

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

9 December 2013

Report of the Director of Street Scene and Leisure

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 MUSIC AT MALLING

Summary

The report provides feedback to Members on this year's Festival.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Now in its third year, Music at Malling is a Festival which features outstanding musicians in historic venues in and around West Malling. The Festival promotes the work of contemporary composers alongside the classics and engages the community with the highest quality of creative work in a series of concerts, talks, education and outreach events. Some events are free, whilst others are ticketed.

1.1.2 Established in 2011, the Festival idea came from Thomas Kemp, who grew up in West Malling and now works as a conductor and violinist. Thomas Kemp has gone on to become one of Britain's leading musicians. A highly acclaimed artist, his dynamic commitment and virtuosic performances combined with innovative and ground-breaking programming have received wide-spread critical praise. He has worked worldwide as a concertmaster and chamber musician.

1.1.3 Thomas Kemp continues to be a key part of the event as part of the Organising Committee, together with David Kemp, Alan Gibbins and Nick Crutchfield.

1.1.4 Part of the concept of Music at Malling is to bring internationally renowned musicians to the local community. By doing so, this enables residents to experience professional, high quality performances on their door step. Working with school children is also a key priority of the organisers and it is their aim to encourage young people to become inspired by their involvement in the Festival and develop new skills.

1.2 2013 Festival

1.2.1 This year's Festival was launched in June with a 'Summer Serenade' concert performed by Chamber Domaine at St Mary's Church. The main event took place from Thursday 26 – Sunday 29 September and celebrated the centenary of

Benjamin Britten with works by the composer himself and by the composers who he championed as a performer.

- 1.2.2 New for this year was the collaboration of Chamber Domaine with dancers from the English National Ballet for an education project based on Stravinsky's 'The Soldier's Tale'. Musicians worked with pupils in local schools and combined music, movement, creative writing and art workshops, culminating in three school concerts on the opening day of the Festival. Children from the following schools took part in the performances:

More Park School, Discovery School, St James the Great, Ightham School, St George's (Wrotham), Snodland CEP, St Katherine's School, Snodland, Collier Street School, Vigo School, Trottiscliffe School, Borough Green CEP, Watlington CE Primary, Offham School and Hilden Oaks School.

- 1.2.3 Other performances included The Sacconi Quartet, an evening of jazz by James Pearson and the Ronnie Scott's All Stars, cellist Richard Harwood and clarinettist Mark Simpson who has won both the BBC Young Composer and Young Musician of the Year awards. In addition, the celebrated local artist, Graham Clarke exhibited his paintings and gave a talk about his work as part of the Festival.
- 1.2.4 Master classes were introduced for the first time this year and involved talented instrumentalists from across the country. The master classes gave budding musicians free lessons with leading professional musicians. Around 30 young people took part in these sessions.
- 1.2.5 Venues that hosted Music at Malling performances included Pilsdon Barn, All Saint's Church, Birling, and St Lawrence's Church, Mereworth,
- 1.2.6 Organisers have confirmed that audience numbers were more than 600 up on last year's Festival with over 2,000 people attending nine events. The Mayor, Leader and Cabinet Member for Leisure, Youth & Arts attended a number of events during the Festival.

1.3 Marketing

- 1.3.1 This year's event received extensive coverage in the Kent Messenger, The Gramophone (feature), International Artist manager magazine (feature), The Oracle and BBC Radio 3. BBC South East News and ITV Meridian News also covered the event. Event organisers also established a website www.musicatmallings.com to help promote the event to a wider audience.

1.4 Sponsorship

- 1.4.1 Many local businesses and organisations sponsored this year's event including Whitehead Monckton, Brookline Coaches, West Malling Rotary and Lions Club, West Malling Parish Council, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Kent County

Council, Malling Memorial Institute and Soundhub for Kent. 25 companies also took adverts in the Festival programme.

1.5 Council Support to Music at Malling

1.5.1 As well as providing financial support and Officer time, Tonbridge Gateway provided the box office facility for the Festival. The Council's print room assisted with the production of marketing material.

1.6 The Way Forward

1.6.1 It is understood that following the success of this year's event, Festival organisers intend to deliver the event again in 2014. A fundraising function will be held in February to help contribute to costs of running the event.

1.7 Legal Implications

1.7.1 None.

1.8 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.8.1 The Council's financial support of £1,000 is funded from within the arts programme revenue budget.

1.9 Risk Assessment

1.9.1 Event organisers are responsible for producing their own risk assessments and other relevant health and safety documentation with support available from Council Officers.

1.10 Policy Considerations

1.10.1 Community, Healthy Lifestyles, Customer Contact.

Background papers:

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Nil

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