

BADKEBITES

Issue 02 - 28 October 2009



One of the shots from our recent photo shoot at Hyde Park Hayes with photographer Tas Kyprianou.

Since the first edition of **BadkeBites** it's been an action-packed few months. We've travelled the length and breadth of the country several times over; Heather's surname is no longer the same as our Quartet name; and we're the proud owner of a Badke-Bus!

July featured a great mix of repertoire. We were invited back to the Lichfield Festival where we not only gave our own recital but also performed to a packed Cathedral with rock legend Jon Lord from the band Deep Purple!

Our Coffee Concert at the Wigmore Hall in July was a great success. We played to a full hall, which always helps the sense of occasion, and enjoyed the tremendous acoustic as ever! Our programme consisted of

Mozart's *Hoffmeister* Quartet K. 499 and Schumann's third quartet in A major Op.41 No.3. No sooner had we finished than we had to rush straight off to six hours of recording sessions at Angel Studios... quite a day!

August was a month off for us all as Heather tied the knot with Martin to become Mrs. Höhmann. More about that on page two...

Julius Drake invited us to play in the closing concert of the Machlenneth Festival in Wales where we performed Mozart's Oboe Quartet with Nicholas Daniel and a beautiful arrangement by Colin Matthews of Schumann's song *Mondnacht* for Oboe Quartet.

We gave our first schools' workshop for the Cavatina Chamber Music Trust at the

start of October and then made our Liverpool début in St. George's Hall. The Liverpool Phil recently refurbished this venue which has a wonderful acoustic and is quite simply one of the most beautiful halls we've ever played in.

We finished off a jam-packed month by performing Mendelssohn's Octet with the Brodsky Quartet at Music 55-7's *Fiddlefest* in Derry. You can hear that and our performance of Mendelssohn's A minor Quartet on BBC Radio 3 in January.

In case you haven't already logged on, our new website is up and running and those of you on Facebook can become a fan to make sure you receive all the latest Badke information!

www.badkequartet.co.uk

Badke Festive Friends Christmas Party at Gresham College, London

By Emma Parker

We're really excited about our first ever **Badke Friends Event**. The Christmas Party will take place on **Monday 7th December** at Gresham College, Holborn.

The evening will comprise of (most importantly) drinks and nibbles, an informal lecture by Prof. Roger Parker (which will act as a taster for our forthcoming residency series at Gresham - see page 3 for further details), a performance by us and one or festive surprises. There'll also be the opportunity to sign up to become one of the **Badke Friends**.

Places are limited to 70 so we're having to organise it on a first come, first served basis. The event will begin at 6pm and finish around 8pm.

If you'd like to come along for the evening, please drop me an email at emma@badkequartet.co.uk or call me on 07974 947997 to confirm your place.

We're really looking forward to a fun, festive evening with all our friends and supporters!



A mans' work is never done...

The boys put their motoring expertise to the test!



The wedding day.....

Heather and Martin Höhmann were married on the 4th of August at St. Andrews Church, Alfriston, East Sussex.

It was a lovely day and a wonderful celebration with family and friends. A second reception in Idaho followed days later and then a relaxing honeymoon in Mexico with constant sunshine.

It couldn't have been more perfect!

Forthcoming concerts and events

1st November - Cavatina Chamber Music Workshop, Swiss Cottage Central Library

7th November - Newark Music Society

22nd November - Dillington House, Somerset

26th November - Radlett Music Club

2nd December - Keele Concert Society

5th December - Oxted & Limpsfield Music Society

7th December - Badke Friends Party

11-15th January - Britten-Pears Aldeburgh Residency

26th January - Imperial College, London

28th January - Gresham College Residency at Museum of London

29th January - Leamington Music

For bookings or further information please contact our agent Laura Tear:

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BadkeBus takes to the highways

By Jon Thorne

The acquisition of a means to transport us up and down the country was part of my new role as 'Badke Transport Manager'. With my background and all too unhealthy amount of interest in all things motorised I was the ideal candidate for the job.

Weeks were spent trawling through the likes of eBay and *Autotrader* to find us the best possible deal on a suitable vehicle to keep four wandering

minstrels comfortable and safe alongside their suitcases and various antique chunks of wood!

We've ended up with a huge Ford Scorpio estate. Aside from a few teething problems, as you'll see from our recent photo of a motorway service station somewhere en route to Plymouth (!) it's running like a dream and passed its MOT! We now no longer need to worry about rushing from the dressing room to the train platform!

Gresham Residency venue move!

Museum of London here we come...

By Jonathan Byers

Formerly Quartet in residence in 2008, we're delighted to have been invited back by Gresham College to give another series of six lunchtime lecture-recitals in 2010, again in collaboration with the Gresham Professor of Music, Roger Parker. These lectures aim to give an historical introduction to the quartets we'll be performing, with in-depth insights mixed in with humour and sometimes even irreverence.

As well as being Gresham Professor, Roger Parker is Thurston Dart Professor of Music at King's College London. He studied at the University of London, first at Goldsmiths' College, then at King's College. In 1982 he moved to Cornell University in upstate New York, where he was Assistant Professor and then Associate Professor. In 1994, he came back to England to become a Lecturer in Music (later Professor) and Fellow of St. Hugh's College, Oxford. In 1999, he became Professor of Music at Cambridge, where he was a Fellow of St John's College and, in 2005-6, Chair of the School of Arts and Humanities. In 2002 he was the visiting Ernest Bloch Lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley; in 2007 he was a visiting scholar at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton; in 2008 he was elected a Fellow of the British Academy. He has been Professor of Music at Gresham College since 2006.

The 2009 series concentrates on quartets written by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven in Vienna in the years around 1800. This was a truly exciting time in Vienna, with all three composers feeding off each others' genius.

Each lecture is dedicated to a major work in the string quartet repertory: it begins with a discussion of the historical background and special nature of the quartet in question, and concludes with a complete performance of the work by the Badke Quartet. The first three recitals are dedicated to three of Haydn's quartets from his Op.76, the last set of six quartets he composed, and generally recognised as the pinnacle of his writing for the ensemble. No.1 in G major is grandiose and symphonic in breadth and construction; No.2 in D minor is sometimes known as the *Quinten* or *Fifths* Quartet, because of the opening descending intervals in its first

movement. No.5 in D major is one of his most unusual, in that the customary balance between the first two movements is reversed.



Professor Roger Parker

Then comes Mozart's K.421, one of Mozart's six so-called *Haydn* quartets, its minor key first movement full of strange reversals, with a lyrical, song-like opening that then breaks down into instability as the movement progresses; and Mozart's *Hoffmeister* quartet, named after a composer and music publisher in Vienna during Mozart's time in the city, and a personal friend of the composer. Our last quartet is Beethoven's Op. 95, his last before the so-called "late" quartets that crowned his final years. It is sometime nicknamed the *Serioso* and is one of Beethoven's most restrained and austere quartets.

28 January: Haydn Op.76.No.1 in G major

10 February: Haydn Op.76.No.2 in D minor

18 March: Haydn Op.76.No.5 in D major

22 April: Mozart K.421 in D minor

20 May: Mozart K.499 in D major

30 June: Beethoven Op.95 in F minor

Lectures take place at the **Museum of London's** new theatre; start at **1pm** and last for one hour. There's no need to book in advance and they're 100% **free!** Nearest tubes are Barbican, St. Paul's and Moorgate.

There's plenty of room, so why not bring some friends along!

**Museum of London
London Wall
London, EC2Y 5HN**

Fiddlefest 09

Badke & Brodsky Quartets perform Mendelssohn's Octet Op.20 for Music 55-7 and BBC Radio 3 in Christ Church, Derry in Northern Ireland.



"These six lecture recitals give me the chance to renew my partnership with the Badke Quartet. Giving a set of lectures in collaboration with them in 2008 was one of the greatest pleasures of my professional life: there's nothing better than talking about a piece of music and then hearing it played by such a superb group of musicians."

Professor Roger Parker