

Lennox Berkeley Society Newsletter

Issue 6

March 2025



Berkeley at the Wigmore Hall

Our Society exists to encourage the performance, study, recording and broadcast of Berkeley's work, so it has given us great pleasure to see Berkeley's music featuring in numerous concerts around the country.

In February, the Bulgarian guitarist Georgi Dimitrov performed Berkeley's *Theme and Variations* in London's beautiful Wigmore Hall, appearing with the Londinium Consort. The recital showcased them as winners of the New Elizabethan Award for 2025. Their programme of works spanned the centuries from John Dowland, through Lennox Berkeley and Richard Rodney Bennett, to a world première by Owen Spafford.

Also at the Wigmore Hall, in January, Robin Tritschler performed Berkeley's *Three Greek Songs*, accompanied by pianist Jonathan Ware. Tritschler has been a key voice, in every sense, in the recent promotion of Berkeley's music. Earlier this year, he appeared on Radio 3's *In Tune*, speaking enthusiastically about his discovery of these songs. *To Aster* was broadcast as part of that programme. Tritschler's 2024 album, *Songs for Peter Pears*, features Berkeley's *Five Housman Songs* and *Songs of the Half-Light*. Among other stellar reviews, *Classical Music* praised the "luminous tone and unflinching emotional directness, full of the resignation and bitterness of unrequited love".

Berkeley further North

Another recent promoter of Berkeley's music is pianist John Mark Rose. In 2024, the Society gave Rose a small grant towards his fee and travel costs for eight performances of Berkeley's *Six Preludes*, which took place in Doncaster, Sheffield, Chesterfield, Burnley, Louth, Hinckley, Newark and Cleethorpes.

This year, Rose has embarked on another tour of Berkeley concerts, this time featuring the *Five Short Pieces* and a *Mazurka*. The Society is once again giving a small grant in support, helping bring Berkeley's music to parts of Britain that might not otherwise hear him.

The photograph shows Rose in St Peter's Church, Burnley, Lancashire. His prominent display of Berkeley's portrait on the music stand is a touching addition!

Meanwhile, conductor William Dutton, a former winner of the Strings Final of the BBC Young Musician of the Year, is launching a Yorkshire-based chamber orchestra. With support from the Society, they will include the *Serenade for Strings* in their opening concert on 8th May in the Royal Hall, Harrogate.



I hope we will see you soon at our AGM on 21st May, once again in the Razumovsky Academy, Kensal Green.

Ash Bridges (Editor)

