

Music for While Newsletter & All Saints' Appeal Launch



All Saints' MFA Festival

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Music for Awhile is delighted to announce its 2017 series and looks forward to welcoming you at the concerts. The Cecil King Chamber concerts will take place in three special churches:

3 June	St Katharine's, Savernake
5 July	St Thomas & St Edmund, Salisbury
14 October	St James, Stert, nr. Devizes

This year will be the **22nd Annual Summer Festival** at All Saints', Alton Priors.

As usual we have a stunning programme lined up:

1 July	Handel Opera <i>Acis and Galatea</i>
2 July	Bach Wedding Cantata, 1st Orchestral Suite, Harpsichord concerto

I will be joined by many regular MFA musicians for whom, like yourselves, the festival is a true highlight of their musical calendar. Booking details will be released in the spring and we promise you another glorious weekend of music-making.

However, alongside these wonderful concerts, I have to share some unwelcome news. In the summer of 2015 half the lead roof from All Saints' was stolen. *Music for Awhile* has been working with the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) to investigate both medium- and long-term solutions to this problem. Whilst grant sources for the major work are being researched, the CCT has agreed that it is essential to protect the church from further water damage and possible irreparable decay. They are also hugely supportive of the concerts and of you, the MFA audience, who breathe life into the church every year.

An interim measure has been applied which will protect the church for up to a decade, while significant funds can be raised towards a permanent solution. A sophisticated *rubberoid* roof membrane has been laid over the damaged roof, which is barely noticeable from the ground, preserving the beauty of our historic building. The project is being led by the region's Conservation Projects Manager, Meriel O'Dowd, who has made several visits to the church. We are very grateful for her expertise and support.



All Saints' with the new *rubberoid* roof

Music for Awhile has undertaken to fundraise for this interim remedy because the annual maintenance budget for each historic church under the CCT protection would not cover such repairs. We are extremely grateful to the Trust for funding the initial emergency work and for the care and time spent in finding this ingenious solution. The church's heritage and unique atmosphere are evident to all who visit and experience this very special place. After centuries of drawing worshippers and visitors inside its walls, it must be saved.

The total cost for this medium-term solution is £8,700.

MFA and a generous friend of the church have already contributed £1,500.

With your help, MFA pledges to raise the remaining £7,200 to save the church for future generations.

For the past two years MFA has not requested Friends' subscriptions, nor are we requesting Friends' subscriptions this year either. In order to fund this repair we are asking you to donate at least the equivalent amount of your MFA Friends' subscriptions to this special campaign.

Every little will help, and, with Gift Aid, the benefits to the church will be even greater. If every Friend of MFA donated at least £25 (£50 for a couple/family) we would be well on the way to our target and the church would be safe. Please consider donating this amount, or more if you are able.

For our part, *Music for Awhile* will MATCH ALL DONATIONS up to £3,600 (50% of the total required).

In addition, we hope to host another concert in Alton Barnes. If you have other suggestions for fundraising and are willing to help in any way, please let us know. Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a form enabling you to donate to the campaign. This project has a unique account at the CCT – all money sent via the enclosed donation form will be reserved for this appeal for All Saints'.

If you would like to know more about the CCT please visit their website <https://www.visitchurches.org.uk> or contact the project manager, Meriel O'Dowd modowd@thecct.org.uk 07879 414 512 or myself, Maggie Faultless maggiefaultless@gmail.com

Thank you in advance for your support,
Yours,

Maggie Faultless