

# Pianist makes music by transatlantic links

**THEY weren't even in the same continent when they recorded their latest CD together – but you'd never guess.**

Pianist Charles Timberlake, from St Peter's Church, Titchfield, and composer John Daniels, who recently moved from Farington to Texas, put together *If You Lead Me* by collaborating via e-mail.

It was the latest of three CDs that the pair have worked on together, with Charles playing the piano and John contributing orchestral arrangements. Their successful collaborations have helped Charles to sell thousands of CDs over the past 14 years.

He also performs at craft shows and concerts, and will be one of the musicians on show during next month's St Peter's Music Week. 'An Evening with Charles Timberlake' will happen at 7.30pm on June 8 in St Peter's Church.

Charles will play some of his original compositions as well as instrumental versions of worship songs and other well-known tunes. The evening will feature guest clarinettist Fiona Reid and harpist Audrey Cameron Finnemore, and Charles will talk about his life and music.

It's a far cry from Charles' original attempts to learn the piano – he got no further than grade 4 exams as a pupil at Portsmouth Grammar School, and then started improvising and composing.

In 1982 he started teaching French at a prep school in Kent and composed music for two school performances – *Gobolino, the Witch's Cat* in 1986 and *The Magician's Nephew* in 1988.

"As a teenager I'd actually been terrified of playing in front of people, so this was the first time I'd really allowed my compositions to be heard in public," he said. "But people suggested that I

## REVIEW

**If You Lead Me**  
by Charles Timberlake and John Daniels

This is a collection of 11 well known worship songs and four original compositions by Charles Timberlake. All the tracks are gentle, soulful listening complemented by some effective, sympathetic orchestral arrangements by John Daniels.

*Be Still For The Presence of the Lord* and *As The Deer Pants* are here, and make easy and inspiring



listening. The haunting melodies of both worship songs are never lost amidst the textures of the orchestral sounds behind the solo piano playing.

*I, The Lord of Sea and Sky* is here too. In this scenario it can be played in a prayerful measured way which makes for a refreshing experience. *There is a Redeemer* finishes the recording off in similar style.

All the tracks feature solo piano as the main instrument, and no words are sung, but the texts can be found in the CD sleeve notes.

DAVID PRICE

Organist of Portsmouth Cathedral

should do more and I ended up recording my first CD in 1990 – the first time I'd played a concert grand Steinway!

"I had become a Christian in 1985, and began to experience the power of the Holy Spirit in my life and also in my music. I started to play and write worship songs. In 1993 I moved back to Titchfield, and a major turning point was meeting John Daniels. We still collaborate, even though he's moved to Texas."

Charles' first CD, *Between the Worlds*, was released in 1991 and his second, *The Celestial Picnic*, in 2000. Since then, he has worked with John Daniels on *Wings of An Eagle* (2002), *Face of Gold* (2003) and *If You Lead Me*.

His music has featured on BBC TV and radio, and he regularly performs at craft shows around the country. He has worked with deaf children as part of the Elizabeth Foundation in Portsmouth.

His first solo concert was in St Peter's, Titchfield, in 1994, and he has also performed in Romsey Abbey and in Dunblane Cathedral, only a fortnight after the school shooting tragedy there

in 1996.

"I'm particularly keen to reach through music those who are searching for something spiritual in their lives, but are not sure what," he said.

"In a materialistic and greedy world that is stressful and fast-moving, I hope to convey not only a sense of peace and harmony but also the wonder and love of God."

For more information, or to buy a CD, see: [www.charlestimberlake.co.uk](http://www.charlestimberlake.co.uk)



**Charles Timberlake: he never got beyond grade 4 on the piano, but has still sold thousands of music CDs**

## Varied programme raises funds

**Titchfield will be alive with music for the week starting June 6. Five nights of varied music will help raise funds to preserve the ancient church of St Peter's.**

It starts with a performance on June 6 in the *Queen's Head by Fliss Downs*, a former Blues singer who fronts the group *Sweet Believers*. She and some special guests will perform classics from the 1950s to now.

The next evening will see the Southampton-based *Mardi Gras Jazz Band* playing in the Coach and Horses, performing traditional New Orleans-style jazz. And Wednesday night is when Charles Timberlake will play in the church.

On June 9, children from Titchfield Primary School will perform in St Peter's. Their choir, orchestra, steel band, wind group and brass

group will all feature. And the week will be rounded off by the Madding Crowd performing in St Peter's on the Friday. This group recreates music of the 17th and 18th centuries and dresses in period costume.

Tickets cost £6 for each concert on the first three nights, £2.50 for Thursday's and £8 for Friday's concerts. Book them on 01329-310335 or 01329-315893.



**The wall painting at Godshill**

## Rare day marked with artwork

WORSHIPPERS at All Saints' Church, Godshill, marked a rare occasion in the calendar with a new depiction of their unique wallpainting.

The rarity was the fact that the day on which we remember Jesus' crucifixion and the date when we celebrate Christ's conception in the womb of the Virgin Mary coincided with each other.

This year's early Easter meant Good Friday actually happened on March 25 – which is normally the date for the Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord.

It's likely that a unique wall-painting of a lily-cross in All Saints' Church – which shows Christ crucified on a lily – refers to a previous calendrical coincidence, as Mary's emblem is the lily.

To mark this year's event, the parish commissioned a three-dimensional portrayal of the lily-cross by Isle of Wight artist Jill Garrett, who goes to St Faith's Church, Cowes.

It took her a couple of months to complete the sculpture, which is made of several different mate-

rials, and it cost the parish £400.

The vicar, the Rev John Ryder, said: "I got to know Jill when I looked after St Faith's parish. The crib scenes there are superb. We had previously commissioned her to repair our crib figures, and to make Easter garden figures, all beautifully done.

"The historical and theological significance of the event was highlighted in the greetings sent by Sr Rita Elizabeth of the House of Bethany, the Abbess of Quarr, and in the sermon given by Reader Anne Davis."



**The new sculpture**