



Patron
ANGELA SIMPSON

President
JOHN McCABE

Vice Presidents
PHIL LESH
GRAHAM MELVILLE-MASON
LIONEL PIKE
RONALD STEVENSON
MATTHEW TAYLOR

THE ROBERT SIMPSON SOCIETY

Chairman: Dr. Jürgen Schaarwächter

Secretary: David Jones

Telephone: 01223 210552

Email: djjones3@btinternet.com

From: David Jones

42, Tiverton Way,

Cambridge,

CB1 3TU

ROBERT SIMPSON SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1.45 pm Friday 17th June 2011

The Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa

Dear member,

On behalf of the Chairman I should like to invite you to this year's AGM which is being held at the Royal Spa Centre, Leamington Spa. The enclosed map will show how to find the venue.

The AGM is normally held on a Saturday. The reason for the change this year is the unveiling of a plaque to Robert Simpson at his birthplace, 21 Rosefield Street, Leamington Spa. This follows the AGM; the composer's sister Miriam will unveil the plaque. There will then be a reception and tea in the Town Hall and an evening concert, which includes Simpson's 7th quartet, performed by the Coull Quartet. All the venues are within 150 yards of each other. A detailed timetable is given below with the AGM agenda.

If you are able to attend, could you let me know as soon as conveniently possible? In particular, could you indicate whether you expect to attend the lunch and/or reception? It will be a great help to the organisers to know exact numbers. You may wish to make your own arrangements for lunch but we thought it might be pleasant for RSS members to join together.

The Society is particularly grateful to Robin Taylor of the Leamington Blue Plaque Committee for his detailed work in making this occasion possible. He is a member of the Elgar and Richard Strauss Societies and his preferred music is late-Romantic, but on hearing three or four Simpson symphonies his reaction was; 'this chap's a bit difficult but admirable'. On discovering that Simpson was born in Leamington, he put the composer's name forward to the Blue Plaque Committee. Robin has also been enormously helpful in recommending our venues for lunch, the AGM and overnight accommodation, as well as the timings for the day. We are greatly indebted to him.

I do hope you can join us at this special occasion to honour one of Britain's outstanding composers.

Yours sincerely,

David Jones

TIMETABLE FOR 17 JUNE

- 12.00 – 1.30 RSS lunch at The Restaurant in the Park
- 1.45 – 3.15 AGM
- 3.30 – 4.30 Two unveilings: 3.30, for Norman Painter (actor, writer, countryman, President of Age Concern); 4.00, for Robert Simpson. Short walk from one to the other, then short walk to the Town Hall.
- 4.30 – 5.30 Reception in the Town Hall. Tea, cakes, etc. Short speeches, including five minutes each for Painter and Simpson (the one for Simpson probably given by Roger Coull).
- 5.30 – 6.30 Slow walk to places of interest, led by Robin Taylor, and/or adjourn to nearby pub.
- 6.45 – c.7.15 Reception in Spa Centre.
- 7.30 Concert in Spa Centre Studio Theatre. The Coull Quartet will play Simpson's 7th Quartet, Haydn's Op. 33 No. 3 and Beethoven's Op. 59 No. 2. **(Tickets cost £13.50 from the Royal Spa Court Box Office – tel. 01926 334418).**

Given these timings, members who intend to go to the concert might like to regard lunch as the main meal; I am assured the 4.30 reception will provide a more than adequate tea. A two-course lunch at The Restaurant in the Park costs £9.50. Those requiring accommodation might care to try Robin Taylor's recommendation of the three-star Angel Hotel, 143 Regent St (tel.01926 881296). A single room costs £59 a night, a double, £80. It is a mere 200 yards from the Spa Centre.

AGM AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting (2010)
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Election of Committee and officers
7. Changes to the constitution
8. Date of next meeting
9. AOB

Recent news

The Society has lost two long-standing members in the past year. In January we learnt that Daphne Dorrell died last July. She and her late husband Anthony were the dedicatees of the 8th Symphony, the manuscript score of which was given to them by the composer. In 2006 Daphne gave the score to the Society for transfer to the British Library. On 18th January this year Pam Bacon died. She had been a Committee member almost since the Society was formed in 1980 and had been Vice-chairman since 1995. Though both of them had become less mobile in recent years, their interest in the Society never diminished.

Robert Simpson's 5th Symphony was given an stunning performance by the enthusiastic and committed students of the Royal College of Music on 10th February. There was a good turnout of RSS members, including our President John McCabe. Composers Anthony Payne and David Matthews were also present.

Membership currently stands at 103, three new members joining since the last AGM.