been changes to our charges and conditions. Please see the back of this leaflet.

As we currently have no Musical Director, the programme features visiting conductors and sometimes volunteers from the branch.

Generally, the music to be played will be decided by the conductors nearer the time.

We are planning to resume our meetings from October 2021, though it is possible that Covid will interfere with this – please look back here before attending any meetings of Devon Branch. Not all meetings are on our usual 2nd Saturday of the month.

Depending on the situation we may decide to introduce Covid protective measures, mask wearing (not during playing!), social distancing and hand gel. We expect those attending to cooperate with these.

For a number of reasons we only plan a limited programme, featuring two half-day (morning) meeting and four Playing Days with visiting conductors.

Also, our previous venue is unavailable, please see the back of this leaflet for details of our new venue(s)

30th October 2021 Morning Only, 10am—1pm

Steve Marshall - Steve is a mathematician and a Chartered Accountant. He played jazz saxophone for many years until he discovered 'classical' music in his twenties. This led to studying music theory and composition with Michael Dennison and jazz composer Stan Barker, and to a large number of choral compositions, an opera, and music for shows. In 2001 he took early retirement, in order to write music full-time. He discovered the recorder, and has become a well-known composer and arranger for the instrument, with nearly 500 titles, published by his and wife Ann's May Hill Edition enterprise. He therefore has a huge selection of music available, and he is always able to bring fresh and interesting pieces to his conducting engagements, which include many SRP branches.

Steve is a regular tutor on several recorder courses and also conducts the Orchestra on the Hill. As a player, Steve is a big-instrument specialist,. Steve has broad musical tastes.

Please note: a brief branch AGM will be held at the end of the playing session.

29th January 2022 Morning Only, 10am—1pm

Conductor to be announced.

30th April 2022 Playing Day, 10am—4pm

Sophie Middleditch - After graduating from Lancaster University in 1995, Sophie went on to study recorder, modern and baroque flute at Trinity College of Music. Since then she has gained a reputation as a friendly, enthusiastic, professional recorder player with a wealth of teaching and performing experience. Alongside her professional playing, which includes chamber, orchestral and solo engagements as well as her work with her own baroque period chamber group, the Parnassian Ensemble, she has worked with small and large recorder groups and SRP branches throughout the UK. She has been the recorder tutor at Chichester University since 1997 and she works with younger players at Lancing College and the Prebendal Cathedral school in Chichester.

Sophie regularly tutors on courses in Hertfordshire, and has coached students at the Grieg Academy in Bergen, Norway. For several years, Sophie also ran both the recorder and woodwind sections in the Chichester Festival for Music, Dance and Speech.

She loves all areas of repertoire, including eighteenth century pieces (with the questions of historically informed performance practice this raises) and contemporary music.

28th May 2022 Playing Day, 10am—4pm

Marg Hall

Marg discovered the recorder with delight as an adult, having earlier learned piano and classical guitar. After lessons with Jim O'Malley, she went to Napier University (recorder with Jenny Hill, and composition with John Macleod). LLCM at Napier University in 1991. Many compositions and arrangements published by Hawthorns Music and by Peacock Press.

In 2005 Marg won the Big Bass competition organized by Steve Marshall to encourage composers to include Great and Contra basses in their pieces. She has taught the recorder in the Edinburgh area for many years, and has been running an adult evening class in Edinburgh since 1992. She has conducted the Edinburgh Branch of the SRP and at the Scottish Recorder Festival on many occasions; also at the National Festivals in Guisborough and Truro.

Marg loves to conduct a wide range of music and usually include a modest few of her own compositions and arrangements. She plays regularly with Solsequium recorder consort, and is a founder member in 1978 of Hadley Court Singers, with whom she still sings.

11th June 2022 P,aying Day, 10am—4pm

Helen Hooker — Since graduating from Trinity College of Music in 1993 Helen has spent her working life doing a mixture of performing, conducting, teaching and writing for the recorder.

Helen loves working with adult recorder players of all ability levels, teaching on residential courses and coaching ensembles and orchestras of all sizes. She has worked with the SRP for thirty years (as a Musical Advisor since 2000) and has conducted all but two of the Society's branches. Helen enjoys introducing recorder players to a wide variety of repertoire and her sessions always include music in a mixture of different styles, from Renaissance polyphony right through to contemporary (but user-friendly!) works and lighter arrangements.

Helen is Musical Director of the Thames Valley and the Mellow Tones Recorder Orchestras, the UK's first regularly rehearsing eight foot recorder orchestra. During the Covid-19 pandemic Helen launched a project to create play-along videos of recorder consort music to help keep people playing during the restrictions. - see her website at www.helenhooker.co.uk.

9th July 2022 Playing Day, 10am—4pm

Sarah Whomersley

Sarah studied recorder and cello at the Royal College of Music which was a great place to explore early music and historical performance. She then went to Reading University, from which she graduated with a PGCE in secondary school music teaching. Since then Sarah has worked in London and Cornish secondary schools. She currently works as a music classroom teacher at Truro school and for the Cornwall Music Service Trust.

Sarah runs several ensembles for the County including Carrick Breeze (windband for young players including recorders!), Terpsichore (a mixed early music ensemble) and Recorders Rule! (a county recorder ensemble for students from all schools in Cornwall). Sarah teaches recorder to children and adults, from beginners to Grade 8, including preparation for music college entrance exams. She supports local primary schools with recorders and choral singing as well.

Sarah enjoys conducting a wide range of styles of music and arranges a lot of the music herself.

Practical information

Our usual venue is not currently available so we will be meeting as below this year

30th October 2021 – Church of Latter Day Saints, Wonford Rd, EXETER, EX2 4UD.

This is near the main hospital (Royal Devon & Exeter), and opposite the Nuffield Hospital. For many people, the best approach is via Topsham Road, accessed from the bypass and motorway.

Public Transport: 57 from Exmouth, and other long-distance buses pass by the hospital, which is close by. H1 passes the church.

All other meetings – St James Church Hall, Mount Pleasant Road, EXETER, EX4 8NN.

Best approach varies with the direction you approach from, but access is fairly easy from junctions 29 and 30 on the M5, via the link road near the Met Office.

Public Transport: The following buses pass close by: F1, F2, L

Meeting day: **Normally** second Saturday of the month, no meeting in April or August.

Times: unless otherwise indicated here, the session, is usually taken by a guest conductor, and runs from 10 am to 1pm with a break for tea/coffee (please bring something for yourself).

Playing days

The morning session runs from 10 am to 1pm with a 15 min. break.

Lunch from 1pm to 1.45pm,

The afternoon session is from 1.45pm—4pm with a 15 minute break.

For Playing Days, Tea and Coffee will be served during the breaks, but please bring your own music stand and a packed lunch

New members of any age with a reasonable level of playing and sight-reading ability are always welcome.

Annual Subscriptions for 2021—2022

We are not accepting membership subscriptions this year due to Covid. Voluntary contributions are always welcome!

Sessional fees For all participants.:

Half-day meetings: £7.50

Full-day meetings: £15 (no half-day rate).

Depending on the situation we may decide to introduce Covid protective measures, eg mask wearing (not during playing !), social distancing and hand gel. We expect those attending to cooperate with these.

It is also possible that we may need to cancel meetings at short notice (usually this would be a few days in advance). Please consult our web page (below) before travelling!

Further information from:

Mr Ashley Allerton, Acting Secretary

Phone: 01392 462655

Email: devon@srp.org.uk

www.srp.org.uk/devon