

— Norfolk  
CONCERTS —

Dear Concertgoers,

The 2014 Season closed on a high that one could hope for but surely not even aspire to. Houghton Hall is always a magical venue and the concert there on the 17th October began with Tim Benjamin's very fine new violin sonata, and then moved on to the special début of young Emma Bradley Mantero singing a wonderful Schumann song cycle. The pianist partner in both works was the very talented Giacomo Battarino. Then came the second half of the concert and the Tchaikovsky Trio with its physical, emotional, and intellectual demands. I have heard many performances of this great Trio in the past with the Borodin and its original members foremost in my memory, but nobody has played the first movement as well as this, and Giacomo Battarino was a masterful pianist, always in control, and strong but not too loud. The Picture Gallery has a marvellous acoustic so that with some care each instrument can be heard, but also the unison voice. Agnes Langer (violin) was world class, and Hyoung Joon Jo (cello) scarcely less so, and they had me in tears in the grief laden final pages, where Agnes' addition of vibrato added great pathos. The whole concert, also attended by young people, is embedded in this web site. Listen and experience the best of music. We hope to present the now aptly named Houghton Trio again in the Spring.



Earlier in the year we had a stunning piano recital at Salle Church given by the young Tian-Yu Zhou, playing the Bach Goldberg Variations, and then a wonderful selection of Chopin. The fine Steinway was lent to us by the very generous Lord Cholmondeley,

who was in the audience. Tian -Yu is taught by an old friend, Professor Lee Kum Sing, in Vancouver, and we hope that she too will visit us again in 2015 or 2016. Prior to that, last May, a pregnant Amelie Xiajun Huang gave a stunning and almost ethereal performance of the rather 'elgarian' Scott Violin Concerto. She has now had a fine bonny son, and will play here next September, at Salle.

Many know that I have been ill, and I thank everyone for their warm support and kindness, and I assure them that Norfolk Concerts will be here for a while. My doctors seem to have given me a second chance, and I intend to use it well. So on to 2015 and another year of musical joy in Norfolk.

By the way please do not recognise the fake Norfolk Concerts web site on Facebook. It has nothing to do with us at all, and is run by people who wish us no good. We have asked Facebook to remove this site. It is a sad fact of life that in this technological age people can do things that in my days of horse and carriage were not possible, but then neither would it have been possible to experience again the marvellous music of the Tchaikovsky Trio to be heard and seen on this web page.

See you all in 2015. Best wishes to everyone.

Douglas Gowan.