



Words & Music – a concert to raise funds for Walpole Chapel Saturday 12th July 7.30 – 8.30 pm at The Cut, Halesworth

An evening of songs and readings featuring some of our finest musicians and local writers. Sopranos Charmian Bedford, Madeleine Holmes and baritone, Rob Gildon, will be accompanied by Nathan Williamson in a selection of songs celebrating and spanning the life of Chapel, from its seventeenth century origins to the present.



Charmian Bedford has appeared in operas at Opera North, Garsington and Aldeburgh and concerts at the Wigmore Hall and The Barbican. She will be joined by Madeleine Holmes, who has a varied portfolio of creative work as a singing storyteller in a broad range of repertoire on stage and in song, including opera at the Queen Elizabeth Hall and Sadlers Wells, recitals at the Wigmore Hall and jazz from The American Songbook at The Ritz.



Rob Gildon's baritone voice is often heard at Walpole Old Chapel in concerts and the annual candlelit carol service. A selection of his many operatic roles includes appearances at The Queen Elizabeth Hall, ROH, Garsington and recitals of Bach's St Matthew's Passion and Hayden's Creation.



Nathan Williamson, Southwold's composer and pianist, has written operas and compositions for the concert hall. His recording of "100 years of British song" with tenor James Gilgrist, was awarded Recording of the Month by Limelight. A talented pianist, he has played the complete Beethoven Concertos and is a member of Piano Circus, an innovative piano ensemble of 6 pianos.



They will be joined by John Myerscough, the cellist with the Doric String Quartet which performs on London, Europe, USA, Japan and Australia. An accomplished soloist, John is Professor of cello and chamber music at the Royal Academy of Music and gives string quartet masterclasses at Chamber Studio in London.



The evening will also comprise readings by three writers, all of whom live in Suffolk and have strong links with Walpole Chapel. Novelist and biographer Lucy Hughes-Hallett's latest book "The Scapegoat: The Brilliant Brief Life of the Duke of Buckingham", has been shortlisted for the Duff Cooper Prize and the Plutarch Award, and has won the Publishing Triangle's Randy Shilts Award for Non-Fiction.



Julia Blackburn says of her many books, plays and stories, "Everything I have written has been part of my life in one way or another... I am fascinated by the way that one can get closer to an understanding of a long-dead stranger or a distant time." We look forward to listening to this multi award-winning author.

Writer, novelist and cultural critic, Olivia Laing's most recent book, "The Garden Against Time: In Search of a Common Paradise", was a Sunday Times number one bestseller and shortlisted for the Wainwright Prize and the Kirkus Prize.



All funds raised will support the renovation of Walpole Old Chapel – a seventeenth century farmhouse, converted into a non-conformist chapel and now in desperate need of restoration.

Help us to save this unique building for future generations.

Tickets at £20 are available from The Cut – <https://thecut.org.uk>

Images in order of text- Rob Gildon, Charmian Bedford, Madeleine Holmes, Nathan Williamson, John Myerscough, Lucy Hughes-Hallett, Julia Blackburn, Olivia Laing