

The Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme at Aldeburgh

The Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme, in partnership with the Worshipful Company of Musicians, has set up an Assistant Conductor bursary for the Britten-Pears Orchestra. The Company has granted the sum of £3,000 annually for three years commencing in 2007 and our support will be acknowledged in the concert programmes and publicity

The bursary has created a very special opportunity for an outstanding young conductor, selected by competitive international audition, to have the invaluable experience of working alongside and being mentored by conductors of international calibre and experience. The Britten-Pears Orchestra, an international orchestra of able young musicians selected by audition, runs four to five short courses each year and perform as part of the Aldeburgh Easter Festival and Snape Proms, amongst other engagements.

The award this year has been divided between two successful candidates. Christian Baldini joined the orchestra for the April course when works by Prokofiev and Stravinsky were performed and Volker Krafft who conducted rehearsals and played the harpsichord at the August course in a concert version of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. He will also attend the October session when a programme of compositions by Battistelli (a new commission), Strauss and Walton will be presented. Christian Baldini, an Argentinian born in 1978, is studying for a Master's Degree in orchestral conducting at Penn State University and is also a PhD fellow in Composition. He

has recently won international composition competitions in Korea and Argentina.

Volker Krafft was born in Tubingen, southern Germany, in 1983. He studied conducting at the Karlsruhe Conservatory and Leipzig and piano at the Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy Conservatory. He has conducted at the Max Reger Festival of Weiden and Leipzig Opera School and is currently studying at the Sweelinck Conservatorium in Amsterdam. The Senior Warden, Leslie East and I visited Snape Maltings and met Volker, a charming and talented young man, who was extremely grateful for the assistance given by the Musicians' Company. He was working under the guidance of the conductor, Richard Egarr. Leslie and I attended a rehearsal and the performance of *Don Giovanni* and were very pleased to hear Elenor Böwers-Jolley, a Company Silver Medal Winner, singing the part of Zerlina.

It is gratifying to know that the Musicians' Company is able to support the first conducting awards to be established in the country and that two able young conductors are benefiting in splendid musical surroundings.

Immediate Pastmaster Peter Fowler



Joint 2007 Award winner Volker Krafft

St John's, Smith Square

Originally built in 1728, St John's, Smith Square, has been dubbed 'Queen Anne's Footstool' due to the legend that the architect, Thomas Archer, consulted Queen Anne on the design of the new church. In reply, the monarch petulantly kicked over her footstool and snapped "like that!" Thus the four towers are said to give the building the semblance of an upturned footstool.

St. John's was rebuilt in the 1960s after severe war damage. Although still consecrated, it was restored as an arts centre. The acoustic proved excellent for music and so it quickly established itself as one of London's major concert venues. Dame Joan Sutherland and Richard Bonyngue gave the first concert in 1969. At St. John's we are acutely aware how difficult it can be to launch a career in classical music. Many of our own series have featured young artists and we host many concerts by youth orchestras. The Thursday Lunchtime Concert Series features established artists but also focuses on those at the threshold of their professional musical lives. Getting to know the work of the Worshipful Company of Musicians and the various prizes given to

Developing Voices

The generous support of the Worshipful Company of Musicians is creating the opportunity for an innovative collaboration in London led by Voces Cantabiles Music (VCM). They are joining forces with Live Music Now and Point Blank to deliver a long-term creative music project to students in Hackney. On the initiative of Master-Elect Leslie East, the Musicians' Company has provided funding for VCM to develop this project, find matched funding and deliver a fantastic music experience for young people in London.

Paul Smith, CEO of VCM, says that 'this is a truly exciting opportunity for us. It is only with the support of the Worshipful Company of Musicians that this project is possible and we are delighted to have been able to involve two other outstanding organisations to work with us. Trudy White, director of Live Music Now! in London, has been