

# Waterloo Chamber PLayerS

Ben Bolt-Martin

On the afternoon of May 8, 2022 at the Victoria Park Pavilion, the Waterloo Chamber Players will present a spring concert, **All Good Things**, which will also be a farewell concert between the Chamber Players and me, who has been their principal conductor since 2011.

This will finally be an opportunity for us to debut **Among Friends**, a concerto for cello and orchestra which I composed and dedicated to the members of the Waterloo Chamber Players in early 2020. For obvious reasons, we didn't get a chance to perform together for a long time, leaving Among Friends unperformed except for the Coda, which we recorded on our phones during one of many lockdowns. You can probably find it if you look up WCP on youtube.

It is a rich soup of emotions that this concert brings out in me. I first played with the Waterloo Chamber Players as they (and I) were just starting out. This group has always been a source of what I find most essential to music making, a sense that musicians working together can be a source of mutual support and connection that is unavailable in almost any other human endeavour. It has remained, at its core, a group dedicated to the act of making great music with all of the benefits of bringing together like-minded musicians to accomplish something polished and beautiful.

It was with this in mind that I wrote Among Friends. It is a concerto, but not in the sense that a concerto has come to be known. My goal, in the end, was to have my good friends in the Waterloo Chamber Players surround me as I played music I had written, much of which is atmospheric and meditative, and very little of which is bombastic and show-offy.

The first movement centres around a piece I wrote years ago to be played with a looper. I never came up with an appropriate name for it, but I'm glad it's found a home in this piece. In this instance, I pair it with a tune I wrote for my sister's wedding, a tune which I find to be wistful and melancholic, reminiscent of younger days.

The second movement wanders down some misty and shadowy paths, wandering



loosely into the world of romanticism with some dark and evocative episodes.

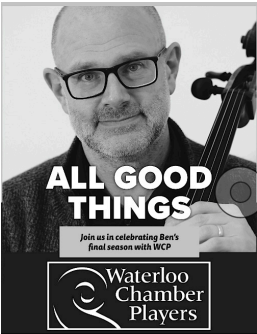
The third movement is rhythmic and a little funky, another tune that I'm happy to finally have found a home for with lots of energy and a slightly off-centre groove. It wanders off into a round dance based loosely on the instrumental in Paul Simon's Can't Run before dissolving into the aforementioned Coda.

I'm so happy that another of our good friends, Dan Warren, will be there to lead the orchestra during this first part of the concert. Dan is an artistic treasure and a good friend. It is always a pleasure to share the stage with him.

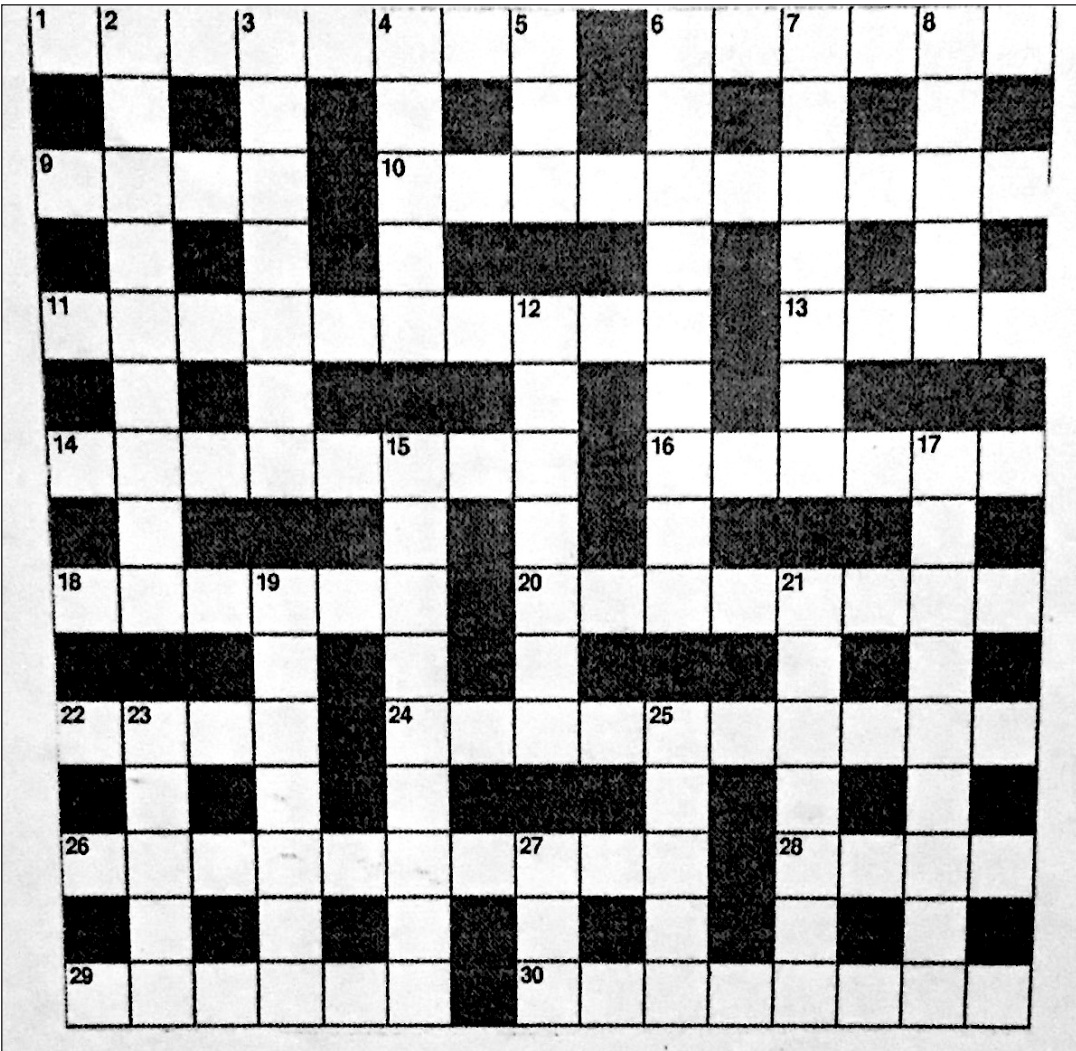
We'll then move into the second part of the concert where I'll say goodbye to my role as principal conductor by leading the group through **Beethoven's 7<sup>th</sup> Symphony** (the one from the King's Speech.)

Please join us! All WCP concerts are, 'pay what you can'. Bring your Mom. (Also, please bring a mask... we're not out of the woods yet!)

Pay-What-You-Can



## Music Times Crossword Puzzle #5 by Bill Kummer



### ACROSS

1. A little bitter liqueur from Saronno
6. Cornell Wilde played him in A Song to Remember (1946)
9. Don't worry, it's on the neck of your guitar
10. Multi-instrumental music
11. Pierluigi, composer of more than 100 masses
13. First word in a fairy tale, often
14. Brahms, Wagner, and Satie each had his in May
16. Student in a professional field gaining supervised experience
18. Home for Addinsell's Concerto, written for a movie
20. Gilbert for Sullivan, Hammerstein for Rodgers, etc.
22. Like many a fine wine
24. Born Italian, he spent most of his life in Spain
26. A suite for the sweet at Christmas, including a sugar plum
28. Inflection expressing a mood or emotion
29. Shrill wailing sounds, like those of bagpipes
30. First word in Barbara Streisand's The Way We Were

### DOWN

2. Tequila cocktail, not including 1 across
3. A peaceful withdrawal from normal activities
4. "Fishy" piano quintet by Schubert (1819)
5. Tolkien monster warrior
6. Title for Joseph Boulogne, \_\_\_\_ de Saint-Georges
7. Remote part of a country, often used by the military
8. Stern, as a violinist
12. Peaceful and relaxing, like a pastorale
15. The first beats of a bar
17. Character if a loud, deep, vibrating sound
19. Mozart's Don Giovanni, for example, was one
21. Person responsible for managing a collection of songs, e.g.
23. Christof Willibad, composer of Orfeo ed Euridice and Alceste
25. Site of a Mozart abduction, freely
27. Canadian pop singer Andy - Rock Me Gently, and Sugar, Sugar

answers on p.2