

Soirées at Breinton

Classical Music Recitals in Woking, Surrey

Breinton Recital Society – Registered Charity No 1151972

**Annual General Meeting – 25 January 2020
for the year ending 31 July 2019**

Officers and Committee Members:

President: Kumi Smith-Gordon
Secretary & Treasurer: Lionel Smith-Gordon
Independent Trustees: Steve Barnett
Mark Lewis
Paul van den Bosch

Charity registered address: Breinton, Heath House Road, Woking GU22 0RD.

AGM Agenda

1. Annual Report
2. Financial Report
3. Member Q&A

Report on Society Activities

Recital Season

It feels like our 10th Anniversary Season started and finished within a flash. It was packed with exciting concerts, and in terms of the quality of the performers we presented, I do not think we could have done any better.

We had eight soirees in total and the performers were: pianists Llyr Williams, Benjamin Grosvenor, and Katya Apekisheva; clarinet and piano duo Emma Johnson & Finghin Collins; violin and piano duos Alina Ibragimova & Cedric Tiberghien and Callum Smart & Richard Uttley; cello and piano duo Jamal Aliyev & Jams Coleman. All the musicians had their own style and personality, but whatever that may be, they were equally successful in drawing and welcoming the audience into their musical territory.

The season was not without challenges: We had a double soirée by pianist Benjamin Grosvenor on two consecutive January weekday evenings. This certainly required more

careful planning and preparation, and plenty of help from our enthusiastic volunteers. We also began 2019 very early in January – this required us to pack up our Christmas decorations earlier than usual to set up the concert room! Then pianist Cedric Tiberghien, who was flying from Paris, had a trouble with his flight, nearly sending us into a panic! However, the joy each concert offers to the audience is far greater than our minor troubles.

We continued with a matinée series. In December we invited Romanian pianist Florian Mitrea and in March, violin and piano duo from Yehudi Menuhin School, SongHa Choi and Gorka Plada Giron. It was wonderful to see that both matinées concerts were full-house. There is something very special about indulging in beautiful music at mid-day!

In January, we organised our fifth Local Young Performers' Soirée with four talented school-age musicians. This year we invited violinists Sasha Scott and Amber Emson, cellist Sophie Kauer, and flautist Hollie Tibbots. We organise this event to give them an opportunity to perform in a concert setting, to a real audience crowd who are not just their parents and relatives, for the joy of performing without being adjudicated or examined.

As ever, we are truly grateful for our members' continuous support and enthusiasm, without which Soirees at Breinton will not exist. We hope to continue to be a special music place for our members, and to be a strong bridge between the musicians and audiences.

Volunteers

We would like to give a special thanks to the volunteers who contribute to the Society: our three independent trustees; our team of Sandra and Kim in the kitchen; and the ever bright parking assistance from Robert.

Membership

Our membership roll for the year stood at 253 (231 prior year) and we sold a total of 592 tickets (537 prior year).

Governance

Breinton Recital Society, also known as Soirées at Breinton, is governed by a Constitution agreed on formation on 15 July 2009. The Society is registered with the Charity Commission, recognized by HM Revenue & Customs, and participates in the Gift Aid scheme. The Society is not registered for VAT and has no liability to Income or Corporation Taxes.

The charity is overseen by the Trustees who meet at least two times a year; appointment of Trustees is defined in the Constitution. Most operating decisions, including the organisation of the soirées, are delegated to Kumi and Lionel Smith-Gordon.

Finance Report and Accounts

Accounting Policies

The Accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis as permitted by Section 42(3) of the Charities Act 1993, as amended by the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the SI 2009 No 508. This report also aligns with SORP 2005.

There are no accruals or prepayments shown in the accounts.

The Society has a small amount of equipment to support its activities which are kept in premises owned by the trustees and insured by the Society. The value of these items was written off on acquisition, so no physical assets are held on the balance sheet. The Society's financial year ends on 31 July.

No audit or independent examination of the Society's accounts is required.

Financial Review

The financial state of the Society remains robust and we feel we are firmly established. The annual surplus exceeded expectations in the last year due to a change to the online process for soliciting donations in the summer of 2018, which was a little more successful than expected. The process was revised again in 2019 to still encourage donations but less aggressively.

Reserves Policy

The trustees' existing policy is to retain bank deposits equal to approximately one year's expense as money set aside to cover events or situations that may happen.

The reserves at the end of the year were £11,950.

The trustees have agreed to review this policy for future years.

Public Benefit Statement

The charity trustees confirm that we have complied with our duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charities Commission in exercising our powers and duties, under Section 17(5) of the Charities Act and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

All recitals are open to the public and are priced to represent the value delivered.

Receipts and Payments Account

	Year to July 31 2017	Year to July 31 2018	Year to July 31 2019
Receipts			
Donations Received	£910	£979	£2,157
Ticket Sales	£10,021	£8,055	£12,034
Other Income	£187	£61	£21
Sponsorship & Grants	£330	£250	£205
Total Receipts	£11,447	£9,345	£14,417
Payments			
Cost of Sales	£8,336	£6,863	£10,490
Administrative Expenses	£498	£279	£285
Insurance & Subscriptions	£219	£221	£231
Marketing & Advertising	£562	£371	£296
Maintenance & Repairs	£376	£199	£25
Donations Made	£30	£200	
Total Payments	£10,020	£8,133	£11,326
Excess of Receipts over Payments	£1,427	£1,212	£3,091

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	as of Aug 1 2017	as of Aug 1 2018	as of Aug 1 2019
Cash Funds			
Cash		£9.02	
Bank account	£1,678.85	£1,826.47	£3,070.86
Deposit account	£8,663.26	£10,096.32	£11,951.87
Paypal account	£378.58		
Total Assets	£10,719.69	£11,931.81	£15,022.73
Liabilities	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

This report and accounts were approved by the Trustees of Breinton Recital Society on 11 January 2020.