

Whitstable Music Society Chairman's Annual Report 6th July 2024

I am pleased to report that our last season of concerts (Sept 2023 to April 2024) was a great success with recitals from The Odora Piano trio, Leon McCawley (Piano) The Maggini Quartet, The Wiggin -Wass Duo, The Gould Piano Trio, Enigna 14 Trio and the Vandeppeer Quartet.

The feed back from our audiences on our 2023/24 season was very positive. The mix of ensembles from individual artists to duos, trios, and quartets, was well appreciated by our members and the choice of repertoire had 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 hope that you will renew your season tickets and we look forward to seeing you at the first concert on **Saturday 28th September**.

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 2022/23 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.

Our sponsors play a key part in maintaining our finances and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for their ongoing support. Details of our sponsors can be found on our brochure and on our website.

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. Season Ticket Holders are able to bring a friend **free of charge** to one concert each year so do take advantage of this privilege.

On behalf of all our Members and Friends I would like to thank the committee for their hard work throughout the year. 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. www.whitstablemusicociety.org.uk

I would also like to thank Whitstable Methodist Church for providing such a superb venue for our concerts. It is an attractive space in a convenient central location with good parking nearby, has excellent acoustics and good facilities for the musicians, who often remark on these qualities when they visit us.

The season after next (Sept 2025 to April 2026) will be our **50th Anniversary Season** and we are already planning ahead to ensure this will be a season to remember.

Many thanks for your ongoing support and I look forward very much to welcoming you to our first concert on **Saturday 28th Sept 2024**.

John Walker

Chairman