**Clarinet and Cake – a celebration concert for Reading Bach Choir**

Many groups are endeavouring to raise funds after Covid and Reading Bach Choir are no exception! This concert will help; a clarinet recital given by alto Janet Hilton – who is a renowned solo clarinettist and professor of clarinet at the Royal College of Music – and our Assistant Musical Director Nick Shaw on the piano. I asked Janet about her career and this particular recital.

It all started with a child’s penny-whistle! Having honed these skills, 12 year old Janet spotted a clarinet in a shop window and liked the look of it – so much so that she persuaded them to buy it for her, whereupon she began to teach herself to play it. Lessons followed, leading to study abroad for a while and competitions. The prize for winning one of these was to give a series of concerts, which led to getting an agent, solo and orchestral playing, and then teaching.

These strands have continued throughout Janet’s career. A move to Scotland, as principal clarinet in the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, was the start of her teaching career. She found her way to the Royal College of Music in London via Manchester and Birmingham and still teaches in London one day a week. Much music has been specially written for and been recorded by her, including Divertimento for Wind Octet, composed by her friend Sir Malcolm Arnold.

Janet moved out of London in 2010, calling time on her busy orchestral career but definitely not her solo and chamber music work! Along with her husband David she joined the Reading Bach Choir and this has provided a fresh opportunity for group music making.

The main thread of this concert is composers who studied or worked at the Royal College of Music, including Charles Stanford, as well as Vaughan Williams.

Tea and cake afterwards are included, so join us on Saturday October 8th, at 3.30 pm, in St Andrew’s Church, Caversham. Tickets available from choir members or the website, [www.readingbachchoir.org.uk](http://www.readingbachchoir.org.uk) , £15 (£5 under 18s).

To hear Janet playing, try this preview of her most recent CD:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jzpm5_IBcIY>

The next Reading Bach Choir concert will also be held at St Andrew’s Church, on Sunday 13th November at 5 pm. To sign up to receive our occasional newsletters, please visit www.readingbachchoir.org.uk/newsletter.