



Picture: Mike Walters

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Music to soothe your soul at lunchtime

Calling all music lovers! An exciting showcase of talented performers are preparing to provide you with an oasis of calm during your lunch break this summer.

The ancient church of St Peter's in Carmarthen provides a superb location for the series of five recitals which is being billed as "music to soothe your soul". The St Peter's Lunchtime Recitals Series in August draws from the world of classical, jazz and church music and opens with what promises to be a stirring performance from rising star, organist Tom Howell.

At just 22, Tom is already well known among church music circles in Swansea and Neath. A pupil of esteemed organ tutor Gerdi Troskie, Tom is Organ Scholar of Chichester Cathedral and former music scholar of Llandovery College. He was accompanist of Neath Male Choir for over four years and is an Associate of the Royal College of Organists and an Associate of the Royal Schools of Music in piano performance. He currently studies at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

Fellow organists Stephen Honeyman and Martin Bell also form part of the programme as do celebrated harpist and composer Monika Stadler, and Carmarthen's very own Mary Evans who performs on both the harp and organ.

Renowned as one of the most creative solo harpists in Europe, Monika Stadler's stunning classical and jazz music is played across the world. Monika has played with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra and throughout Europe, USA, Canada, Middle East and Asia.

Monika is a guest professor at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, as well as a staff member of the University of Music and Drama in Vienna. She also teaches many jazz and improvisation workshops for harpists worldwide.

Stephen Honeyman's musical journey has taken him on a whole world of opportunity. Stephen has played the organ in the Cathedrals of Bruges and Bayeux; churches in Mittenwald and Zwiessel; Oberammergau and Unterammergau as well as Ettal Abbey in Bavaria. He is currently the Organist at Llangyfelach Church, Swansea.

Martin Bell was identified as a gifted organist at the age of 9 when he was a chorister and was soon accompanying the choir during their practice. He has progressed to the highest standard and is an Associate in Organ Performance of the National College of Music, ANCM and the Victoria College of Music, AVCM. Martin also recently passed the Licentiate Organ Recital Diploma of the Trinity College London LTCL. Martin is the current organist at St Gabriel's Church Swansea and Llanelli Crematorium.

The St. Peter's Lunchtime Recital programme is being organised by Mary Evans who is the Director of Music at St Peter's. Mary has an ALCM for piano performance and is CRCO (a colleague of the Royal College of Organists). Mary has accompanied choirs and soloists across the UK and is credited for her recital on the triple harp, telling the story of the triple harp in Wales which she plans to perform again in the August series. Mary, also a pupil of Gerdi Troskie, is Convenor of the Wales branch of the Clarsach Society and a much-respected Carmarthen solicitor who set up the firm Mary Evans & Co.

Mary says everyone is welcome to attend the summer programme which has resumed again after the two-year Covid break. She said: "We are very proud to be hosting such a talented line-up at St Peter's. We welcome shoppers, visitors, office and retail workers, family and friends to attend one or all of the recitals at St Peter's every Wednesday in August at 1pm. It promises to be an exquisite hour of musical delight set in one of Carmarthenshire's most historic churches."

Timetable of recitals

August 3	Tom Howell (organ)
August 10	Monika Stadler (harp)
August 17	Stephen Honeyman (organ)
August 24	Mary Evans (organ and harp)
August 31	Martin Bell (organ)

All performances are at 1pm. Tickets are £5 per recital or £20 for all five. Five people can also attend a recital for the price of four. There will be light refreshments available after each recital as well as a raffle draw.

St Peter's Church is also holding a Book Fayre on Wednesday August 3 from 2-4pm and on Thursday August 4, Friday August 5 and Saturday August 6 from 10 am-2pm. Admission free and, as always, there will be a wide selection of used books for sale at bargain prices. There will also be a raffle, plus homemade cakes, jams and chutneys and delicious refreshments.

For more information on the Recitals contact:

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