

SOH-FAH

RYEDALE FESTIVAL



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NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

We received 48 applications for the post of Artistic Director of the Ryedale Festival upon the resignation of Justin Doyle who had held the position for 4 years. The short list consisted of nine interviews reflecting the very high standard of all applicants.

The successful candidate is **CHRISTOPHER GLYNN**. Chris is aged 35, married with three children and lives in London. He is an accomplished pianist/accompanist and has very exciting ideas for the future of the Festival and the 2010 Programme. Chris appeared as pianist with Andrew Kennedy at Castle Howard in 2006 in a recital of English song called 'Sweeter than roses'. It included Tippett's 'Boyhood's End', with its virtuoso piano part. His web site is www.cglynn.com

Chris is a professor at the Royal College of Music, an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music and graduated at New College, Oxford as Organ Scholar, MA (1st Class)

I have already spent a very long but enjoyable day with Christopher visiting venues throughout Ryedale and I took the opportunity of asking your questions whilst we were travelling:

What are your plans for Ryedale?

I am really delighted and thrilled to have been appointed to this job as it is very obvious to me that Ryedale is a very special and unique festival. Justin Doyle has clearly done a fantastic job as artistic director so I will be trying to build on everything that has been done so far. I'd like to continue to develop it in two directions - firstly, looking outwards, as a national festival, attracting the finest artists and widespread recognition and interest. Secondly, as a community festival which enhances the lives and reflects the talents of the people of Ryedale.

Do you know the area?

Yes, I do know it a little, as I have spent some time walking on the moors. But I am very much looking forward to getting to know this beautiful part of the

country better and to discovering all the festival venues. I love the north of England generally and always feel my spirits lift as the train pulls out of Kings Cross and heads north!

Tell us about your family...

My wife, Clare, is a baroque viola player, who actually studied at York University with Peter Seymour and played in the Ryedale Festival as a student. She plays with many of the leading period instrument orchestras but she is also very busy in another area - as we have three young children. They are Barney, who has just started school (and loves it), Jonah, a 2 year old who can't sit still for more than 3 seconds and Jemima who is 1 and already showing signs of ruling the whole house!

What do you think are the characteristics of the best festivals?

I think that the best festivals are often built around a sense of place and community and, through placing music at the heart of what they do, bring people together in rewarding and fruitful partnerships. I'm also very aware of how much any successful festival relies on the generosity and goodwill of volunteers and sponsors. I'm already very struck by the beautiful surroundings, wonderful variety of venues and very warm welcome which exists in the Ryedale Festival.

You are clearly in great demand and have worked with many famous names - Dame Felicity Lott, Sir Thomas Allen, Anthony Rolfe Johnson, Joan Rodgers, Kate Royal, Jonas Kaufmann and Sir Simon Rattle, among many others - is there anyone who has been a particularly important musical partner?

I've been very lucky to work with many wonderful musicians. For me the joy of my job is the stimulation of working with so many different people - every singer brings something new to the music and that is true whether they are famous or not. I really enjoy the challenge of changing the way I play to reflect who I am playing with.

Why did you decide to be an accompanist, rather than a solo pianist?

The quick answer is that I enjoy performing with other people. The slightly longer one is that I started as an organist and then, when I was at university I started accompanying some singers on the piano and loved it. The things I enjoyed most then are still the things I enjoy now - the richness of the repertoire, the sense of 'give and take' in playing chamber music and, in the song repertoire, the fact that there are words as well as notes to think about. I met a man called John Streets who told me he thought I had the makings of an accompanist and offered to teach me. He was a wonderful teacher then and has become a great mentor since. I also later studied with Malcolm Martineau and since that point I have been fortunate enough to make my living out of playing the piano.

What is the quality you value most in your musical partners?

Spontaneity is very important to me - I very much enjoy playing with people where new things happen every time you play a piece - where there is the feeling of being 'in the moment' and an element of risk-taking. People can sit at home and listen to CDs if they want perfection but I think when they go to a concert they appreciate real live music-making.

Who are your favourite composers?

That's always a difficult one - but Schubert, Mozart, Bach, Byrd, Mahler, Mussorgsky, Janacek, Verdi, Fauré, Dvorak, Sibelius, Elgar and Vaughan Williams are all definitely among them....and now I will go away and remember all the ones I forgot to say!

What about contemporary composers?

James Macmillan and Peter Maxwell-Davies are two of my favourites, but there are many others too....

What are your interests outside of music?

I love the theatre and cinema and I also enjoy playing football (badly), cooking (only slightly less badly), going walking and reading. Otherwise, life is very much taken up with having three children under the age of 4!

What about your favourite pianists?

That's another difficult one! Richter, Britten, Argerich, Gerald Moore, Perahia, Ashkenazy and Cortot are definitely among them but I also really admire the jazz piano playing of someone like Andre Previn or Bill Evans - so a whole mixture of people really...

Who has influenced your interest in programming?

I grew up in Leicester when Simon Rattle was in charge of the CBSO and I remember the wonderful programming he used to do there with this fantastic mix of well-known and lesser-known repertoire. Also I'm very interested in Benjamin Britten's ideas on the place of music in the community. All through his life it was a subject close to his heart and I think it brought about some of his greatest music. For instance, a piece like *St Nicholas* - such a practical piece to put on - but absolutely inspired in the way it incorporates parts for children and large chorus, and in its immediate and direct appeal to any audience.

Thank you for talking to Soh Fah, Chris. I know there are many people who are looking forward to greeting you and sharing your music making.

A VERY WARM WELCOME TO CHRISTOPHER GLYNN OUR NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR FROM ALL THE FRIENDS, PATRONS AND VOLUNTEERS OF RYEDALE FESTIVAL
WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING HIM AT THE WELCOME LUNCH ON JANUARY 28TH AND WE WISH HIM ALL THE VERY BEST IN HIS NEW APPOINTMENT



A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AND PATRONS AND ALL GOOD WISHES FOR THE COMING YEAR



FRIEND'S PAGE

DON'T FORGET

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE JANUARY 1ST 2010

Thank you to all our Friends and Patrons for all their support over the past year. A very special thank you to all those who included a donation with their subs - no matter what the amount - from £1 to £1000 - we are extremely grateful. Please remember to sign the Gift Aid section of the form if you give a donation and you are a tax payer.

Please note that the subscription amount is £20 for single and £30 for joint membership

NB If you have not paid your subscription by March 31st you will not be eligible for priority booking or the Friends discount. So please return the completed forms with your subscription as soon as possible.

STANDING ORDERS

Many of our Friends and Patrons do pay by Standing Order and this remains the most efficient way of making the payment both for you and for us. So please do consider doing this if at all possible.

MEMBERSHIP FORMS ARE INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A STANDING ORDER SET UP

BECOME A FESTIVAL PATRON

If you would like to further support the Festival and are able to give more financially, why not become a **PATRON**

We ask for a donation of £100 per person, in addition to your subscription

NEW FRIENDS

Once again we offer a warm welcome to all those members who have joined since the Festival.

Good news for you as you will not need to renew your membership until January 2011!



INTRODUCING CHRISTOPHER GLYNN JOIN US FOR LUNCH AT THE FOREST & VALE PICKERING

To welcome our new Artistic Director, Christopher Glynn there will be a **FESTIVAL LUNCH** on **THURSDAY JANUARY 28TH** at the Forest & Vale Hotel in Pickering. Christopher will be there to tell us a little about himself and his future plans for the Festival. The cost will be £20 and this will include a two course meal followed by coffee or tea and mints.

This is sure to be a sell out so don't delay, booking form enclosed send it in now.....

FAREWELL CONCERT REPORT

The presentation of a unique concert performance of *The Magic Flute* - what a marvellous way of celebrating Justin's four years with the Ryedale Festival. Yet again Justin worked his own hallmark magic! The concert was dedicated to his unrivalled achievements, characterized by wonderful talent, unlimited enthusiasm and boundless energy. We are all indebted to Justin's entrepreneurial skills in bringing the very best of young artist together. The King's Camerata, as ever, were truly splendid. They, in turn, were matched by Manchester Chamber Choir, providing the chorus of priests, slaves and armed men. The lead singers were, in every way, outstanding and supplied some significant performances likely to be long remembered. It would be invidious to single out any soloist, but the students of Bootham School gave everyone a run for their money! Justin, as conductor, and Martin as narrator, guaranteed a consummate free-flowing presentation.

All in all, it was an extremely memorable evening. The quality and high standards achieved by so many young musicians augurs well for the future. We are left with so many glorious memories. Our thanks go to Justin, and, of course, Bibi. We very much appreciate all that they have done for the Ryedale Festival and wish them every success in the future.

Professor John L Taylor
Trustee

FAREWELL GIFTS FOR JUSTIN & BIBI

A delightful watercolour painting of *Surprise View, Gillamoor* by Bill Campbell-Trotter was presented to Justin & Bibi Doyle at the Farewell Concert. The painting, which they both instantly recognised as their little corner of North Yorkshire, was from the Board of Trustees.

The Friends gave them a £500 voucher for the Devonshire Arms at Bolton Abbey, we sincerely hope they will be able to find time together, to enjoy and indulge in a little bit of luxury in their busy lives.

FESTIVAL DATES FOR 2010

DATES FOR YOUR NEW DIARIES: LAUNCH CONCERT - SATURDAY APRIL 24TH 2010

FESTIVAL RUNS FROM FRIDAY 16TH JULY TO SUNDAY 1ST AUGUST

RYEDALE FESTIVAL WEBSITE

Dear Friends, I noticed some photographs being taken at Justin's Farewell Concert and would love to have some for the Website. Also if any of you have any good photographs of the 2009 Festival I would appreciate these too.

Please send to mmcar@woodbrow.wanadoo.co.uk in jpeg or bmf.

Many thanks, Mary McAllister-Rees.

FESTIVAL EQUIPMENT STORAGE

There are some items of Festival equipment which requires storage when not in use.

Has anyone got storage space for chairs, staging, lighting, and 'A' frames, which they could make available to the Festival?

Please contact Kate rftoffice@aol.com

The Festival Office, The Memorial Hall, Potter Hill, Pickering, York, YO18 8AA

Box Office 01751 475888

email: rftoffice@aol.com

www.ryedalefestival.co.uk

Who's Who

President	JOHN WARRACK
Artistic Director	CHRISTOPHER GLYNN
Chairman of the Board	KEN OVERTON
Treasurer	MALCOLM ANDERSON
Festival Administrator	KATE RANGELEY
Box Office	DIANA PADMORE
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Friends' Secretary	ANDIE CATTLE
Stewards Co-ordinator	KIRSTEEN POPE
Accommodation	VACANT
Web Site	MARY MCALLISTER REES
Advertising	ANN LISS, HELEN WOOD
Bar Manager	AMBIENTE - MALTON
Newsletter Editor	VACANT

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

SOH-FAH is produced just three times a year. It aims to keep all our Friends in the picture. Give them information about the forthcoming Festival. Update them with all the news of coming events. Bring them up to date with any changes to the board or management team.

Basically giving them who's who and what's what!

Anybody can do it - so we would love to have a volunteer for the job.....

Please contact Andie 01751 417223 or email rftfriends@aol.com

ACCOMMODATION CO-ORDINATOR POST

As many of you are aware Jan Jones stepped in to be our accommodation organiser earlier this year. Jan did a wonderful job with the artist accommodation for the year and we would like to thank her most sincerely for the splendid job she did.

However, Jan has now moved on and we do need to find a replacement.

There is a very well organised system in place with all the essential information ready to pass on to the successor.

It would be beneficial to have some basic computer/internet knowledge and would perhaps suit a retired couple, who would be willing to give some time to the Festival.

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION