

## An encouraging start to the new season

**Along with the heavy snow falls, first class conditions and chilly temperatures, Visitor's Corner is back for what looks like a highly promising and intense season with new restaurant and hotel proprietors, many exciting happenings and of course the renowned Klosters Christmas Concerts..**

*Clair Southwell*

The 15<sup>th</sup> series of Klosters Christmas Concerts takes place from Friday 15<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Stephen Johns, Artistic Director of the Royal College of Music, and Artistic Director of the Christmas concerts has worked on a presentation of a traditional mix of Christmas sounds and beautiful music to showcase the soloists, which will be combined with a special selection from the solemn ceremony celebrating the coronation of King Charles III at Westminster Abbey. The soloists, who hail from the Royal College of Music London, and beyond, have chosen music that is particularly close to their hearts, and which gives them the opportunity to perform in different combinations and styles to make music, one of the joys of performing at such an occasion. Coming to Klosters for the first time are Maddie Boreham, a wonderful soprano, Christopher Michie, a top flutist, the cellist Marion Portelance (from Canada), Emmanuel Webb, violinist as well as the

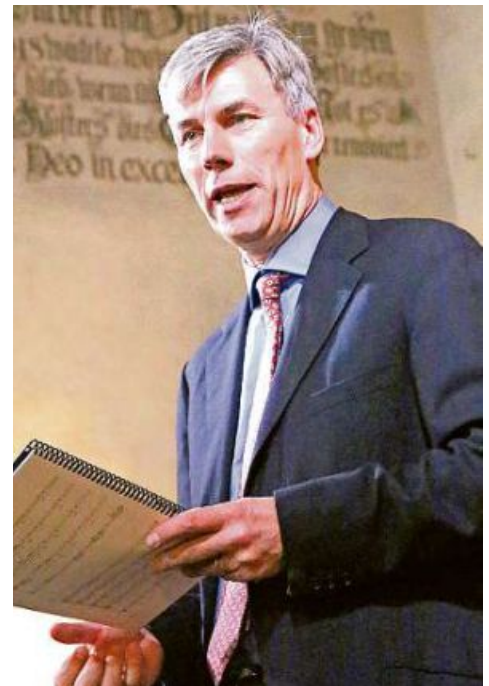


The lovely and talented Swiss Harpist Elisa Netzer making a welcome return to Klosters. Photos: cs

violinist Hattie Quick (both from GB). Returning back to Klosters are the Swedish talented tenor soloist Theodore Ugglä, Clarinetist Méline Le Calvez, Pianist/organist Hamish Brown and gifted Swiss harpist Elisa Netzer. Naturally it would not be a Klosters Christmas Concert without the charming Felix Bagge and the equally charming and popular Lund Switzerland Singers from Sweden and the very glamorous Klosters London Singers from the UK.

The opening evening is a Lounge Concert, with a flying dinner, in the Silvretta Parkhotel starting at 7.30pm. This is a very unique, cosy and more informal evening that gives guests the chance to see and meet the artists close up. The programme is an arrangement of short pieces with a mixture of everything from moving solos to choral works all interspersed with humour and light heartedness. On Saturday evening starting at 7.30pm there is a more classical concert in St Jakob's Church with around 30 musicians performing. The programme opens with Händel's magnificent anthem Zadok the Priest, that he composed for the coronation of George 11 in 1727. The first half includes two more works by Händel, S. Coleridge-Taylor, Brahms, Fauré and Debussy. The second half of the concert begins with a setting of the Agnus Dei, written by Tarik O'Regan, which was a part of the Mass for the Coronation of King Charles III earlier this year. The concert ends in choral splendour and the organ in its full majesty with one of the all-time great anthems Hubert Parry's setting of "I Was Glad". This anthem, a setting of Psalm 122 'Laetatus sum', has been performed at every coronation since that of Charles I in 1626. The most famous setting, by Sir Hubert Parry, was the first piece to be played at Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953, a tradition mirrored at the coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla on 6 May at Westminster Abbey. What an ending to a very special evening!

Stephen Johns always selects music that fits into the beautiful surroundings of Klosters and its church with its impressive acoustics. You will enjoy the experience of music that is especially close to the hearts of the performers and is sometimes familiar, sometimes new, sometimes unusual, but always inspiring and gets us in the mood for the festive season. The concert on Sunday, also in St Jakob's



Artistic Director Stephen Johns has put together a magical programme for the Christmas Concerts.

Church starts at 5.00pm, and traditionally is an evening of Christmas spirit and Joy including known carols that the audience can sing along with, as well as a selection of a joyful and sacred repertoire that is suitably appropriate for the time of year.

Ticket sales are selling rapidly so hurry and get yours if you wish to come and enjoy this wonderful festive musical experience. They can be purchased either via the website or at the Tourist Offices of Destination Davos Klosters. The Christmas Concerts would simply not be possible without the generosity of members and donors and if you would like to offer your support and become a member or a sponsor, please go the website [www.weihnachtskonzerte-klosters.ch](http://www.weihnachtskonzerte-klosters.ch) where you can also find updated information on the concerts and the full programme.

### Footnote

The President of Klosters Alpine Concerts, Claude Schauerte and the Board would like to say a big thank you to Monika Mark, who has recently retired as Vice President, for family and medical reasons. Monika has been a leading light of the organisation and her hard and loyal work over the years has been an enormous contribution, and hugely appreciated not only by the Board but the whole team, and sponsors and members of Klosters Christmas Concerts.