

DOLPHINS
THE FRIENDS OF THE TETBURY MUSIC FESTIVAL
CLARIFICATION OF THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

There has been on occasions some confusion in the ranks about the Dolphin membership scheme, and so we describe below the way it works.

Dolphin membership, together with the advantages of being a Dolphin, belongs to an individual, and membership runs from the end of one Festival to the end of the next. There are some aspects of membership that apply to all levels, such as advance booking and periodic newsletters. There are other advantages that are specific to the level of membership you have paid for. The different levels are:

Blue Dolphin

Annual contribution of £25. Priority Booking one week before booking opens to the general public, periodic news letters.

Silver Dolphin

Annual contribution of £65. Priority Booking two weeks before booking opens to the general public, reserved reception area at Festival concerts, periodic news letters and an invitation to one private House Concert during the year, to which the Dolphin may bring a guest.

Gold Dolphin

Annual contribution of £125. Priority Booking two weeks and six days before booking opens to the general public, access to rehearsals (by arrangement with the artists), reserved reception area at Festival concerts together with the opportunity to meet artists, periodic news letters, and invitations to two private House Concerts during the year, to which the Dolphin may bring a guest.

Platinum Dolphin

Annual contribution of £500. First day Advance Priority Booking, invitations to all House Concerts, then as for Gold Dolphins, plus a private concert arranged for Platinum Dolphins and their guests.

How this works in real life

House Concerts

Elise and Martin Smith endeavour to give at least four private House Concerts a year. (There may be other events to which Dolphins will be invited which are not “official” House Concerts.) In this way we hope that every Dolphin will be able take advantage of the invitations to private House Concerts to which their level of membership entitles them.

As an example, Mr Karajan is a Gold Dolphin. With his renewal for 10/11 (contributing £125), he receives Dolphin invitations to two house concerts, and a “guest voucher” for each of those House Concerts. Mr Karajan has a charming wife who loves music, and so he gives her the

guest vouchers, so that they can attend the House Concerts as a couple.

Mr Jones and his wife, on the other hand, each became a Gold Dolphin (contributing £250); accordingly they are in a position to invite two friends to each of the two House Concerts they choose to attend.

Special Dedicated Box Office

The Dolphin membership scheme appears, with the Festival itself, to have become the victim of its own success. To avoid embarrassment for the dedicated Box Office (run by our Administrator Sarah Priday); when priority booking opens, the following procedure has been adopted:

Let us assume that Priority booking begins on a Monday. The first Monday will be reserved for Platinum Dolphin bookings. Tuesday through Saturday will be reserved for Gold and Platinum Dolphin bookings; the second week will be reserved for priority booking for Silver, Gold and Platinum Dolphins, and the third week will be priority booking for all Dolphins, including Blue Dolphins. Brochures will be sent out at least ten days before priority booking begins.

Booking during the Priority Booking Period will be by post only

Blue Chairs. Each Platinum, Gold or Silver Dolphin will be allowed to apply for one Blue Chair ticket per concert for themselves, and one for a guest (just as with House Concerts). The procedure for requesting Blue Chairs is as follows:

On the first day, Platinum Dolphins have first choice, including an opportunity to request two Blue Chairs per Dolphin. On the second and following five days, the post will be opened and all those applications from Gold Dolphins requesting Blue Chairs will be put in a hat (or other suitable receptacle) and drawn out at random until all the Blue Chairs applications have been processed. . This procedure will be repeated for each concert, so that every Gold Dolphin has an equal chance of getting some Blue chairs for each concert.

During the second week of priority booking and if there are Blue Chairs still available, the process will be repeated for Silver Dolphins.

When booking opens for the general public, telephone and personal as well as postal applications will be processed at a dedicated outlet in Tetbury (2011 location expected to be The Tourist Information Office in Tetbury).

Elise Becket-Smith