

REPORT FOR WARWICK TOWN COUNCIL

ACTIVITIES ORGANISED IN THE TOWN BY LEAMINGTON MUSIC

The national and international reputation that Warwick has in the field of early music is possibly not fully realized in the town. With St Mary's at the centre, other buildings like the Lord Leycester Hospital, Unitarian Chapel, Friends Meeting House, St Nicholas Church, Court House and Shire Hall have all been over the years, the settings for memorable performances and workshops.

At the heart of this has been the monthly series of concerts held each winter in St Mary's Church, started in 1996 by Warwick Arts Society and run, since 2007, by Leamington Music. Other promoters and early music groups have subsequently been drawn to Warwick to add to this musically rich scene.

In the 2018/19 Early Music season at St Mary's, the six monthly concerts covered music from the thirteenth to the eighteenth centuries. Stile Antico and Ex Cathedra provided exciting vocal programmes and the York Waits, Sirinu, The Musicke Companye and K'antu Ensemble performed on an impressive range of instruments as well as singing in a number of works.

Other concerts in Warwick were given in the Unitarian Chapel by Roza Bene from Hungary on harpsichord and winner of the 2018 Leamington Music Prize, in the Lord Leycester Hospital by the Mellstock Band and in Warwick Hall by baritone Roderick Williams, a sensational performance in the round of Schubert's Winter Journey in an English translation. Members of the York Waits gave a lecture demonstration on the medieval instruments depicted in the world famous stained glass windows in the Beauchamp Chapel on the day of their concert .

In the Leamington Music Education Programme, run in collaboration with Warwickshire Music and part funded by Arts Council England, musicians in town for concerts went in to various Warwick schools, including All Saints Junior, Emscote Infants, King's High School, Newburgh Primary, Warwick School, Westgate Primary and Woodloes Primary with Ridgeway.

Planning into 2021 continues and I turn 80 in September 2020. Since returning in 1980 to live in the town where I was born, I will have organized well over 600 concerts in festivals and concert series in Warwick. To ensure that this can continue, I am now working with someone who can take over when the time comes.

Leamington Music and I personally are very grateful to Warwick Town Council for its financial support and hope this will continue so that what has been achieved by Warwick Arts Society and Leamington Music in the last thirty years can go on.

Richard Phillips MBE Festival Director