

April 2010



Tobin Music

ACCELERATING MUSIC LITERACY

News

Tribute Concert a Success!

The Tribute Concert to celebrate the life of Candida Tobin at the Rhodes Centre, Bishops Stortford on 23 January 2010 was a great success and the Tobin Music Trust again acknowledges the generous support of our sponsors. These sponsors included Trinity Guildhall who agreed to fund the hiring of the piano - the largest single item of expenditure. Additional financial support was gratefully received from Pearson Education, Rivers Hospital, Stansted Airport Community Trust, Trinity College of Music and Plextek Ltd who arranged to print the concert programmes. Prizes for the raffle were donated by the Stansted Hilton Hotel (dinner for two), Plextek Ltd (bottle of whisky), Hedley Wright Ltd (wine), and Helen Smithers (bone china mugs, chocolates and sweets). In addition Helen kindly donated the beautiful flower arrangement for the stage.

Around 130 members of the public turned up for the concert and overall the event yielded a profit of around £700 for the Tobin Music Trust.

Once the audience arrived and were settled in their seats, the event began with a slide show of photographs depicting the life of Candida from a young girl about to embark on her musical mission until her eighties while still actively teaching and developing her system. The 15-minute slide show was supported by a track of piano music composed by Candida and played by Chris Hall.

Following the slide show, trustee Helen Smithers gave an introductory speech in which she spoke of Candida's passion, tenacity, confidence and creativity, and the need for others to continue to promote her simple yet revolutionary music teaching system to enable as many children as possible to benefit from it. Helen also acknowledged that Candida found time to establish the Old Malthouse Music Society in her home at Sawbridgeworth. Many local people were privileged to attend the concerts over 25 years to enjoy performance from top class musicians including Colin Stone and Neil Smith both performing at this tribute concert.

This was followed by an address from Richard Tobin who recounted memories of his mother and read some amusing passages from her autobiography *Lifting the Lid*.



Richard Tobin spoke warmly of his mother and read several amusing anecdotes from his mother's autobiography 'Lifting the Lid'.



Helen's introductory speech outlined the aims of the Tobin Music Trust and acknowledged the support of the sponsors of this tribute concert.



Pianist Colin Stone reminisced on his first and subsequent recitals at the Old Malthouse Music Society before giving a stunning performance of music by Beethoven and Chopin.



Guitarist Neil Smith recalled his first recital and masterclass at the Old Malthouse Music Society and expressed his appreciation for a venue that gave so many musicians an opportunity for performing in front of an audience. He then played a wonderful selection of Spanish guitar music.



The concert attracted around 130 members of the public including a number of former regulars of the Old Malthouse Music Society held at Candida's home.



The stepped seating and fine acoustics at the Rhodes Centre added to the enjoyment of the concert. There were not many empty seats in the auditorium.



Sales of the autobiography were brisk following Richard's speech, and the income generated helped with the funding of the concert. Further income was generated by the raffle, ticket sales and of course the generosity of the sponsors.

A message from Rob Francis, Chairman of the Tobin Music Trust.

The Trust has decided to suspend active operation of the Tobin Trust for six months because we feel that it is impossible for us to achieve our key objectives without up-to-date training and teaching materials. The situation will be reviewed at the end of September 2010 when we hope to be in a position to continue our activities and we would then reinstate this newsletter as a means of communicating with the Tobin partners. We appreciate the support you have given us over the past few years and we will do everything we can to continue to perpetuate Candida's unique and magical system.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Helen Smithers and Chris Dell for the fantastic work they put in to make this concert the great success it was.