

Newsletter 2

Dear All

It has been quite some time since I have written to tell you what we have been doing at Talent Unlimited. As a charity we are over two years old and in fact we shall be three beginning of October 2012. Time passes very quickly when you are working from concert to concert.

Since the last newsletter we have had Erdem Mısırlıoğlu's concert at St James's Church Piccadilly on 9 November 2011. He played most beautifully works by Beethoven and Liszt. I would like to point out that Erdem won the Piano Prize as the BBC Young Musician of the Year in 2008. He is a highly accomplished yet modest young man and a very busy pianist with many concerts and recitals as well as chamber music performances. Following the concert we had a good reception with great food and wine.

Our next concert and reception was on 30 January 2012 with Emre Engin, violin, and Paul Ulman, piano. This time the concert was held at St Pancras Church, Euston. I had asked them to perform Beethoven's Spring Sonata which they did with great accomplishment despite the extreme cold in the church. I do know that their fingers were almost frozen right before the concert. In addition to the Spring Sonata they also performed pieces by Wieniawski, Chopin, Rachmaninov and Verdi. I can say that they formed a good duo together. It is at times easier to perform solo than to perform with others, I think. In addition to expertise and hard work, one also has to adjust to working with someone else.

Our last big concert and reception before the summer break was on 26 April: "Songs of Love and Seduction" at St James's Church Piccadilly. This was a flamboyant evening with wonderful songs from the world of opera and musicals. The musicians did us proud. Nicky Spence gave an unforgettable performance, what a pity he is likely to be so very busy that we will never be able to get hold of him again for another concert, unless we are incredibly lucky. Alison Guill charmed the entire audience not only with her wonderful voice but also with her beauty and splendid outfit. Clare Presland thrilled the audience with her passionate voice and stage presence. As to Leslie MacLeod-Miller, well what can one say except the fact that Leslie's star quality shone through the entire performance surprising each and all with the power of his voice. I always hear people express their surprise when he sings as there is such an incredible disparity between his powerful voice and his elegant frame. Leslie is one of the Trustees of Talent Unlimited. Vicky Yannoula and Keith Beresford, our pianists, did wonderfully well accompanying the singers. The programme was created by Keith Beresford. His meticulous attention to detail contributed to the success of the concert. We are indebted to Vicky Yannoula for waiving her fees although she is very busy.

We enjoyed very good wine donated by First Growth Bordeaux, who are among our sponsors. We are also grateful to our other sponsors Mann Hough, Clear Insurance and Ladybug Home Textiles for their kind help. I would like to mention that, although our other donors were not listed by name in the programme, they are not forgotten. As many other charities, we receive backing from those who add a little extra to the

price of their tickets to push us along towards our goal. Great many thanks to them too!

Soon sections of the concert will go on our website thanks to the kind efforts of Nuran Gungorencan, Craig Encer and Keith Beresford.

The sums raised at this concert were shared between MacMillan Cancer Care and Talent Unlimited.

This summer one of our musicians, Donat Bayer became Dr Donat Bayer and his thesis will soon be published. I can see his name shining in the world of classical music.

Emre Engin, violinist, won a major prize in Turkey. For the details please visit his profile on Talent Unlimited website. Well done to him!

A last event took place in June, although this was not a Talent Unlimited event, three of our artists took part in it. Dr Emre Aracı, one of the supporting musicians of Talent Unlimited, gave a lecture at the Residence of the Turkish Ambassador, HE Ünal Çeviköz and Mme Emel Çeviköz. The subject was “Elgar in Turkey”. Dr Aracı enlightened the most appreciative audience on Elgar’s stay in Turkey. Clare Presland accompanied by Dr Donat Bayer sang pieces from “Sea Pictures”. Donat also played the “Salut d’Amour” with Emre Engin and at the end of this short musical interlude, he performed “In Smyrna”. I had first heard Gulsin Onay perform this piece a number of years ago. The evening was a success.

I met a number of interesting people during the course of the year and one of them is the Indian pianist Julian Clef who was discovered in Kerala, India by Linda John who brought him to the UK. He is studying at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. The remarkable thing about Julian is the fact that he had never had any formal musical training until the age of 16. He had learned to play on his father’s keyboard and apart from his father his teachers were the great musicians whose records he used to listen to. He must be extraordinarily gifted. He is a very fine musician. I heard him at a performance at Wigmore Hall. Hazard Chase, the artists’ agents are managing him. I will organise a concert for him at my home some time this coming academic year. He will be among those who are receiving financial support from Talent Unlimited.

Another interesting encounter was meeting Dr Jean-Philippe Calvin, a member of staff at the RCM, composer, conductor and a great friend of Dr Donat Bayer. I hope to work with him at a future event.

Cansın Kara, cello, a Talent Unlimited musician, is studying at the Yehudi Menuhin School. I attended in *loco parentis*, a meeting with his teachers and felt very proud that he is doing so well. I hope to involve him in a concert one day.

I receive requests for help from many students who are in need of backing, but unfortunately, it is impossible to help everybody so I end up refusing them, although it saddens me to do so. We have a limited amount of money and at the moment we are committed to supporting eight musicians during this coming academic year.

Our next concerts are the following: 4 October, Nadav Herzka, piano, at Steinway Hall and on 29 November Salihcan Gevrek, piano, again at Steinway Hall. Both Nadav and Salihcan will be given exposure rather than financial aid and the sums raised by their concerts will help other needy students. At Talent Unlimited, we are indebted to them for their generosity. I am really looking forward to these two concerts and hope that many of you will be able to attend. People will have to act swiftly to obtain places as Steinway Hall seats only 60 people.

On 24 January 2013 we shall have Timothy Connor, baritone delighting us at Leighton House Museum. He is a remarkable young man whom I last heard at Cadogan Hall.

I have just booked 25 April for a concert at St James's Church Piccadilly. I would like to put together a Talent Unlimited Chamber Ensemble and this will be our first concert. We shall put the group together after the beginning of the academic year in September.

I am sure there is a lot more to say...but I shall stop at this point except to say that we need money! We have a lot of musicians both well established and aspiring young talent whom you could hear at our concerts if only we were not so reliant upon ticket sales. If we had regular sponsors then we would be able to organise more concerts and of course raise bigger sums to help a larger number of students of classical music.

If you are able to donate to us now, we will be very grateful; our web site now has PayPal buttons to make this job easier for you and us, where you can also use your credit cards securely: <http://www.talent-unlimited.com/support-us.html>

Canan Maxton
1 August 2012