

A new Clarinet Concerto to celebrate the return of The Cornwall Music Festival and three inspiring musicians.



Maisie and Evelyn Radford sailing off Amsterdam Point with Peter Campbell

Since 1984 the Radford Trust has provided funding for a workshop for all applicants to the Cornwall Music Festival Concerto Class. The signs are that in the spring of 2022, after an absence of 2 years, the Festival will return. To celebrate we plan to commission a new Clarinet chamber concerto from composer Ian Stephens which will be dedicated to three inspirational woodwind players who, like the Radford sisters, were significant in Cornwall's musical life: Thea King, Jane Fletcher and Jennet Campbell.

Maisie and Evelyn Radford who left money in trust to help young musicians in Cornwall were involved with Lady Mary Trefusis in setting up the Cornwall Music Festival. Maisie was secretary and Evelyn was, for many years, one of the official accompanists. The most celebrated achievement of the sisters during their lifetime, both in Cornwall and nationally, was their work with the Falmouth Opera Singers. The group of instrumentalists they assembled to play for the operas included woodwind players from up country. Jennet Campbell and Thea King were amongst them. Thea later became the professor of Clarinet at The Guildhall School of Music and was awarded both an OBE and DBE. The record label Hyperion describe her as 'the doyenne of English Clarinettists'. She was the inspiration for, and the dedicatee of, many of the finest 20th century works for clarinet by composers including Howard Blake, Gordon Jacob and Elizabeth Maconchy.

Jennet Campbell inherited the Radford's cottage and music Studio in St Anthony in Roseland, was a founding Trustee and served over 30 years as Honorary Secretary of the Radford Trust. In 1984 she asked Delia Ruhm to provide the first Radford Trust workshop for the CMF Concerto Class which that year featured the Flute. She had become lifelong friends with Delia when they were both flute students in London in the early 1950s. Jennet who

frequently opened her home to groups of young players to make music together in the Radford's Studio, felt it was important to give the concerto players the opportunity to play the piece they had studied with an actual orchestra. She therefore gathered local friends and teaching colleagues from the Cornwall Music Service to provide an orchestra for the Sunday afternoon of the workshop. That orchestra then played again for the finalists in St Mary's Methodist Hall at the Festival about a month later. In recent years, the accompaniment has been replaced with a much smaller ensemble, most often a string quartet. This still offers the soloists the experience of working with other musicians but it has started to restrict the choice of repertoire. In 2010, the Festival's centenary year though, through the Radford Trust for which he is a trustee, Cornish composer Russell Pascoe provided the violinists of the county with his concerto, 'Keskan'.

In her role as Secretary of the Cornwall Music Festival, amongst many other responsibilities, Jane Fletcher took on the organisation of the workshop and the provision of instrumental accompaniment for the Concerto class. As Head Teacher of Gerrans Primary School Jane had become firm friends with Jennet who taught recorders then all wind and brass instruments there to whoever wanted to learn. The school was always represented at the festival by their band. Jane was a lovely pianist and piano teacher, and she accompanied all Jennet's pupils in concerts and exams. The Gerrans School shows she directed were legendary in the Roseland. She was also a fine bassoonist, playing all over the county with her wind quintet Force Five Wind. She played clarinet, however, in St Anthony's Noyse. The Noyse is a community youth concert band of woodwind and brass players set up by Jennet in 1979 and later led and directed by Jane for at least ten years until her death in 2019.



Jennet Campbell, Suki Sharp (who still plays Euphonium in St Anthony's Noyse), Jude Tomlinson (who played bassoon) and Jane Fletcher on a St Anthony's Noyse Trip to see the Tall Ships at Falmouth in 1982

The idea for this piece to celebrate three inspirational woodwind playing women really sprang from another, Mandy Burvill. Mandy, who will lead the workshop, spent 10 years with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. She now pursues a freelance career which involves performance alongside a busy teaching schedule and outreach work where she uses music therapeutically with adults and older people with mental health problems, dementia,

learning disability and brain injury. Having recently completed a Masters in Psychology for Musicians, she is particularly keen 'to help musicians of all ages and stages communicate something authentic and meaningful to their audiences'. Mandy is immensely excited at the thought of a new clarinet concerto by Ian Stephens, and the chance to prepare young players for its premiere.

Ian Stephens' music has been performed by ensembles including the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Hallé Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Brodsky Quartet, Fitzwilliam Quartet, Choir of King's College Cambridge and Salisbury Cathedral Choir, and has been broadcast on BBC Radio 3. We're Going on a Bear Hunt, his children's entertainment for narrator and orchestra, was performed at the 2013 BBC Proms, narrated by Michael Rosen. He says that 'Cornwall is an essential part of my identity'. His paternal ancestry is deeply rooted in St Mawes where he spent childhood holidays 'exploring the area on foot and by sailing dinghy'. Maisie and Evelyn Radford knew those same waters well. Before they had a car, all journeys would start in a rowing boat at Place. The St Mawes Choral Society was one of their most treasured choirs and was recorded in the 1930s by the BBC. In a 2020 commission for Truro Three Arts Ian has already drawn on his attachment to the Fal estuary in Ha'n mor-tyd morlenow (As the sea-tide flows) for solo piano and for this new piece he aims to explore the Carrick Roads and its creeks and bays further.



Ian Stephens rowing his daughters in the Penryn River 2008

The Radford Trust turned fifty in 2020 and there were plans for a celebratory concert as part of the Roseland Festival. It would have been an occasion to pay tribute not only to Maisie and Evelyn but to Jennet and Jane too in Portscatho Memorial Hall where St Anthony's Noyse still rehearse every Saturday morning, pandemics permitting.

Our hope is to raise enough to commission a substantial piece of music, featuring the clarinet (Thea) but with bassoon (Jane) and Flute (Jen) prominent in the 'orchestra'. To make a contribution and find the relevant forms for Gift Aid if you are in a position to provide them, please go to the Radford Trust website: www.radfordtrust.org
Thank You.

Emma Campbell