

Whitstable Music Society Chairman's Report August 2023

I am pleased to report that our latest season of concerts (Sept 2022 to April 2023) was well attended with audience numbers back to pre Covid Pandemic levels after the disruption of 2020 and 2021.

We try hard to curate our artists and repertoire and the feed back from audiences on our 2022/23 season has been very positive. The mix of ensembles from individual artists to duos, trios, quartets and quintets, seems to be well appreciated and the choice of repertoire has a broad appeal. We intend to concentrate on this winning formula this coming season and beyond. I hope you will see from our new brochure that we have arranged an excellent programme of concerts and we very much hope that you will feel able to renew your season tickets for the coming season.

On the financial side the Society remains in a good position as we start the new season. Our income from the sale of both season tickets and single tickets last season were both up from the previous full season in 2020 and this was also the case with sponsorship, without which we could not afford the quality of the musicians for which we have built a reputation. Details of our sponsors can be found on our brochure and on our website. This year in addition to our usual very loyal sponsors we are very pleased to welcome Whitstable Hearing to our list of supporters.

This year we plan to hold the AGM via Zoom and an invitation and the relevant documents will be emailed to everyone on our email list with a date and time and the link to the Zoom meeting. The Chairman's Report will also be posted on our website:

www.whitstablemusicsociety.org.uk

We are very grateful for the support and loyalty of our sponsors who play a key part in maintaining our finances and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for their ongoing support. Also our experience over many years has shown that personal recommendation is the most effective way of promoting the society's concerts, so we hope that our current members and regular concert goers will help to increase our audience numbers by recommending our concerts to their friends.

On behalf of all our members I would like to thank the committee for their hard work throughout the last two years. Their enthusiasm and dedication kept the Society going throughout all the difficulties that Covid presented. We are enormously grateful too for the many donors who help us in various ways. A list of sponsors and donors is published in our new season's brochure and on our website.

Many thanks for your ongoing support and I look forward very much to welcoming you to our first concert on **Saturday 30th Sept 2023**.

John Walker

Chairman

