



Founder & Artistic Director: Gillian Humphreys ARAM LRAM  
Registered Charity No. 1045967

June 2010

## Concordia Foundation celebrates 15 years inspiring young musicians to fulfil their dreams

Driven by the realisation that young professional artists need to be encouraged and supported, Gillian Humphreys, founder and artistic director of the Concordia Foundation, has guided and inspired thousands of talented young singers, instrumentalists and visual artists at the start of their professional careers. Her resources may be modest, but her achievements in UK and abroad are enormous.

In 2010, Concordia celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary with fifty concert performances in London culminating in a Gala orchestral concert, 'Bach to Bernstein' at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Monday 22nd November 2010.

Honorary Patron Barbara Bear, Senior Alderman Below the Chair's lady of the City of London, will be supporting the charity throughout the year. She says "I'm delighted and privileged to have the opportunity to be connected with the Concordia Foundation for many reasons, one being the opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of 'giving' - not just financially, but also time, energy and opportunity - all the things that Concordia accomplishes."

The Foundation will present a number of special events this year illustrating the work that has been developed over the past fifteen years *building bridges through music and the arts* worldwide.

### 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year Highlights

- A link with Gillian Humphreys' Livery Company – The Worshipful Company of Musicians – has been established, supported by the Concordia Foundation Awards Fund. The first Concordia prizewinners' recital took place at the Wigmore Hall in January as part of their Monday evening series.
- In February EDF Energy in association with Concordia, held a Children's Art Competition to select paintings for ten windows on a new EDF building off Brick Lane.
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May - Hanoi Opera House**

Concordia has just returned from its 2010 overseas mission to Vietnam, giving two performances of the Verdi Requiem at the Hanoi Opera House conducted by Graham Sutcliffe MBE. Always seeking to build bridges between musicians in the host country and the visiting performers, Joanna Weeks, *soprano*, Alexandra Cassidy, *mezzo-soprano*, Edward Hughes, *tenor* and James Cleverton, *baritone*, gave master classes with Gillian at the Vietnam National Opera and Ballet theatre where they also presented a concert for the British Council.

[www.hanoioperahouse.org.vn](http://www.hanoioperahouse.org.vn)

- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June 6.30pm - National Portrait Gallery**

Concordia presents **Meet Bridget Riley - First Steps on a Creative Journey**. In the company of Bridget Riley's early portraits, Concordia International Ensemble explore musical journeys taken by composers. To quote Bridget Riley, *'To begin at the beginning - that would surely be the best start of all.'* Following this idea, Concordia illustrate the first steps of a creative journey with Bach at the beginning, who inspired our featured composers including Arvo Part, Stravinsky, Ravel, Chopin, Paganini and Philip Glass. The Ensemble includes John Paul Ekins, Annie Yim *piano*, Michal Ćwizewicz *violin*, Emily Andrews *flute* and Valda Wilson *soprano*.

[www.npg.org.uk](http://www.npg.org.uk)

• **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm - St Martin-in-the-Fields**

The Concordia International Ensemble will present **Vivaldi to Verdi**. The programme is a rich and varied tapestry woven from many coloured threads of music from around the world, reflecting the diverse backgrounds of the performers including Satoko Fukuda *violin*, Valda Wilson *soprano*, Gareth McLearnon *flute*, Nicky Spence *tenor*, John Paul Ekins *piano*, Gamal Khamis *piano* and vocal ensemble VOCES8.

[www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org](http://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org)

• **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010 7.30pm - Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre**  
***Bach to Bernstein - 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Concert***

Featured Concordia artists include James Cleverton, *baritone*, Satoko Fukuda, *violin*, Phuong Nguyen, *classical accordion*, Ahmed Dickinson, *classical guitar* and Gareth McLearnon, *flute*. They will be performing with other Foundation musicians, the Charities Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by Michael Alexander-Young, and also with pupils from the Yehudi Menuhin School (Lord Menuhin encouraged Humphreys to set up the charity and was its Founder Patron).

John Wilson has been associated with the Foundation for fifteen years. Now a highly acclaimed international conductor, he will conduct the 'Serenade to Music' by Vaughan Williams at the Gala Concert.

[www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)

Concordia regularly present concerts in London at the National Portrait Gallery, St Martin-in-the-Fields, St James's Piccadilly and St Paul's Covent Garden thus giving performance opportunities to young musicians. Since 2007, Concordia's *Young Audiences* educational programme has linked with Wilton's Music Hall to present music and art programmes for schools in Tower Hamlets.

For further information, please visit [www.concordiafoundation.com](http://www.concordiafoundation.com) or contact:

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