

## MIDSUMMER MUSIC 2015

When the organisers first had the idea of a Music Festival in Grundisburgh in 2007 they dreamed of a day like the 4th July 2015 - warm, not a cloud in the sky. It has taken all that time to get the weather right but one thing that has always been right is the music, the entertainment, the catering and the atmosphere.

Midsummer Music 2015 saw a whole host of much loved bands performing for us again as well as a lot of new acts.

The day started with St Mary's choir performing some old favourites with Wendy Gourlay who then stunned us with a virtuoso jazz performance. We always knew she was a woman of many talents but WOW – what fantastic piano playing!

St Mary's choir was followed by Grundisburgh Primary School choir. Once again it was lovely to see and hear the local children performing, with the audience full of proud parents looking on, and quite a poignant moment, as their director, John Richards has sadly moved on from Grundisburgh Primary, where he and his musical talents will be greatly missed.

Daisy and Erin followed with some well executed pieces on woodwind. They were the first of several new ensembles. They were followed by Joyful Strings, a group of talented local children playing Beethoven's Ode to Joy. They in turn were followed by the brand new Grundisburgh Symphony Orchestra – a group put together by Sarah Cavanagh, Sarah Petts and John Richards who were inspired when they realised how many talented musicians lived in the area with no outlet for their musical creativity. The orchestra was very lucky to have as guest conductor Chris Robinson who is a military bandsman and horn player by training but who nowadays conducts Woodbridge Orchestral Society. They played the last movement of Mozart's 4th Horn Concerto.

Upbeat! were next and it was inspiring to see so many local ladies joining together to participate in the heartening pastime of communal singing. Carol is looking to start a male choir if anyone is interested.

Next we had Nigel and John performing together to showcase a different and eclectic aspect of their music making. The duo usually make up half of the Outlines. Chris Vince was up next. Last time we got to hear him as part of the Garden Gnome Collective but this time round Chris performed some of his own compositions. It was wonderful to hear original music performed so well at our event and there was universal acclaim for his musical talents.

Mole Machine were the next to perform, their first appearance at our festival. It was immediately apparent that we would be in for a treat with their funky grooves. They were the first to inspire people onto the grass dance floor.

Lynsey Ratcliffe then performed three songs whilst accompanying herself on piano. She did not disappoint. Once again we were all blown away by the beauty of her singing voice but all too soon she had finished to then pick up her violin and joined our next act which were Elliott's Remedy, old favourites within the village who always get the crowds dancing and singing along to their popular set, which had a stunning moment when Upbeat joined them for a rousing chorus.

The Panic were up next – another band performing for us for the first time. Their set consisted of songs conducive to a summer garden party which was absolutely perfect for our event.

Finally, we saw the Harry Isaac Presley Operation perform. Billed as “Little Bealings ninth most popular Elvis tribute band”, they never fail to entertain with their good humour and classic songs, teamed with outrageous outfits and dance moves. The organising committee would like to thank All the artists for taking part, everyone who helped to put the day together and helped on the day, particularly to the BAR staff who worked so hard, keeping everything cold, served over 25 litres of Pimms and ran out of beer.

THANK YOU to Lucy and Fred Ferguson once again for the use of the beautiful grounds of their home Grundisburgh House. Sorry you are leaving but we all wish you good health and happiness in your new home not so far away in Woodbridge.

When all the bills were paid £4903 went to St Mary's Development Fund and a great day of entertainment was enjoyed by all.

Compiled by Simon Snowden and Ann Willetts