

ensemble

THE AVISON ENSEMBLE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2010



Dear Friends

At the end of our last concert, which closed the highly successful tercentenary celebrations, an enthusiastic audience member asked me "Now Gordon, how do you follow that?" A very provoking question, I thought, thinking of all the varied work that the Avison Ensemble has achieved since our humble beginnings 25 years ago, but no obvious answer came to mind.

The question was still very much at the forefront of my mind when I attended a concert we promoted in the Charles Avison Building (Newcastle Central Library for those who have missed this) given by past winners of the Avison Ensemble Young Musicians' Awards and members of the Gateshead Youth Orchestra. The amazing talent of these children was impressive enough to leave me thinking that with talent like that, the future of music is set to be very exciting indeed, and the Avison Ensemble must look for new ways to cultivate it.

We also have worldwide interest in our work, which has been increased by sales of our 12 CDs, favourable press reviews and the regard spread by word-of-mouth of the high quality of the Avison Ensemble's playing. So how do we find a way to bring our international and local audiences together with new and exciting opportunities for young talent to engage with performances? The answer is simple: the Internet will become our World-Wide Concert Hall, and everyone can have a front row seat! Our own Digital Concert Hall will host live performances and films of

concerts and will become one of the ways the Avison Ensemble promotes new and young talent on the world stage. Everyone will be able to find a way to take part, perform and interact and what's more, entertainment will be available 24 hours a day!

Live concerts at local venues will still be our priority, which we hope you will continue to attend, but these will also be geared towards welcoming our online visitors. If the thought of all this appears to be somewhat unnerving to you, then please don't worry, as we'll do our best to turn that feeling into excitement as you find new and interesting ways to engage with us and our music.

We are now looking forward to a future where we are all even more connected and one where we'll have you with us, and our music will be available to you, every day, no matter where you are! We will be launching our Digital Concert Hall in October this year, so look out for our news bulletin!

Please do continue to support us with your donations and memberships of our Friends organisation, and in this age of technology it's vital that you keep us up to date with your email addresses!

Here's to the next 100 years of Avison and a groundbreaking future for music!

With best wishes,

Gordon

Gordon Dixon
Executive Director



NEW CD RELEASES:

Handel 12 Concerti Grossi Opus 6

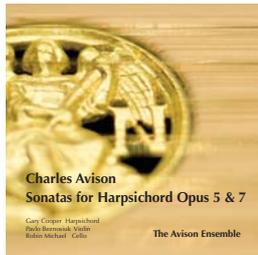
**MusicWeb International
Download of the Month:**

"...this could well become my benchmark in future for this wonderful music..."



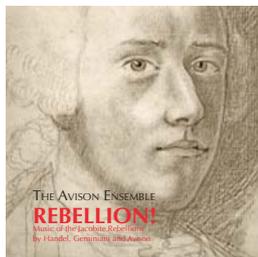
Charles Avison Harpsichord Sonatas Opus 5 & 7

With Gary Cooper, harpsichord.
The final CD in our collection of Avison's complete works.



Rebellion!

Music of the Jacobite Rebellions
By Handel, Geminiani and Avison



AVAILABLE NOW!
VISIT WWW.AVISONENSEMBLE.COM
FOR DETAILS ON HOW TO ORDER

A FURTHER CELEBRATION....

June this year marked the anniversary of the naming of the Charles Avison Building (Newcastle City Library), by Dr Herbert Loebel. The anniversary celebrations for the Queen's visit and the official opening of the Charles Avison Building took place over the summer and The Avison Ensemble, in partnership with the Gateshead Youth Orchestra formed part of the celebrations in concert together.

The Ensemble chose to present past entrants and winners of the Young Musicians' Awards and the concert was played to a full house in the Bewick Hall in June.

Performances from Adam Carter (clarinet), Lexy Powell (flute), Jacob Robson (voice), Hayley O'Connelley (trombone), Abigail Somers (clarinet), Miriam Nohl (cello),



Chris Watson (trumpet) and Jenni Watson (violin). The Gateshead Youth Orchestra strings section provided orchestral pieces ancient and modern and altogether the audience was treated to performances from some of the most talented young people in the North East.

YOUNG MUSICIANS' AWARDS 2010

This year's winners of the Avison Ensemble Young Musicians' Awards performed to and received their prizes from the Sheriff of Newcastle, Cllr. Brenda Hindmarsh and the Sheriff's Lady, Mrs. Gitta Faulkner at King's Hall, Newcastle University in March.

Supported this year by the Sir James Knott Trust, the annual Avison Ensemble Young Musician's Awards were set up in 2005 to encourage young musical talent across the North-east region. Now in the sixth year, the entrants to the Awards receive tuition and guidance, as well as important encouragement to continue their musical education.

The assessors were John Treherne, Head of Gateshead Schools' Music Service, Gordon Dixon, CEO of the Avison Ensemble and Deborah Thorne, a local cellist and one of the regular Avison Ensemble players; international pianist Kathy Chi joined the assessors for the final judging.

The winners of this year's Awards were talented clarinetist, Adam Carter (13) from Newcastle, an outstanding flautist, Lexy Powell (13) from Durham, and our first young harpist, Helena Pearson (17) from Cramlington.



The Awards themselves are 3 beautiful, unique engraved glass trophies, inscribed with music from the Avison workbooks, which belong to the Ensemble and were created by Dominic Fondé, a local glass artist. The winners also received a cheque for £25 each and their awards will be displayed in their schools: St Thomas More Catholic School, Bladen, The Chorister School, Durham and The Royal Grammar School, Jesmond.

Next year's Awards will begin in earnest in September – so if you know of any suitable candidates, please refer them to our website where they will soon be able to sign up for the 2011 competition.

GETTING A HANDEL ON THE JACOBITE REBELLIONS...

The Ensemble's concert in September will be our first major website development project as we take Bamburgh Castle by storm!

The date for your diary is **Saturday September 4th at 7.30pm** in the Great Hall at Bamburgh. There are a limited number of seats available, so you will need to contact us straight away to ensure your place. Email Frances on frances@avisonensemble.com or call her on 07711 031 567 to reserve your seats; you can pay on the door. Tickets £10.

Most importantly, we want as many of our Friends to come to this event as possible, as we are filming the concert live and would love to have you there with us as we embark on our new venture!

The concert is the highlight of our day in Bamburgh, but we will be busy all day filming around the Castle. We will be holding interviews and spending time around the locale filming magazine articles for the new website – so make a day of it and come along early to see what we are doing. We are working once again with the young performers from First Act Theatre, who are going to be filming a re-enactment of an exciting rebel incident "Escape from the Tower" charting a daredevil ruse by a woman whose antics kick Toad of Toad Hall's into the long grass!

BACH SUITES

We are delighted to welcome Richard Tunnicliffe to a series of solo concert performances of the complete Bach Cello Suites in September.

Richard deeply impressed our audiences with his superb performances and recording of the John Garth Cello Concertos. One of England's finest

Baroque cellists, Richard has longed to perform all the Bach Solo Cello Suites, and for us this will be a fine way to spend the late summer evenings.

No doubt Richard will introduce his performances and will give illuminating insight to these pivotal works of the cello repertoire. Each concert will feature 3 of the suites, so remember to book both concerts to hear all 6.

Email: tickets@avisonensemble.com or call 07711 031 567.



Performers include Robert Howarth and Pavlo Beznosiuk with sopranos Mhairi Lawson and Lisa Wilson. In a newly ordered rebellious programme of favourite works by Handel, Avison and others, they sing in combat for both sides of the Tweed, with the King's army marching against the Rebel forces....

As an extra excitement at this concert we aim to launch the CD of Rebellion! on our own label 'Cavalier Classics'. So, those lucky audience members who are at the performance may receive the first CDs to reach the public and will have the opportunity to have the covers signed by the soloists and players at the launch!

We are also delighted to be bringing this wholly appropriate concert to Scotland for the first time. We will be performing at St Cecilia's Hall, Edinburgh on Saturday October 30th. So if you are keen to cross the Border to join us, or indeed if you are already in 'Bonny Scotland', please do come!

Tickets are priced **£16** (OAPs **£13**, students and unwaged **£5**) and are available by calling The Queen's Hall Box Office on 0131 668 2019 up to 5pm on the day of the concert. Tickets booked by telephone can be collected at St Cecilia's from 7pm on the day of the concert. Any remaining tickets will be on sale at the door – subject to availability.

CORELLI: THE COMING OF ARCANGELO!

Arcangelo Corelli was, musically speaking, Avison's grandfather!

The Avison Ensemble is embarking on a major new recording programme and will record the complete works of Arcangelo Corelli in time to mark the 300th anniversary of his death in 2013.

This will be the first major 'complete works' programme that the Ensemble has undertaken since finishing our recordings of Avison's complete works in 2009. It is a large undertaking and will take the next two years to complete, during which time audiences will be treated to a number of pre-recording concerts and tasters of the music to come.

This work has already begun with some recordings of the Trios in hand and others planned for next year, including the Concerti Grossi. So please keep an eye on our website for further details of the concerts to come and news of the launch date of the recordings themselves.



Listings 2010

Sept 4	Getting a Handel on the Jacobite Rebellions	Bamburgh Castle	£10 <i>(Limited Seating - Please Book Early)</i>
Sept 16	Bach Cello Suites No.1, 3 & 5	Chillingham Castle	£10
Sept 17	Bach Cello Suites No. 4, 2, 6	Chillingham Castle	£10
Sept 18	Bach Cello Suites No.1, 3 & 5	King's Hall, Newcastle	£10
Sept 19	Bach Cello Suites No. 4, 2, 6	King's Hall, Newcastle	£10
Oct 30	Getting a Handel on the Jacobite Rebellions	St Cecilia's, Edinburgh	£16 (OAP £13, Students & Unwaged £5) <i>(Limited Seating - Please Book Early. The Queen's Hall Box Office: 0131 668 2019)</i>

Concerts for 2011 to be announced shortly on our website at www.avisonensemble.com

Planning ahead for 2011 Some diary dates; further details will be announced.

March 6 Young People's Concert King's Hall, Newcastle

Gordon Dixon and Cathy Chi celebrate Eastern Europe with a programme of Chopin, Shostakovich, Tchaikovsky and Shchedrin:

May 12	Cello & Piano: Gordon Dixon & Kathy Chi	Durham University
May 13	Cello & Piano: Gordon Dixon & Kathy Chi	St James's Piccadilly
May 15	Cello & Piano: Gordon Dixon & Kathy Chi	King's Hall, Newcastle

KEEP IN TOUCH!

As we move forward with new electronic communications we would like to keep in touch with you by email. This is not only quicker but also much less expensive for us and more ecologically sound, as far as paper consumption is concerned!

So, if you have an email address, please send a quick email to frances@avisonensemble.com and tell us to add you to our mailing list.

We will send information about our work and concert details as well as newsletters and other information.

Please stay in touch!

TICKET BOOKINGS

For September 2010 concerts please email tickets@avisonensemble.com or if you cannot get online please telephone or leave a message on 07711 031 567.

For October concert: Tickets are priced at **£16** (OAPs **£13**, students and unwaged **£5**) available from The Queen's Hall Box Office, telephone 0131 668 2019.

2011 concerts box office details to be announced.

For further information please visit our website at WWW.AVISONENSEMBLE.COM

SOCIAL MEDIA

We are now approaching our first anniversary on Flickr and our thanks to all of you who have looked at our photos or become fans of the Ensemble on Facebook. You have added to the 30,000 visitors to our pages!

We are continuing to upload new images here every month, so do drop by and add your comments.



We hope you like our new branding!

The seahorses are from the Newcastle City Coat of Arms and the music is, of course, from Avison's workbook.

