



A Charity (HMRC).

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Bad News: the cancellation of our 2015 Concerts and the related closure of Norfolk Concerts at year end due to the loss of our core funding:

Dear Concertgoer and supporter of music education in our UK schools,

After 15 years it is with infinite sadness that I have to advise you that I have to cancel the very exciting concerts planned for this year (see our web page at www.norfolkconcerts.org) and the education programme planned to both continue mentorship of various emerging young artists and engage the state schools in continuing to appreciate the joy and importance of music in the lives of young people of all ages.

Our main grant giver has decided not to continue to support us, or Norfolk. The reasons for this decision are not clear, so I must accept the blame for failure, and I am very sorry to let you all down. I am devastated as I see few people trying to support young artists in the cultural desert created by this government, but Norfolk too is to blame. The obsession with 'league tables' by the high schools, and the utter failure of parental concern or support, has been a big part of the story. We had sought £10,000 in order to continue our work, but this has been refused.

Despite my own ill health the concerts would have continued, and unfinished vital support to young artists and the schools have been provided, but even

given the proven accomplishments of the past our grant giver was not persuaded. So it seems that I/we cannot go on further.

Thank you all for your support in the past, and I hope that you all have some musical memory to treasure. I would have liked to mount a final farewell concert at Salle Church, maybe Bach with Agnes Langer, but this would cost around £2,000, and while only £20 a head if 100 people choose to attend, I am unsure if that can be achieved.

The real tragedy of the timing has been the fact that Lord Cholmondeley had just most generously gifted a grand piano to me /us which would have meant that we could present a major repertoire of chamber music and vocal recitals in Salle Church, something almost unique in the county. Now this so very thoughtful gift is lost.

I really despair, as music is so important to us all, in this very sad world that we live in today. I do not know if you will want to support a final farewell concert, or breathe hope into the ashes, but do contact me if that is your wish.

Sadly,

Douglas Gowan.