*MUSIC AT WESLEY*

TUESDAY LUNCHTIME CONCERT

Wesley Church Centre, St John St, Chester CH1 1DA

September 9th 2025, 12.45pm

HEFIN FLUTE AND HARP DUO

*‘Lunchtime at the Opera’*

Andante con Variazioni Rossini (1792 – 1868)

The Dance of the Blessed Spirits from *Orfeo ed Euridice* Gluck (1714 - 87)

Flower Duet from *Lakme*  Delibes (1836 - 91)

Andante and March from *The Magic Flute*  Mozart (1756 – 91)

Pearl Fishers’ Duet from *The Pearl Fishers*  Bizet (1838 – 75)

Intermezzo from *Cavalliera Rusticana*  Mascagni (1863 – 1945)

O mio babbino caro from *Gianni Schicchi* Puccini (1858 – 1924)

“Carmen” Fantasy Borne (1840 – 1920)

Intermezzo from *Carmen*  Bizet (1838 – 75)

***FUTURE ‘MUSIC AT WESLEY’ LUNCHTIME CONCERTS***

 Tuesday Lunchtime Concerts Series, 12.45pm. Retiring collection.

September 16th: Marie-Louise Taylor (piano)

September 23rd: Chetham’s School of Music Instrumentalists

 September 30th: Jonathan Richards (guitar)

Saturday Lunchtime Organ Recitals, 12.45pm. Retiring collection

 September 20th: Daniel Mathieson (Chester Cathedral)

*Thank you for supporting this recital. The retiring collection (suggested minimum donation £4 per person) covers performer, performing rights and other direct expenses, with the balance in aid of Wesley Church funds. If you are a taxpayer it would be much appreciated if you would donate using a Gift Aid envelope (just add your name, house number & post code).*

 

Hefin Duo: Charlotte & Bethan met on the North Wales Youth Orchestra in 2010 and began playing as a duo together in 2011 when they were invited to perform at the ‘Welsh Learner of the Year’ awards evening as part of the National Eisteddfod in Wrexham.  Since then, they have won prizes at Chester Festival of Performing Arts and the Urdd Eisteddfod. They have given recitals for Chester Wesley Centre’s Lunchtime Series, NEW Sinfonia, ‘Wednesday’s at One’ at St John’s Church and the Alvechurch Recital Series. They have supported many charity fundraising concerts and performed on Llangollen Eisteddfod’s Penddol Stage, at the Black Park Music Festival and Dolgellau Music Club.  Hefin Duo made their concerto debut in 2013, performing Mozart’s *Flute & Harp Concerto* with Wrexham Youth Orchestra. They went on to perform this work again in 2015 with the Cambrian Orchestra and with The Midland Sinfonia in 2018. During the pandemic, Charlotte and Bethan were keen to find a way to continue playing together so they set-out to record their individual parts and put them together in videos which they shared on their social media platforms. This inspired them to create an ‘advent calendar’ in December 2020 in which they shared a different festive piece for 25 days! The Hefin Duo are passionate about music education and have enjoyed giving workshops in schools for Chester Music Society.

Bethan Conway is an award winning harpist based in North Wales and London.  She gained a First Class Honours Degree from the Royal College of Music in 2017, studying with internationally renowned harpist Ieuan Jones.  She returned to the RCM for postgraduate studies as an Ashley Family Foundation Scholar and recently graduated with a Master of Performance with Distinction.  Upon completing her studies she was awarded the prestigious Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother Rose Bowl award. Bethan's musical training began aged 7 with piano lessons before beginning to play harp aged 10.  She later went on to achieve her ABRSM performance diplomas in both harp and piano and since then has performed in various venues across the UK, Europe and the USA both as a soloist and as part of a variety of ensembles.  Some highlights include performances for HRH The Prince of Wales and making her solo debut in the USA performing in Washington DC, Maryland and live on WCVE National Public Radio, Richmond.

​As a keen competitor in Eisteddfods, she has won many awards such as prizes at the Urdd Eisteddfod instrumental solo and 1st prize in the National Eisteddfod Harp Solo as well as being chosen as a finalist in the prestigious Blue Riband competition.  In 2016 Bethan was awarded the Nansi Richards Scholarship for harpists as well as the RCM Harp Prize.  Her most recent success includes receiving 3rd prize in the RCM Concerto Competition earlier this year.

Bethan has performed with many orchestras across the UK including City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, NEW Sinfonia and Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra.  This has given Bethan the opportunity to work with world renowned conductors such as Bernard Haitink, Edward Gardner and Rafael Payare.  She has performed in many of the UK's most prestigious venues such as Royal Festival Hall, Buckingham Palace, House of Commons, Cadogan Hall, Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, Bridgewater Hall Manchester and Symphony Hall.  During her studies Bethan was invited to take part in schemes with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and English National Opera working alongside renowned harpists Sioned Williams, Louise Martin and Alison Martin. Bethan was awarded the Chester Music Society Award for Young Musicians which enabled her to attend the Suonarte Masterclasses in Italy with Emanuela Degli Esposti and Ieuan Jones.  She has since participated in masterclasses with many acclaimed musicians such as Sylvain Blassel, Marisa Robles, Claire Jones, Isabelle Perrin, Catrin Finch and Jana Bouskova.

Charlotte Thomas, originally from North Wales, is a freelance musician and teacher. She studied at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama between 2012 and 2018, graduating with a Bachelors of Music with Honours and a Masters of Music, specialising in Orchestral Performance.  Ensemble activity has always been an important part of Charlotte’s musical life. After progressing through school and county ensembles, she was a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales, National Youth Wind Orchestra of Wales and North Wales Youth Orchestra.

Since 2017, Charlotte has enjoyed regular work as a freelance flute and piccolo player across the UK in professional orchestras including the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Hallé Orchestra, Bath Philharmonia, NEW Sinfonia and the orchestra of Welsh National Opera. Highlights with these orchestras include performances at the BBC Proms, Royal Opera House, Dubai EXPO and the Prague Spring Festival.  Charlotte has also performed extensively as a soloist and chamber musician in recitals, concerts, competitions and masterclasses. Awards and prizes include the Ken Smith Flute Prize at RWCMD and an EMI Sound Foundation Scholarship for her postgraduate studies.  Alongside performing, Charlotte has enjoyed teaching in a variety of settings including private tuition, workshops, peripatetic and school teaching and for a music charity based in Cardiff. She feels very strongly about the vast array of benefits participation in musical activities can have on people of all ages and this fuels her teaching.