

# Spring 2013 Newsletter

I am delighted to enclose your copy of our brochure for next season. Once again, your committee has tried to put together a varied programme which we hope you will enjoy. This season sees the return of some artists we have had before such as Martin Cousin with his trio this time and The Coull Quartet. There are also some innovations such as The Blossom Street Choir and the Piano Duet. There are a wide range of pieces to meet all tastes from established masterpieces such as the Archduke Trio and the Grand Duo Concertante for clarinet and piano to a new piece by John Carmichael – his Latin American Suite.

## **Buying Tickets**

You will see that we have managed to keep our ticket prices unchanged again, so that the concerts, especially if you buy a season ticket, represent extremely good value at less than £10 a concert. Season tickets are transferable – if you are unable to come to one of the concerts, we are very happy for you to let someone else use it.

**We look forward to receiving your renewal form and cheque.**

## **Gift Aid**

Many of our members generously give extra to be a Friend of the Club. This is hugely appreciated. These donations, and the Gift Aid we can reclaim from the taxman, really help us to maintain the high quality of our concerts. The government is currently modifying the rules on Gift Aid. By ticking the box on the booking form you are notifying us of your intention to participate and the membership secretary will follow up once the details are in place

## **Single Tickets**

Tickets for single concerts can now be purchased on line using a secure website – just go to our website ([www.amershamconcerts.org.uk](http://www.amershamconcerts.org.uk)) and follow the links. They can also be purchased from the Membership Secretary, from The Record Shop in Amersham and Perfect Pitch in Chesham. Our single ticket sales have been disappointing so please help us to publicise the concerts.

## **Complimentary Tickets**

This year we have decided again to give each member a single ticket which can be used at any concert. It can only be used once and we would appreciate it if you, or the person to whom you give it, could fill in their contact details on the back and hand it in at the door. We hope many of you will make use of them at the first concert so that your friends are able to decide to come to the rest of the season.

## **Drinks in the Intervals**

The committee have reviewed the costs of licensing and hire of the dining room and have decided to try offering free drinks (red wine, white wine or juice) in the interval which will be taken at the back of the hall. We hope that this generates an opportunity for members to circulate and meet one another without the need to go through to the dining hall and lobby.

We hope that not charging for programmes or drinks will make for a more enjoyable

experience for everyone, but it does mean that the Club is foregoing some income. If you could consider making a modest donation when you renew your membership it would be most gratefully received. If you can Gift Aid it, HMRC will be helping too.

### **AGM**

The Club's AGM will take place on Tuesday 18 June 2013. All members are very welcome to attend, to stand for the Committee or to put forward ideas for future seasons. An agenda is enclosed with this letter. Minutes and accounts will be available at the meeting.

### **Promoting the Club**

All live music requires an audience – the atmosphere is more exciting for both performer and listener if there are a lot of people clearly enjoying themselves. Personal recommendation is still the best way of attracting new members, so make a point of inviting a friend to an evening out. Please do pass on the extra copy of next season's brochure to anyone you think might enjoy our concerts. Please ask if you would like more copies, perhaps to take to a club or organisation you belong to.

### **Concert and Opera Trips**

Our next concert trip is to the Royal Festival Hall on 6<sup>th</sup> June – Mozart, Brahms and Beethoven. There are still spaces available but we must finalise our ticket allocation by 5<sup>th</sup> April. Do let the Membership Secretary know if you would like to go. The Opera Trip is not yet organised – it looks as if the Glyndebourne Touring Opera programme for 2013 is less attractive than recent years and may not be in our price range. Suggestions for alternatives will be gratefully received.

We sincerely hope that you will join us for another enjoyable season of music.

**Jenny Faulkner**

(on behalf of the committee)