

**Deal Music & Arts Artistic Director's Report**

**Deal Music & Arts seized the challenges that the pandemic presented. Undaunted, we quickly created a whole series of films, making them public via a new Deal Music & Arts YouTube channel. Initially quite basic, these gradually turned into much more sophisticated productions that encompassed musical performance and educational films.**

These films now gather well over 1,000 views per month, and since established have achieved 17,500 views.

**Films include:**

- Music from Canterbury Cathedral – which includes the first film recording of the new cathedral organ)
- A series of films of the NYJO Ambassadors with Joe Browne
- Samuele Telari performing J.S. Bach's Goldberg Variations
- Two movements from Pete Long's DMA commissioned big band version of Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake
- Talks on music by Christopher Cook and Paul Edlin
- Artist interviews
- 30 education films including a concert for young people by Bold As Brass Quintet

More films are being created for future release.

Viewing figures are well balanced between performance and education, and some education films are clearly being watched at length and frequently. For instance, Jas Kayser's short film of Latin Groove has been watched over 2,600 times.

Circumstances meant that we had to postpone our Summer Festival 2020, managing to engage many artists to come in 2021.

Similarly, we could not run a live Creative Jazz Weekend, so, instead, we created a whole series of films and ran an 'online' festival, which received significant attention with almost 2,000 views over the three days.

We wanted to make sure that we could run a 'live' festival in 2021, and we therefore planned cautiously. By anticipating the worst and allowing options to increase activities if things were to improve, we were able to construct a festival that was both sensibly ambitious and feasible.



The festival took place in the first half of July (1 to 17) thus falling into a period when social distancing measures were fully in force. Our careful planning meant that almost all our festival could take place unchanged.

Artists and ensembles included Nicholas Daniel with Purcell School Orchestra, Academy of Ancient Music with Guildhall School of Music Historical Performance Department, Rachel Podger, and Michael Foyle and Maksim Štšura performing the complete Beethoven violin concertos (in chronological order over three evenings). NYJO featured strongly in three ways: NYJO Jazz Exchange's debut concert, NYJO members working with Norma Winstone and Niki Iles (pictured above) and the NYJO Nonet finishing the festival (we had hoped that the final concert would feature the





full jazz orchestra, thus being the first performance that ensemble would have given in over 15 months).

We have always made sure we feature music performed or composed by female artists, where possible on an absolutely equal footing. This year we chose to feature the work and impact of particular female artists. Jessica Duchen gave a semi theatrical performance in *Being Mrs Bach* and Lucy Stevens portrayed Dame Ethyl Smythe and Virginia Woolf. A range of concerts featured music by female composers, especially from the turn of the C19th/C20th century. There was some very moving moments that raised profound issues about the challenges female artists have faced – and continue to face.

Other topical issues included *How Britain Ends*, where Gavin Esler explained the rise of English nationalism which, in turn, can lead to the dismantling of the Union. Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was performed to an eager crowd in the beautiful grounds of Walmer Castle. There was a feature on the mutual influence of East and West in music, fundamentally starting in the late 1800s, with performances in association with China U.K. International Music Festival. Finally, there was a concert that celebrated the life and work of the celebrated trumpeter Philip Jones, in this the 70th year of the forming of the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble. Our own Bold As Brass Quintet performed, comprising some of Britain's finest brass players.

Some exceptional new and rising talent was celebrated in a series of concerts that featured younger artists.

Our Community Stage is integral to the public's access to Deal Music & Arts, reaching out to people and audiences that would otherwise not attend festival activities. This year was an inevitable challenge, the organisation wanting to attract people while government and council advice was to stop 'mingling'. We organised and realised three days of live music on the High Street, which turned out to be real successes, attracting audiences that fully respected government guidelines and ensured that both performers and audiences of all ages could enjoy live music. This also enlivened the town of Deal and boosted trade.

Live music for all on our Community Stage also ensured that Deal Music & Arts reached the general public free of charge.







The Old Time Sailors event also needs highlighting (pictured above). The group rescheduled their visit to allow a more flexible approach to audience engagement. The ensemble drew a hugely enthusiastic young audience and brought real energy to Deal.

What was particularly moving was the fact that many events were the first opportunities many outstanding musicians had had a chance to perform in public since March 2020. Similarly, the lengths taken to ensure social distancing and a safe environment gave audience members a real sense of security. Very many audience members made clear their delight at being able to hear live music once again.

Deal Music & Arts has, through a mix of ambition and common sense, ensured that music in East Kent has not been diminished, and that the local community has had opportunity to experience and learn from music making in whatever forms have been most appropriate. Furthermore, Deal Music & Arts has provided a lifeline for artists at a time when the profession has been under such strain.

We are now planning for 2022 and 2023, maximising opportunities for community engagement and a development of knowledge and understanding.

## Thank you to our Funders & Sponsors 2021

Academy of Ancient Music . Ambache Charitable Trust (raising the profile of music by women)  
Arts Council England . British Arts Festival Association (BAFA) . Cavatina Chamber Music Trust  
Colyer Fergusson Charitable Trust . China U.K. International Music Festival . City Music Foundation  
Deal Town Council . Dover Town Council . Godington Trust . Goodwin Academy  
Guildhall School of Music and Drama . Jack and Eileen Aisher Trust Limited . John Hobson Fund  
John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust . KCC Members Grant . Kent Music . Lawson Endowment Fund for Kent  
Malcolm Arnold Trust . Mark Loveday Charitable Trust . Mary Farrell Bursary . National Youth Jazz Orchestra  
Ian and Juliet Odgers . Incorporated Society of Musicians (ISM) . Linden Hall Studio . Port of Dover Harbour Board  
Queen Mary University of London . RVW Trust . Sandwich Toll Bridge Fund . SEAS . Sir Graeme Odgers  
Sgts Mess Productions . St Andrew's Church, Deal . St Clement's Church, Sandwich . St George's Church, Deal  
St Mary's Church, Walmer . The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation . The Cleary Foundation  
The Countess of Munster Trust . The Drapers' Company . The Guy & Elinor Meynell Charitable Trust  
The Henry Smith Charity . The Purcell School . The Roger De Haan Charitable Trust  
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance . Turner Contemporary . Walmer Parish Council  
Young Classical Artists Trust

## And thank you to our Corporate Members

Aston Lark  
Castles  
DMA Scaffolding  
George Hammond PLC  
Linden Hall Studio  
Mickle Creative