

The Grieg Society of Great Britain, 2016-17

The British Grieg Society continues to hold 3-4 events per year, mostly concerts, particularly connected with Grieg's "birthday" in June and our Annual General Meeting in November. We have also been fortunate to have an annual event at the residence of the Norwegian ambassador in London, where we have presented our "Record of the Year" award to a worthy recipient. In 2016 that was awarded to Siva Oke of Somm Recordings for the reissue of the *Slåtter* and *Stemninger* played by the late John McCabe.

2017 has marked the Society's 25th anniversary and we have held special concerts in connection with that. The concert in May featured the premiere of *Variants on Themes of Grieg* by Robert Matthew-Walker, along with Grieg's *Two Elegiac Melodies* and the *Holberg Suite* played by a talented young string orchestra, the Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra of London, under their conductor Christopher Petrie.

For Grieg's "birthday" in 2016 we held a concert at the Norwegian church in London featuring our members Mary Pilbery (oboe), Vicky Reed (piano). Here we have the advantage of being able to have a reception afterwards, where artists and audience can meet and talk. In 2017 the concert was a splendid recital by our Patron, the cellist Raphael Wallfisch, playing sonatas by Brahms and Martinů, as well as Grieg.

Our actual 25th anniversary in October was marked by a reception at the ambassador's residence and a recital of songs by Grieg, Alnæs, Kvandal and Thoresen with Astrid Sandvand Dahlen (soprano) and Paul Gobey (piano). We produced a Souvenir Programme, listing some of the recipients of the "Record of the Year" award and greetings from Grieg friends around the world.

We continue to produce a Newsletter two or three times a year, with news of the society's and members' activities, and our annual *Grieg Journal*, edited by Robert Matthew-Walker, with longer articles on aspects of Grieg's life and music. This year, too, we have started our own Facebook page, which has helped to advertise our events more widely.

Our AGM will take place on November 17th, to be followed by a concert, this year given by with Mary Pilbery and Vicky Reed. Plans for 2018 include a concert with the Vivaldi Concertante on April 21st and a "birthday" concert for Grieg, played by international pianist Motoki Hirai, on June 16th, both to be held at the Norwegian Church. Details from our website.