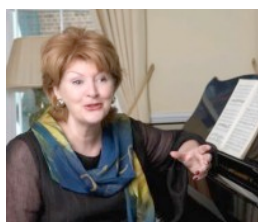




## The Concordia Foundation celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary with 50 concert performances in London.

“Doctors can heal the body, but it is music that uplifts the spirits,” said the late Mother Theresa to the Concordia Foundation. A not-for-profit charity, which, this year, celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Concordia is the brainchild of Gillian Humphreys, an international singer and broadcaster, who established the Foundation in 1995 as a way of building bridges through music and the arts and providing much needed concert platforms for new, emerging young artists.



### GILLIAN HUMPHREYS, FOUNDER OF THE CONCORDIA FOUNDATION

Gillian’s own career was impressive. A soprano, who studied at The Royal Academy of Music, Gillian went on to gain an Arts Council Scholarship, which took her abroad and secured her a place as principal soprano with the D’Oyle Carte Opera Co in UK and USA. Later, Gillian’s Concordia Theatre Company regularly presented international gala shows, classical recitals and lectures on the Cunard, Seabourn, and Royal Viking Line.

She was one of the lucky ones. Each year, thousands of musicians graduate and, like Gillian, dream of performing at the world’s finest concert halls and opera houses. Sheer numbers combined with limited opportunities mean that for many, this dream never becomes a reality. It is for this reason that, in 1995, appreciating her own good fortune, Gillian scaled back her own career to establish the Concordia Foundation, providing concert opportunities, mentoring and financial support for young musicians.

### THE CONCORDIA FOUNDATION’S WORK

The Foundation has helped young musicians across the globe to achieve their dreams, while introducing classical music to a young audience. Its work is divided into three areas:

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\* *The Concordia International Ensemble* – This initiates and develops exchange visits and educational links between the UK and other countries across the world.

\* *The Emerging Artists* – This encourages, supports and provides a platform for new and emerging artists.

\* *Young Audiences* – This develops music and art educational programmes with school children in Tower Hamlets and presents specially written children’s productions at Wilton’s Music Hall.

### THE CONCORDIA FOUNDATION CELEBRATES ITS 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

This year, in an illustration of the work that the Concordia Foundation has developed over the past 15 years, it will present 50 concert performances in London culminating in a Gala orchestral concert, ‘Bach to Bernstein’ at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010.

Star artists involved with Concordia include:

#### *Colin Lee, tenor.*

Colin Lee has been associated with the Foundation since his first Concordia world tour in 1996 and is a Trustee of the Foundation. Colin, a greatly acclaimed tenor, appears worldwide in roles that include Rossini’s Count Almaviva (Royal Opera, Opera-Bastille, Vienna State Opera, WNO, ENO), Argirio in Tancredi (Theatre an der Wien), Don Narciso in Il Turco in Italia (Royal Opera, Berlin State Opera), Arturo in Lucia di Lammermoor (Metropolitan Opera, New York), 2010 Royal Opera, Tonio in La Fille de Regimen; Rodrigo in La Donna del lago (Paris Opéra). Colin sings Don Pasquale at Holland Park in June 2011 and he returns to the Metropolitan Opera House, New York in 2012 to sing Count Almaviva.



*Phuong Nguyen, classical accordionist and winner of the Concordia Barthel Prize in 2003.* Phuong was interned in Hong Kong for four years, where his musical abilities were first spotted. He was brought to England to study at the Royal Academy of Music and has been involved with Concordia ever since. As a Concordia Ambassador, he has represented the Foundation in Vietnam, and received a Concordia travel scholarship, which enabled him to travel the world on the QE2. He was a presenter at the Concordia's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.



*Satoko Fukuda, violin.*

Satoko studied at the Yehudi Menuhin School and the Royal College of Music. As a Concordia Prizewinning Ambassador, she has performed in Italy, Switzerland and Cuba. She appears regularly in Concordia concerts at St Martin-in-the-Fields, St James's Piccadilly, St Paul's Covent Garden and at the National Portrait Gallery as well as Young Audiences projects in London and Oxford. She will be performing in the Gala concert in November.



*John Wilson, conductor.*

John was shortlisted for last year's prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society's Conductor's Award, despite being still in his mid-30s. John has established himself an enviable reputation as a conductor, arranger and scholar and is recognised internationally as a passionate advocate of British music. Recently, John appeared at the BBC Proms, conducting his own orchestra with the Rogers and Hammerstein Song Book. He will conduct the Serenade to Music at Concordia's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010.



Other featured Concordia artists include:

James Cleverton, baritone; Ahmed Dickinson, classical guitar; Gareth McLearnon, flute and other Foundation prizewinners.



They will perform with the Charities Philharmonia Orchestra, conducted by Michael Alexander Young, with soloists from the Yehudi Menuhin School.

Lord Menuhin, who encouraged Gillian to set up the Foundation and was its founder patron, would be proud.

Charities Philharmonia was formed in 2006 and has established itself on the London music scene as an institution with a unique mission; forming a close alliance with one UK charity producing concerts solely to raise funds and awareness for the charity. Their vision is to provide outstanding music for outstanding causes.

*Michael Alexander Young, Music Director of Charities Philharmonia.*

Previously a prize winning finalist at both the Leeds Conductors Competition, 2005 and the International Pedrotti Competition, 2006 Michael is Music Director of Charities Philharmonia, the Beethoven Camerata and Jankelevic Ensemble as well as regular guest conductor of ensembles across Europe. Michael is also currently the Sir Charles Mackerras fellow at Trinity College of Music London having previously held the London Philharmonic Orchestra Paul Woodhouse fellowship in conducting.



**To find out more about the event, contact:**

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