

LICHFIELD FESTIVAL

8 - 18 JULY 2021

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SOUVENIR
PROGRAMME

CLEMENTI IN LICHFIELD

10.30AM & 2PM JULY 9TH WADE STREET CHURCH



Muzio Filippo Vincenzo Francesco Saverio Clementi – pictured here in a collage by Spanish artist, Carme Magem – was born in Rome in 1752, but spent much of his time in England, thanks to the patronage of landowner and huntsman, Sir Peter Beckford. His time with Beckford was spent in Dorset, before he moved away to London in the mid-1770s. There, he became conductor and continuo player at the King's Theatre in Haymarket. It was towards the end of his time in London that he began to perform extensively as a soloist, quickly earning a reputation for being a true virtuoso, and in 1780, he began a three-year European tour, performing in the major cities of France, Germany and Austria, for the likes of Marie Antoinette and the Holy Roman Emperor, Joseph II.

It was during this time that he encountered his contemporary, a certain Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. While Clementi was enthusiastic about Mozart and his music, the same could not be said the other way around. Mozart reported to his father: "Clementi plays well, as far as execution with the right-hand

goes. Apart from that, he has not a kreuzer's worth of taste or feeling – in short, he is a mere mechanic." However, they do say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and Mozart "borrowed" a motif from Clementi's *B flat major Sonata, op. 24, no. 2* for use in the overture to *The Magic Flute*.

Following that tour, Clementi returned to England, playing the piano, conducting and teaching, where amongst his students was one John Field, who would later become a major influence on the writing of Chopin. He also began manufacturing pianos, whereby he garnered his unofficial title as the 'Father of the Pianoforte' and became a notable music publisher, with a portfolio that included the publishing rights to all of Beethoven's music in England.

It was towards the end of his life that Clementi moved to Lichfield, with his wife Emma, before moving to Evesham in Worcestershire, shortly before he died in 1832. He is buried in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey.

Kindly sponsored by Janette Horton
and the Lichfield Civic Society



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This event could not have been brought to the Festival without the passion, enthusiasm and commitment of our event co-sponsor, LFF member **Janette Horton**. We would also like to thank the **Lichfield Civic Society**, the team from **Finchcocks Charity for Musical Education**, the **Muzio Clementi Association of Barcelona**, the **Muzio Clementi Society**, and, of course, our wonderful performers!



Finchcocks Piano Duo, Jean Phillips and Gary Branch, formed their duo having worked together for many years at the **Finchcocks Musical Museum** in Kent. Since 2016, they have been involved with the Finchcocks Charity and Richard Burnett Collection for Historic Keyboard Instruments, which contains fourteen of

the core instruments from the museum. The charity aims to provide opportunities for all, to hear and play these amazing instruments at a private setting in Tunbridge Wells. The charity also supports the training of a 'new generation' of historic keyboard technicians to enable the continued use of these instruments in the future. Jean and Gary regularly perform together, including themed music holidays provided by Saga Holidays and outreach projects for the Finchcocks Charity. As well as their duo work, on both historic and modern pianos, they have performed across the UK, including at the South Bank Centre and Blackheath Concert Halls, plus many concerts and tours overseas. They have made broadcasts for BBC radio and TV and recordings for labels such as Resonus Classics. Presently, they are working as part of a team producing a series of videos presented by Katie Derham, about each of the instruments of the Richard Burnett Collection and the work of the Finchcocks Charity.



Having studied music at Royal Holloway & London College of Music, **CAVE (Joanne Dodds)** taught as Head of Music in London and Midlands schools. She also composed film music and won the British Reserve String Prize before joining the Royal Navy as a Warfare Officer. Now a special events violinist and music teacher, she performs with Lichfield Sinfonia, for whom she composed an original symphonic work about

Lichfield: *The Three Spires Suite*. During lockdown, **CAVE** composed, recorded and produced an album: *The R Value*. Her track *Resilience* (for Sir Tom Moore) was runner-up in the international Kaleidoscope competition.

Contact jcave@hotmail.com or @CAVEviolin (social media).



The **Muzio Clementi Association of Barcelona** seeks to impart an in-depth knowledge of this very important musical personality. We study the influence of his work through his compositions, his instruments and his relationships. We wanted to establish a link between past and present, and so commissioned the Catalan artist **Carme Magem** to create a portrait *left* of Clementi with a modern touch. Her collage plays with paper and documents in a way to cast light on his extraordinary life. It was presented at our Clementi Exhibition at the Palau de la Música Catalana of Barcelona.

