

Guide to Access to Southwell u3a Music Lovers Group Programme 2020

This guide is intended to assist members of the u3a to access the complete programme of the Southwell u3a Music Lovers Group for the calendar year 2020.

The year 2020 was one of restrictions due to the Covid 19 pandemic, and from mid-March onwards it was not possible to hold meetings in our usual venue at the Roman Catholic Hall. We moved our activities to electronic format, by emailing programme notes complete with YouTube links. Members also kept in touch by email and phone, and some smaller groups met up socially. Some support was given to members in the use of technology, and conventional material is being provided for some who do not have facilities.

The programmes include the range of classical composers from Baroque to 21st century.

There is also film, opera, ballet, and musicals and a special on women composers.

Previously we used a mix of media; CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray, and data files. With the new format it is necessary to move entirely to YouTube sources. This gives the opportunity to provide information in a more convenient format to a wider group of members.

Having done the hard work, it is now possible to publish the material on the Southwell u3a website for both group members and for Southwell u3a members at large.

The material provided on the website includes:

- a) This guide in PDF format
- b) An Excel spreadsheet index of the 21 programmes, and around 200 individual pieces of music. Weblinks are provided for YouTube playlists.
- c) Programme notes for each of the 21 programmes with YouTube weblinks to the playlists and individual pieces.

The Excel index lists the meetings by date. The YouTube playlist for each meeting is accessed by clicking on the playlist weblink (in column 5). In some devices the playlist may not present correctly. If the playlist title shows correctly at the top of the side panel, just click the vertical arrow to display the playlist correctly.

In the event of difficulty, the playlists can also be accessed via the host channel, i.e. the John Tebbs YouTube Channel which can be found at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHmgNAguuyQzuq4yHxm8_Eg

Playlists are in the format (e.g.) Southwell u3a Music 200115. For ease of indexing, the date is reversed yymmdd i.e. 200115 is 15th January 2020.

Playlists and Individual pieces can be played from the links provided in each of the programme notes. The files are again formatted with the prefix yymmdd.

YouTube is dynamic and occasionally material may disappear, and I will hope to replace.

I am aware that many YouTube items contain advertisements, most of these can be skipped after a few seconds. I try to source material from channels that do not carry advertisements. Adverts can be avoided by subscribing to YouTube Premium, £12.99 per month! There is a generous trial period of three months, which is worth a try over the winter. Premium does allow music to play in the background whilst you browse. It also includes a music only version which reduces data use whilst on the move. Having said that, non-premium YouTube is quite usable.

I hope you enjoy these programmes. Look out for the 16th December programme, as this includes some longer items to hopefully entertain over Christmas; a full ballet, comic opera, a musical, and a jazz concert as well as our usual Christmas fare, including links to several versions of Messiah.

Any problems or suggestions please contact John Tebbs at jmtebbs@btinternet.com