

Seaford Music Society

Sunday 6th March 2022 at 3.00 pm

A Tribute to Kenneth V Jones

Ruth Rogers and Kate Comberti	<i>Violins</i>
Sally Beamish	<i>Viola</i>
Sebastian Comberti	<i>Cello</i>
Viv McLean	<i>Piano</i>
Peter Thomson	<i>Vocals</i>

New Sussex Singers	
Sebastian Charlesworth	<i>Director</i>
Howard Beach	<i>Piano</i>

Kenneth V Jones (1924-2020)

Until his death in December 2020, Kenneth had lived for over 25 years in Bishopstone Village, Seaford. He was a member of Seaford Music Society, and came to particular prominence at our concert in November 2019, when he gave a highly entertaining interview conducted by Sally Beamish, prior to the performance by Capriccio Ensemble of his *String Quartet No.1*.

Born in Bletchley, Buckinghamshire, Kenneth was to become a scholar at King's School, Canterbury. He served with the RAF during World War II, and this was followed by a 6-month RAF-sponsored course in music and philosophy at Queen's College, Oxford. From 1947 he spent three years at the Royal College of Music, of which he was later made a professor in 1958.

Kenneth was a composer, particularly noted for his work in films, including *The Siege of Pinchgut*, *Ferry to Hong Kong* and *Ten Seconds to Hell*. He was founder and original conductor of The Wimbledon Symphony Orchestra, and acted as one of the Governors of Rokeby School, helping to raise the £50,000 that was needed to save it from closure in 1966.

His musical encounters have included a long list of who's who in British music, from Vaughan Williams and Walton, to Howells, Britten, Tippett and Berkeley amongst many others. Among his many achievements, Kenneth coached Ava Gardner to play the piano, and taught James Galway to sight-read!



Seaford Music Society gratefully acknowledges the support of Newberry Tully Estate Agents. We are very grateful to our member Diana Crook, for sponsoring the hire of the piano for today's concert.

Ruth Rogers, described as “the finest of the younger generation of violinists” (*Musical Opinion*) and hailed by the *Guardian* as “superb”, is in demand as soloist, leader, and chamber musician. She was awarded the Tagore Gold Medal – the Royal College of Music’s highest accolade – and has an impressive list of other awards. Ruth has performed as a soloist at such prestigious venues as The Wigmore Hall, the Queen Elizabeth Hall and St John’s Smith Square. She was Co-Leader of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra from 2008 until 2012, and in 2015 was appointed Leader of the London Mozart Players. She appears as a guest leader with many other major orchestras, including the Hallé, BBC Philharmonic, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic. Ruth is proud to have played to orphans, landmine victims and malaria patients in refugee camps on the Thailand-Burma border.

Kate Comberti is a music practitioner and researcher on the *Sound Communities* programme for Creative Futures and *Making and Believing* (Take Art) for Surrey Arts, exploring cross-arts approaches that support children’s exploratory and creative play. Kate is a member of the Incorporated Society of Musicians and MERYC England, and has presented her research in London (RIMJE 2021) and Vienna (2022). As a violinist she has performed regularly with the Toronto Symphony, London Sinfonietta, City of London Sinfonia, and in London’s West End.

Sally Beamish was born in London and now lives in Brighton. She began her career as a viola player with the Raphael Ensemble, Academy of St Martins and London Sinfonietta, before moving to Scotland in 1990 to focus on composition. In 2018 she won the Award for Inspiration at the British Composer Awards, and in 2020 was awarded an OBE in the Queen’s birthday honours. Her recent concerto, *Distans*, for Janine Jansen and Martin Fröst, was given its premiere in Stockholm in 2021 by the Swedish Radio Orchestra. She is working with choreographer David Bintley on a third full-length ballet (*A Christmas Carol*) for Finnish National Ballet. She returned to performing in 2015, when her daughter, luthier Stephanie Irvine, made her a viola. After returning to England in 2018 she joined the string quintet Ensemble V, and the South Downs Chamber Ensemble. She plays with pianist Nancy Cooley, and with the York Road Band.

Also born in London, **Sebastian Comberti** studied in Italy with Amedeo Baldovino, and later with Derek Simpson and Sidney Griller at the Royal Academy of Music, from where he graduated in 1977. In 1976 he became a founder member of the Bochmann Quartet, giving concerts throughout the British Isles and in Europe. In 1983 Sebastian was appointed principal cello with the London Mozart Players, since when he has appeared on numerous occasions as soloist, as well as being an active member of the LMP Chamber Ensemble. A keen interest in historically informed performance has resulted in participation with a great many period instrument groups, frequently appearing as principal cello with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and soloist with the Hanover Band. Research into early cello repertoire has led to several recitals being recorded by the BBC. In April 2001 Sebastian founded Cello Classics, a label devoted to recordings of rare repertoire and artists.

British pianist **Viv McLean** – described by *Le Monde* as “possessing the genius one finds in those who know how to forget themselves” – has, since winning First Prize at the Maria Canals International Piano Competition in Barcelona, performed in all the major venues in the UK, as well as throughout Europe, Japan, Australia and the USA. He has performed concertos with virtually all the major British orchestras, often plays with the Adderbury Ensemble, and has collaborated with groups such as the Leopold String Trio, Ensemble 360, the Ysaye Quartet and the Sacconi String Quartet, and with artists such as Natalie Clein, Daniel Hope, Lawrence Power, David Le Page and Mary Bevan. Viv has appeared at many festivals, including the International Beethoven Festival in Bonn, the Festival des Saintes in France, Vinterfestspill i Bergstaden in Norway and the Cheltenham International Festival in the UK. He has recorded for labels such as Sony, Naxos, Nimbus, Stone Records, RPO Records and ICSM Records, and has also recorded regularly for BBC Radio 3 as well as for radio in Germany, France, Australia, Norway and Poland.

Peter Thomson began his career as an actor, subsequently becoming a playwright. To date he has had over thirty plays produced on BBC radio, and fifteen stage plays in theatres around the UK. Peter has recently completed a series of talks with renowned theatre director Mike Alfreds, which are published on YouTube. His ongoing projects include the libretto for an oratorio by Sally Beamish, to be performed in

2022. In 2017 he directed the semi-staged London premiere of *The Judas Passion* by Sally Beamish and David Harsent. On 21st March he will be taking part, as speaker, in the premiere of Beamish's *Night Songs* at the Royal Over-Seas League in London. Peter and Sally have a trio with guitarist Arthur Dick, which specialises in jazz standards and popular repertoire.

New Sussex Singers is a small, well-established group of around 24 singers. Though the choir is an auditioned group, the singers have a variety of experience, some of them professionally trained, others quite new to the choral world, but all share a passion for excellence and high-quality music making. The group has a wide and eclectic repertoire, including folk, part songs and madrigals, secular and religious music, opera, operetta, oratorio and jazz. Over the past few years concerts have included composers ranging from Vivaldi to Vaughan Williams, Tavener to Todd, and Rachmaninov to Rutter.

Sebastian Charlesworth is a freelance singer, conductor and teacher. After having graduated as a bassoon player from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, he primarily focused his career on singing. As a singer he has toured both nationally and internationally with opera companies and choirs, and has sung on many blockbuster movie soundtracks. As a conductor, he holds the position of Music Director for both New Sussex Singers and Heathfield Choral Society, and is regularly invited to conduct other ensembles. On top of his performing work, Sebastian delivers programmes globally that utilise music in various forms in the corporate leadership development field.

Howard Beach's uniquely wide-ranging style of keyboard playing has been developed through years of partnering fine musicians in many different fields of music, including as an accomplished and characterful vocal accompanist. Between 1988 and 2000 he played for many prizewinning singers in international competitions and concerts, including winners of the Kathleen Ferrier competition, the Richard Tauber prize and the NFMS award.

From 2000 to 2010 Howard was the harpsichordist of the iconic baroque quartet Red Priest, recording four acclaimed CDs, touring the world and appearing on radio and TV – including the South Bank Show, for which occasion he fashioned some noteworthy facial topiary. Since leaving Red Priest, Howard has pursued an eclectic career, working as accompanist, repetiteur, teacher, massage therapist and even, for a time, 'Senior Perfume Specialist' in Harrods and Fortnum & Mason. He was also for several years a tenor soloist at the iconic St Bartholomew's church in Brighton. His concert and recording activities have continued, in particular with his trio 'Purcell's Muse', with ex-Red Priest violinist Julia Bishop and soprano Ana Maria Rincon. They have just recorded their first programme, of music by Handel, Bach and Purcell.

Béla Bartók (1881–1945): Duos for Two Violins

Kenneth V Jones (1924-2020): Four Part Songs for Unaccompanied Choir

- I *Love's Secret* (William Blake)
- II *Music, when Soft Voices Die* (Percy Bysshe Shelley)
- III *I Walked Above the Moon Drenched Lake* (T Buckland)
- IV *Twilight* (D H Lawrence)

William Walton (1902-1983): Sonata in A minor for violin and piano

- I *Allegro tranquillo*
- II *Variazioni: Andante*

INTERVAL 15 MINUTES

There are toilets in the lobby at the back of the church, and downstairs via the stairs beside the stage.

We shall not be serving refreshments during the interval, but we warmly invite you to join us downstairs *after* the concert for tea or coffee.

Kenneth V Jones: Two Contrasts for unaccompanied cello

- I *Energetic*
- II *Andante Espressivo*

Kenneth V Jones: Pieces for voices

- I *Two Rounds for Four Voices* (words from 'Instruct me Now' by Robert Herrick)
- II *Round for Three Voices*
- III *Madrigal for Soprano, Alto and Tenor*
- IV *Nightingales* (words by Robert Bridges)

Kenneth V Jones: Quintet for Piano and String Quartet, Op.25

- I *Allegro*
- II *Adagio*
- III *Allegro*

George Gershwin (1898-1937) (arr. Kenneth V Jones): A selection of songs

After the concert, do come and join us downstairs for tea or coffee.
There is no fixed charge, but donations are invited.

Our forthcoming concerts

FAMILY CONCERT on Sunday 3rd April 2022, 3.00 pm, at Seaford Baptist Church

Our family concerts have been a great success, enjoyed equally by children and their families, and by unaccompanied adults. This year's concert, '**King Alfred, the Owl and the Nightingale**', presented by **The Birdsong Band**, will last about an hour, and everybody will be most welcome. Free entry for members, children and young adults (under 26); other adults £10. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Sunday 8th May 2022, 3.00 pm, at Seaford Baptist Church

Our final concert of the season sees the **European Chamber Ensemble** join us for an afternoon of music (some of it none too serious!) for flute, viola and harp. Free entry for members, children and young adults (under 26); other adults £15. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets for both concerts are available from our Treasurer, Paul Moore, or from Newberry Tully Estate Agents. Or, of course, you can become a member! To join, see Paul, in the entrance foyer. The cost of your ticket for today's concert will be credited towards your membership subscription if you join now.