

THE PETER DARRELL TRUST

NEWS

November 2024



Sally Collard-Gentle in *Arabe*, Act 2 *Nutcracker*
Photo: Alan Crumlish

Welcome to our November Newsletter

It's been a busy year for the Trust with some exciting developments and some performances of Darrell's work including the National Ballet Of Japan performing **Tales of Hoffmann** in Tokyo which was very well received.

On 28th and 29th June Ballet Nights at the Lanterns Studio Theatre in East London saw a stunning performance of the final song from **Five Rückert Songs**. The role of "The woman" was danced by Estonian ballerina Eve Mutso, former Principal Dancer with Scottish Ballet with Mezzo-soprano Dana Mays from the Royal Scottish Conservatoire in Glasgow. If you missed the chance to see it there will be another chance in June of next year at the Cadogan Hall in London.

Here's an excerpt from a review to give you a flavour:

"Eve Mutso, a former ballerina with Scottish Ballet, gave an intensely moving performance of a solo from Peter Darrell's Five Rückert Songs by Gustav Mahler. Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen is infused with melancholy. Accompanied by mezzo soprano Dana Mays and Emanuel on the piano, Mutso took us on a heartfelt journey. It was good to see her dancing again and perhaps even more poignantly, in a work by Darrell" - Bachtrack June 2024.

The MA dance students at Roehampton University pulled out all the stops to learn **Economy in Straitjacket But Still Room for Movement** and two casts beautifully performed the piece on May 21st & 22nd at the University's Theatre. Thanks due to Lalitaraja Chandler for facilitating this and to Choreologist Kristin Johnson for teaching and producing **Economy in Straitjacket**. We hope to have more news in our next Newsletter about exciting plans for performing further Darrell ballets at Roehampton in 2025.

A really successful event entitled "Peter Darrell Rocks!" was held in front of an audience of some 60 people in Oxford to celebrate the 60th anniversary of **Houseparty**, including a screening of the 1964 television broadcast of the ballet plus a brief excerpt of **Mods and Rockers** with a fascinating discussion lead by Geoffrey Baskerville and interview with Hazel Merry who was in the original cast. A huge thank you

to Emeritus Professor Susan Jones who enabled this event to take place. It was also lovely to welcome Brenda Last, who was in Western Theatre Ballet, David Earl composer of "Cheri" and film producer Elly Taylor, among the audience of really engaged people from across the dance industry and beyond.

There was a lively debate and discussion and a delightful drinks reception in the beautiful setting of St Hilda's College in Oxford.

We have been in discussion with The Royal Ballet School, Elmhurst Ballet School and the Royal Scottish Conservatoire who have expressed great interest in including Darrell ballets and the study of his lasting legacy in their curriculum. The

Trust is working with these establishments to facilitate this and we expect this will include future performances of Darrell's works. All of us at the Trust are hugely encouraged by this renewed interest in Peter's life and work and we look forward to reporting further over the next few months.

It is just over 40 years since Darrell's beautiful and timeless version of **The Nutcracker** was first performed in Edinburgh at the Royal Lyceum Theatre. This year, Scottish Ballet is creating a newly-choreographed version of the ballet, drawing inspiration from Darrell's original production, created for the company he founded. Set and costumes by Lez Brotherston remain the same and Choreographer/Director Christopher Hampson CBE, along with Scottish Ballet's dancers and resident choreographers are creating wholly new choreography for The Nutcracker this festive season. So, make sure you get your tickets now for this festive treat: <https://scottishballet.co.uk/whats-on/the-nutcracker/>

Finally, the Trust welcomes Irving David who has graciously agreed to become our legal adviser. Irving is probably the UK's finest expert on legal matters pertaining to the entertainment industry, has a special interest in dance and has a wealth of knowledge having acted on behalf of many dance organisations and individuals during his illustrious career.

Due to the cost of postage, we would like to encourage as many of you as possible to sign up to receive our Newsletter via email. If you don't already receive correspondence from us by email and are happy to do so, then please send an email to peterdarrelltrust@gmail.com. If you still want to receive your newsletter by post perhaps you would consider making a small donation to help cover the cost - you can do that here:

To make a donation to the Trust's work: <https://www.justgiving.com/thepeterdarrelltrust>

For more information on the Peter Darrell Trust: <https://www.peterdarrell.org>

EMAIL AND DATA PROTECTION: The Peter Darrell Trust will only use your email or address to contact you with information about the Trust and will not release your details to any third parties. If you don't want to receive our Newsletters and updates, please email and we will remove you from our database.

Administration: 33 Ulundi Road, Blackheath, London SE3 7UQ; Website: www.peterdarrell.org;

Email: peterdarrelltrust@outlook.com

The Peter Darrell Trust, A Scottish Charity No: SC023011