

Toad Lane Concerts at St Mary in the Baum Church in June 'June was bustin' out all over' with choir, Baroque players, piano solo and saxophones

June 04: Eccles Community Choir, directed by Angela Rowley. 'Singing for pleasure and friendship' is the proud motto of this mixed voice and mixed ability group established in 2009 as an independent, true community choir. Soprano and adjudicator, Angela Rowley led by example with a poignant performance of June by Quilter. Pianist John Stott accompanied an eclectic mix of numbers from historic Vivaldi, Mendelssohn, Martini to stage and screen with Lord of the Rings and Butch Cassidy, then Lehar, Strauss, Shearing and the Fab Four. But most of all, they all clearly shared their pleasure and friendship with the audience who eagerly await their next visit.



June 11: Telemann Baroque Ensemble in one of its quarterley visits. Today's line up of what has become a Baroque 'House Band' was Peter Collier compere and harpsichord, Alastair Roberts flute, Sarah Snape violin, and Rosy Hickman & Roger Bisby cellos. Sumptuous sounds in the unusual repertoire of flute, violin, 2 Cellos and harpsichord in Telemann's 7th Paris Quartet in D major and the Paris Quartet in G major. In between these two suites of dance movements the strings and harpsichord played the attractive Sonata in G major Op 37 no 1 by JB Boismortier. As good as ever - a terrific 'House Band' in this acoustic!



June 18: Ying Cheng piano ... was born in Taiwan and was awarded First Prize for piano in the Tunghai University Concerto Competition 2020. She went on to gain a Postgraduate Diploma at the RNCM in 2024 and is currently enrolled on its Continuing Professional Development course. The whole recital was performed from memory, a feat that matched her physical stamina. Ying drew a marvellous range of tone from the piano in the fabulous acoustic of St Mary's with elegant Haydn and passionate Chopin and Liszt. The audience was transfixed by this masterful exhibition of exuberant pianism and musicality.



June 25: Saxophone Duo – Alvin Wong & Calvin Wong with Anna Chiu piano – two old friends from Hong Kong international prize-winning saxophonists with a range of different saxes in a recital that was truly ancient and modern. Award winning RNCM pianist Anna Chiu made up the magical trio. Experimental minimalist 'happenings' and modern compositions with expressive movie numbers, culminated in Alvin's arrangement of Vivaldi's 'Concerto for Two Flutes' for alto saxes. Wonderful. The ancient maestro would have approved of his modern adaptation.



The Queen's Award-winning Toad Lane Concerts are every Wednesday at 12.30 pm at St Mary in the Baum, Toad Lane, Rochdale, OL16 1DZ. Entrance fee is £6. Contact 01706 648872 for further information.

Dr Joe Dawson