

Hi Everyone

It has been an unconscionably long time since I wrote the last newsletter. For some reason and because we put all our public events on our Archive page, it feels as if you can access all the information about us without a newsletter every so often. However, good souls who pull my strings always remind me of the necessity of a newsletter.

I shall concentrate on the events of 2019.

On 23 January 2019, we started our concert series with the Musical Odyssey's Talent Unlimited Prize Winner concert. The pianist was Izem Gürer from Turkey. Musical Odyssey Masterclasses are organised by Yekaterina Lebedeva, Professor of Music at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Royal College of Music JD. We have a brilliant collaboration. Every summer two musicians of Talent Unlimited, usually a pianist and a singer attend Musical Odyssey Masterclasses in Nafplio, Greece with reduced tuition fees. In return we offer the winner(s) of the Talent Unlimited Prize a Free Lunchtime Recital at St James's Church Piccadilly and a cash prize. This is why Izem performed for us at the first lunchtime concert of the year. She was the winner of our prize and performed beautifully. She is a highly accomplished young artist. After the concert many of us got together at a local café for a snack.

Our second concert was sponsored by Lark Music with the good grace of Julie Webb, Client Director at AstonLark. The performers were our wonderful violinist Erzhan Kulibaev with Alim Beisembayev, piano. This was held at the Leighton House Museum on 29 January 2019. As one would expect from Erzhan and Alim, it was a spectacular success.

Teresa de la Escalera and Melina Karagianni, pianists, shared a lunchtime concert at St James's Church Piccadilly in March 2019. They are friends and wanted to take part in the same recital. They are accomplished musicians.

Again in March we held a splendid evening at Leighton House Museum to celebrate the life of Keith Beresford, my late partner who was the greatest supporter of Talent Unlimited and my right arm. The repertoire consisted of the music he used to play when he accompanied our singers. Four of our singers took part in this most emotional concert whose programme we called "Songs we used to Sing".

Our Spring evening concert was on 1 May with Aleksandar Pavlovic, Eunsley Park and Ilya Kondratiev. In the hands of such wonderful musicians, the concert became a memorable event.

Between June and October we held another three lunchtime recitals as part of our Talent Unlimited Series at St James's Church Piccadilly with Edward Leung, Charlie Westhoff, Anna Garde, Arda Karakaya, Callum McLachlan, Antoine Preat, Maria Gilicel and Tolga Atalay UN.

17 October was the date of our Induction Day at Steinway Hall. I was delighted with the fact that a number of teachers recommended that their students join us despite the fact that they were not musicians of Talent Unlimited. The mentoring day is open to all Undergrad and Grad music students of a certain level. We had Lady Rose Cholmondeley, James Brown, Philip Jones, Ulrich Gerhartz amongst the ten speakers. A most successful day of mentoring. I intend to continue with our Induction Days. They prove to be most useful for our musicians and provide them with valuable contacts.

Our Autumn evening concert, 27 November, whose video is on our Archive page had Emmanuel Bach, violinist and Salih Can Gevrek, piano as soloists. This was our first orchestral concert. Jack Wong conducted his Hornton Chamber Orchestra. I am delighted that he managed to get a 44-piece orchestra together which could only rehearse twice and could come up with a perfectly respectable performance from such a young group of musicians. The soloists were outstanding and it is good to see that many of the musicians we nurture at Talent Unlimited do so very well. Salih Can Gevrek is at the Queen Elisabeth Chapel, Brussels. They are very choosy as to who they take into their establishment. The audience was a scintillating group of music lovers, lawyers, judges, diplomatic personnel and a large number of music professionals.

Another extraordinary concert was held just on 18 December. This time we were entranced by Callum McLachlan playing Schumann and Ana Dunne-Sequi, viola and Tolga Atalay UN, piano giving us a remarkably well balanced Arpeggione Sonata by Schubert.

Talent Unlimited was founded as a charity in October 2010. Since then we have held a large number of concerts and in this highly competitive field, I am delighted to point out that our musicians are doing well, winning all sorts of prizes, giving concerts all over the world, and making me very proud of their accomplishments. We are getting to be known as a music organisation whose musicians are of a high standard. As a result of this our free lunchtime recital series are very well attended and I do not have to lift a finger to get some 200+ people into the hall.

We continue with our collaborations with groups such as ILAMS, Musical Odyssey, Aegean Arts Festival, Lark Music, Steinway & Sons and I am pleased to say that our musicians are also singled out by other charities and are given opportunities to perform for them and to be taken under their umbrella.

So far over the last few years we have appeared in various publications: AKOB magazine, Cornucopia Magazine and LarkMusic Magazine. It is good to be recognised for the good one does in the sphere of Music.

On the financial side of things, I am afraid our bank balance is getting seriously eroded and we need to raise some funds pretty fast. We need to widen our "Friend" membership circle and activate our supporters to do their best to sell tickets, raise funds.

Happy Festive Season to All

Canan Maxton

Founder & Director

www.talent-unlimited.org.uk