



BMS

Brent Music Service



Brent Music Service Tel: 020 8204 8096 Music for Today and Tomorrow

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Brent Makes Music
2007
 Wembley Arena, 11th July



Wednesday
 11th July 2007
 7.30pm

Programme



An initiative brought to the London Borough of Brent by
 Brent Music Service, a Brent Council Service

Your compere this evening



Trevor Laird

We are extremely proud to welcome the esteemed actor, Trevor Laird, to be this evening's compere and the narrator for the exciting world premiere of *'Conjure Tales'*.

Trevor Laird has just been seen in *Dr Who* playing Martha's father, Clive. Over the past 30 years his film work includes *Quadrophenia*, *Babylon*, *Long Good Friday* and more recently *Secrets and Lies* and *Love, Honour and Obey*. His varied television work includes *The Lenny Henry show*, *Undercover Heart* and *Casualty*, more recently *William and Mary* and *The Last Detective*.

Trevor was a founder member of the *Black Theatre Co-Operative* with whom he acted and directed throughout the 80's. His classical theatre work includes Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the open air theatre in Regents Park, *Othello* in Dublin and a tour of Japan, *Much Ado About Nothing* which toured England, Malaysia and Japan and *The Mysteries* at the National Theatre.



Music for today and tomorrow

Want To Learn A Musical Instrument?

Brent Music Service makes learning a musical instrument easy to arrange and fun. Our team of fully qualified tutors visit most Brent schools each week and you can arrange lessons directly with the school. Alternatively, our Out of School Centres offer individual instrumental and vocal lessons and are the home of our ensembles and junior choir. Either contact your school or call Brent Music Service for further details.

Out of School Centres and Activities

Our out of school centres are located throughout the London Borough of Brent and offer tuition for voice and a wide range of instruments, including piano, vocal, brass, woodwind, strings, percussion, indian instruments and guitar.

Senior ensembles, junior ensembles, junior choir and elementary music are also available through the centres, helping to expand players' musical knowledge and develop teamwork and friendships.

Brent Music Service

Brent Music Service has been providing instrumental and vocal music tuition in and out of schools for the borough for the last 13 years, offering musical education to over 70,000 students during this time. Tonight's performances by 1,300 of Brent's young musicians is true evidence of the way in which so many people can benefit from the service.

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Our Thanks

We are extremely grateful to everyone who has been involved in making Brent Makes Music 2007 become a reality. We offer our sincere thanks to the children, teachers, parents, relatives, friends and organisations who have all worked so hard to present this evening's performance to you.

New Look for Brent Music Service

We are pleased to be using Brent Makes Music 2007 for the launch of our new look for Brent Music Service.

You'll hopefully have noticed the new logo which we've featured on the publicity posters, this event programme and the big screen you see in front of you tonight. The fresh look will also be presented by the Brent ensembles and choir with the new concert uniforms they're wearing tonight.

Looking to the future and in line with the continual development of Brent Music Service, a new website is also planned which will offer pupils, relatives and friends an opportunity to find out what we do, when and how. Look out for the website launch announcement coming soon.



Brent Makes Music 2007 Website

When the evening's over, you'll be able to relive the excitement with a visit to www.BrentMakesMusic.com. In just a few days' time we'll be including photographs from tonight for you to download and keep, we're also hoping to offer you an opportunity to view and download video coverage of the whole event! So, take a look at the website and enjoy Brent Makes Music 2007 over and over again!



Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you this evening to Wembley Arena for *Brent Makes Music 2007*.

Tonight's show is being brought to you by 1,300 of Brent's talented young musicians, offering a wide variety of musical entertainment for your enjoyment. In addition to the individual choir and ensemble performances, you will also witness the world premiere of 'Conjure Tales', a specially commissioned musical narration inspired by the bicentenary of the Act to abolish the British slave trade.

This landmark concert is the brainchild of Brent Music Service and we are proud to enable so many of Brent's young musicians to perform in this key venue – a dream come true for everyone involved.

Brent Music Service is a formalised council service and through Brent Council's links with Wembley Arena, this famous venue has been made available to us for this evening's extravaganza of music making. This will certainly be a highpoint of the youngsters' music making and a memory that will stay with them forever.

Thank you for joining us for an evening to remember, a very special evening when *Brent Makes Music!*



Conjure Tales

'Conjure Tales' was commissioned by Brent Music Service to commemorate the bicentenary of the Act to abolish the British slave trade (1807).

Written by local writer June Hamilton and composer Eric Angus, Conjure Tales is a series of songs, linked by narration telling the moving story of a slave mother's quest to be reunited with her baby.

It is an adaptation of a short story, "Sister Becky's Child", by the black American author Charles Chesnutt (1858 – 1938). First published as part of a collection of short stories called "Conjure Tales" in 1899, it deals with human beings in slavery dreaming of freedom. The "conjure woman" is the local witch doctor, who is able to cast spells to help people, including, in this story, turning the baby into a bird so that it can fly to his mother and sing to her.

The seven songs are linked by narration which will be offered by this evening's compere, Trevor Laird. Musically, the piece is inspired by spiritual and gospel music with a more modern, popular edge.

Tonight's first performance brings together massed choirs totalling 1,300 children from Brent primary and secondary schools. They have been learning the songs in school and came together for the first time today for a final rehearsal before the performance. To complete the performance, the whole piece will be accompanied by a 9-piece professional band consisting of drums, keyboards, guitar, bass, flute, saxophone, trumpet and trombone.

Composer, Eric Angus remarked: "As this year marks the bicentenary of the Act to abolish the British slave trade, I felt it would be appropriate to embrace this poignant topic. To have 1,000 youngsters performing 'Conjure Tales' will be a spectacle in itself, but it makes it even more significant that they can use the enjoyment of music to learn such important lessons from the story they are presenting. They are the future and if they can learn to make the world a better place through music, I feel honoured to be part of that education."

The Writer of 'Conjure Tales'



June Hamilton

June Hamilton has won competitions for poetry and fiction, and has written professionally for various educational publications.

Of her life, June writes:

'I have a number of jobs: I've been a cleaner, a kitchen assistant, a waitress, and a secretary, to name a few. Such experiences have given me a wealth of material upon which I've based my writing – both fiction and non-fiction.'

June Hamilton is a prize-winning writer of poems, stories and songs. A graduate of Goldsmiths College, London University, she has published articles in educational publications and is currently working on her first novel. June is an experienced and talented teacher of English; and she currently heads the learning support department in a London high school.

The Composer of 'Conjure Tales'



Eric Angus

Eric Angus has composed music and words for various theatrical productions, including commissions for the National Youth Music Theatre and Liverpool School of Performing Arts. His work has been performed professionally all over the country, including the Royal National Theatre Studio, Sheffield Crucible Theatre, Manchester Opera House, Newcastle Theatre Royal and the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough.

Eric has been teaching in Brent for 27 years, and Deputy Head of Brent Music Service for 5. During this time he has written countless pieces of music for Brent school children. Some members of tonight's band will remember playing them when they were at school themselves!

More recently he has been composing professionally for the theatre and has been lucky to have worked with, amongst others, Sir Alan Ayckbourn, Bryn Terfel, Dame Felicity Lott, Julia McKenzie and Olivier Award winner Janie Dee as well as Issie Van Randwyk ("Fascinating Aida"), Mr Steven from the Basil Brush Show, the Demon Headmaster (Terence Hardiman) and the presenter of "Get Your Own Back" (Dave Benson-Phillips). He has written for radio and film and had pieces performed in theatres throughout the country as well as Canada and USA.

"Conjure Tales", written with his sister-in law June Hamilton, is dedicated to his partner of 21 years, Beverley Hamilton, who tragically died while the piece was being written. Also, look out for his son, Jordan, playing in the Samba Band tonight!

The 'Conjure Tales' Performers

The 1,300 young performers of 'Conjure Tales' come from the following schools:

Anson Primary School
Brent Ed Tuition Service
Braintcroft Primary School
Brentfield Primary School
Capital City Academy
Christ Church C of E Primary School**
Claremont High School
Donnington Primary School
Elsley Primary School
Fryent Primary School
Furness Primary School
Harlesden Primary School
John Keble C of E Primary School
John Kelly Girls' Technology College
Kingsbury Green Primary School
Leopold Primary School**
Lyon Park Junior School
Mitchell Brook Primary School
Oakington Manor Primary School
Oliver Goldsmith Primary School
Our Lady of Lourdes R.C. Primary School
Preston Park Primary School
Salisbury Primary School
St Andrew's & St Francis' C of E Primary School
St Joseph's R.C. Junior School, Wembley**
St Joseph's R.C. Primary School, NW10
St Mary's C of E Primary School
St Robert Southwell R.C. Primary School
Stonebridge Primary School
Sudbury Primary School
Uxendon Manor
Wykeham Primary School

**** These schools also provided the artwork you see on the big screen**

Soloist: Natasha O'Donnell

(Runner-Up in Brent Young Musician of the Year 2007)

Accompanied by Brent Music Service Stage Band:

Musical Director/Keyboard: Eric Angus, **Drums:** Michael McKenzie,

Bass: Michael Bailey, **Guitar:** Robert Ahwai, **Keyboard:** Martin Turner,

Flute: Jocelyn Campbell, **Trumpet:** Craig Patterson, **Trombone:** Tyler Vahldick,

Alto Saxophone/Flute: Chris Turner

Conjure Tales Designs: Michael McKenzie; Carol Hamilton; Chris Cook

PROGRAMME

IN THE STONE

Composers: Maurice White/
David Foster/Allee Willis
Arranger: Paul Murtha

Featuring: Brent Youth Orchestra, Brent Percussion Band,
Brent Music Service Stage Band & Cornet Players
from Regent Brass & Broseley Brass Bands

Conductor: Paul Fensom

E B G B's

Composer: Sarah Watts

DANCING QUEEN

Composer: Benny Andersson/
Stig Anderson/Bjorn Ulvaeus

Featuring: Children from the 2006-7 Brent Music
Service Recorder Programme

Led by: Alison Richards & Helen Greenham

VIOLIN CONCERTO in E MAJOR (1st Movement)

Composer: J S Bach

Featuring: The Brent Young Musician
of the Year 2007, *Savitri Grier*,
accompanied by a chamber orchestra
of Brent Music Service staff members

Directed (from the keyboard) by: Mr Frances Grier

LAMBADA

Composer: Kaoma

Featuring: Alperton Community School Steel Band

Conductor: John Thomas

GRAND MARCH from AIDA

Composer: Giuseppe Verdi
Arranger: David Stone

Featuring: Brent Youth Orchestra featuring the
trumpet section of Brent Youth Orchestra
and Cornets from Regent Brass
and Broseley Brass Band

Conductor: Sam Sherwood

YOU ARE SO BEAUTIFUL/ WIND BENEATH MY WINGS

Composer: Greg Gilpin

MOVIN'ON

Composer: Kirk Franklin

Featuring: Brent Youth Choir

Conductor: Simone Michael

A DISNEY MEDLEY

Composer: Various
Arranger: Paul Fensom

Featuring: BMS Junior Ensembles accompanied
by Brent Youth Orchestra and
Brent Music Service Stage Band

Conductor: Paul Fensom

INTERVAL

CONJURE TALES

Writer: June Hamilton
*Composer and Musical
Arranger:* Eric Angus

Featuring: Massed choir of 1,300 primary
& secondary school pupils accompanied
by the Brent Music Service Stage Band

Conductor: Paul Fensom