

# Soh-Fah

THE RYEDALE FESTIVAL MAGAZINE

SPRING 2011



## Welcome...

### WE HOPE YOU APPROVE

of our re-vamped *Soh-Fah*. Besides bringing news of the Ryedale Festival, as it always has, the quarterly magazine will offer profiles of Festival artists past and present as well as information about other musical events in the region – and it will pay for itself by carrying advertising. As Martin Vander Weyer takes over the editorship (ably assisted by the design team of Nicola Chalton and Pascal Thivillon), I would like to record a big vote of thanks to his predecessor Andie Cattle, who happily continues in her role as our Membership Secretary.

I also want to thank the many Festival-goers who have supported the new membership scheme – in all its apparent complexity! Your generosity has encouraged the public funding bodies we depend upon to continue to support us. For those who have forgotten to complete a new membership and standing order form, please try to do so before the end of this tax year. As our Treasurer reminds us on page 8, the Gift Aid rebate makes a real difference.

Planning for the 2011 Festival is nearly complete: all will be revealed at the Launch Concert on 6 May. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible then.

Robin Andrews  
Chairman

## Fast-rising star returns to Yorkshire

**ONE OF THE** undoubted stars in this year's Ryedale Festival programme is 25-year-old pianist Alexandra Dariescu, who combines the exotic heritage of her Romanian homeland with strong Yorkshire connections and a fast-rising virtuoso reputation.

Alexandra first came to this part of the world as a teenager, and was a pupil at Pocklington School before going on to study at the Royal Northern College of Music — where she graduated with distinction, and a shelf full of awards, in 2008.

Since then she has played with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the European Union Chamber Orchestra, and has given recitals at the Wigmore Hall, St John's Smith Square, the Bridgewater Hall and many other famous venues. She is a winner of the prestigious Prix Maurice Ravel and the Guildhall Wigmore Recital Prize.

Most recently she has completed her Master's degree at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London — under the tutelage of a Ryedale Festival star of ▶

Festival 2011  
Launch Concert  
Friday 6 May  
at St Peter's, Norton

**Christopher Glynn**  
(piano) with

**Consortium**  
the internationally renowned  
chamber choir

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Ryedale  
Festival

## Fast-rising star returns to Yorkshire

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the 1990s, Ronan O'Hora. Before coming to Ryedale in July, Alexandra's formidable performance schedule includes a two-week tour of Argentina culminating in a major recital in Buenos Aires.

Reviews of Alexandra's solo and ensemble performances are peppered with phrases such as 'prodigious talent', 'effortless technical control' and 'a gift that allows her to combine passion and sensitivity'. 'As Alexandra played [Debussy's *Estampes*],' observed one critic, 'It was as though she had entered a trance — oblivious to the

audience, and totally absorbed by her music. From time to time, a private smile would flicker across her lips.'

One of her tutors at the RNCM, Nelson Goerner, has called her 'a highly sensitive, intelligent, mature artist' whose playing has 'imagination, flair and deep comprehension'. Her Ryedale performance (full details of which will of course be announced, with the rest of the programme, at the Launch Concert on 6 May) promises to be a highlight of this year's Festival. ●