

Talent Unlimited Newsletter 6

Hi Everybody and Welcome to our 6th Newsletter.

I left the last newsletter with a promise of good things to come...and they have mostly taken place with the exception of the last one which will take place on 25 June. I am of course talking about our very first Talent Unlimited Festival. Each and every event in this festival was chosen specifically for a certain purpose, carrying with it its specific intention.

On 17 Feb The Busch Ensemble gave a masterclass to two young trios from The Royal College of Music at Steinway Hall. It was a most fruitful event as all the participants including the audience learnt a great deal. The young trios handled themselves valiantly and The Busch Ensemble proved they have real substance despite their young age as a trio. The second part of the evening was devoted to the Busch Ensemble performing themselves.

The intention in asking a relatively young group to give a masterclass was to help a couple of very young trios while giving The Busch Ensemble a most valuable opportunity to develop themselves. Teachers learn an awful lot while teaching.

On 27 Feb, we had our first opera production: Suor Angelica by Puccini, the second of Il Trittico. A very poignant piece beautifully directed by Aylin Bozok with Philip Voldman's expert accompaniment on the piano. For such a small charity as Talent Unlimited we had a rather large cast of 16 singers plus instrumentalists. We had the auditions and rehearsals at my home. Aylin dealt with the costumes and stage design personally. Her decision to remove any element of succour coming from Virgin Mary at the end of the opera, although eliminating catharsis from the work, brought it a certain modern sharpness and intensity.

The intention for producing this opera was to give Aylin Bozok, a young director, exposure right in the centre of London at a prestigious venue, St James's Church, Piccadilly.

The first two events were undertaken in order to give exposure and experience to rising stars of the world of music. The third public event, Cihat Askin's recital at Leighton House Museum, was organised in order to raise funds for our charity. Can Okan accompanied Cihat. On behalf of Talent Unlimited I am most indebted to them. The Leighton house concert was on 31 March and on 30 March, the day of their arrival to London Cihat Askin and Can Okan gave a house concert too. Cihat Askin is one of the supporting artists of our charity. The concert at Leighton House was a resounding success and Talent Unlimited was very proud to welcome Cihat back to London.

Dr Emre Araci who is a close friend of Cihat's has written a most beautiful article for Andante, a Turkish music magazine. He will be translating it into English. I hope it will appear in Cornucopia magazine as well as in a publication to do with Leighton House.

We have one more concert left in our festival: The Piano Brothers musical extravaganza which will take place in Kings Place on 25 June. Do not miss it! They are a wonderful duo and I am indebted to Craig Terry, MD of Steinway & Sons for having introduced us. They are very polished, very professional, infectiously enthusiastic and exceptional musicians.

The intention for organising this concert was to strengthen the synergistic relationship between The Piano Brothers and Talent Unlimited and - if I may be so bold to add- Steinways and Talent Unlimited. Talent Unlimited is most grateful to Steinways for their continued support.

Now onto matters not arising directly from Talent Unlimited... a few weeks ago Steinways launched a new piano, "Arabesque", a most beautifully romantic piece of fine engineering. AyseDeniz Gokcin of "Pink Floyd Lisztified" fame and Salih Can Gevrek, a participant in PIANOWORKS, gave two performances each during the launch of "Arabesque". They are both Talent Unlimited pianists. The Piano Brothers, protégés of Steinways, performed a great deal and helped with the launch as much as possible. Another pianist Jason Bae, a young Steinway artist, distinguished himself too during the launch and now he has joined the Talent Unlimited family. Another pianist who joined us at the same time is Aurele Marthan who has a very good Ravel CD. He and Mathilde Calderini happened to walk into the hall where the launch was taking place. They are both very fine musicians and part of Talent Unlimited.

One more important concert I should tell you about is the PIANOWORKS concert on 11 June at Cadogan Hall. Mark Stephenson of "Soundforms" fame created "PIANOWORKS" to give young artists exposure. In addition to Salih Can Gevrek, Arsha Kaviani, Julian Clef and Grace Francis will be performing on two pianos in front of an audience not lacking in celebrities. Lord and Lady Cadogan and Vivienne Westwood will be among the guests. One cannot expect less when the patron is Vladimir Ashkenzy.

There is so much more I could write about but not enough timeOne more thing: Our wonderful violinist Emre Engin will be joining Manhattan School of Music with a full scholarship as a student of Pinchas Zuckerman. Talking about wonderful violinists, we have a newcomer to the family, William Dutton from Yehudi Menuhin School. William is the winner of the Strings section of the 2014 BBC Young Musician of the Year competition.

Many of our musicians are winning prizes and awards at a breathtaking rate both as soloists and for their ensembles. It is impossible to list and write about all of them. I would need a real admin team in order to keep up. Who knows one day we might have it!

As to next academic year 2014-2015, we have two definite bookings for big concerts. The first one is on 20 Nov and we will put together a String orchestra and they will play "Two Serenades and a Premiere". We will give exposure to a good number of string players. The second one is on 14 May 2015 and it will be called "Spring" and will have lots of songs from the musical theatre, film music and opera. We will probably have six singers and two accompanists.

Please remember that Talent Unlimited would like some help both in financial terms and also to distribute flyers, encourage others to join forces with us, to help support individual musicians. If you have or know of a company who would like to have more exposure in the world of music think of us. We could do joint projects.

Talking of joint projects, we are creating interesting links especially with Spain in order to give exposure to the musicians of Talent Unlimited and those of “Music above the Park” which is the brainchild of Moema Parrott who lives in Madrid. More about this in the next newsletter and in the meantime....

Take care

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