

**“The Gallery Prommers are a happy band and we have a Facebook group so that we can keep in touch throughout the year. Faced with a unique season, we set up a nightly zoom at 6pm so that we can discuss the music and anything else we fancy....”**



## Ian Jackson

I listened to a lot of Radio 3 and a lot of proms in the 70s and 80s, with the amount growing over time. I bought the Guide most years and found my likes and dislikes, but assumed that such music in such a setting was “not for the likes of me”.

I’m not sure what changed my mind, or grew my courage, possibly that little bit hidden away in the small print “there is no dress code at the proms”.

Finally in 1991, I bought my first tickets for the seats. After that it grew and grew, and eventually in 2012 I decided it was worth buying a season ticket, and after a certain amount of thought joined the gallery promenaders. I’ve never regretted it.

## Liz and John

Liz Woodhouse is a retired teacher who first went to the Proms when she was 14. John Woodhouse is a retired librarian who started going in 1974. Both of them have sung at the Proms in the Philharmonia Chorus. Our greatest moment was putting the wreath on Sir Henry Wood on the last night 2016 (picture below)...

One thing must be said: We really are the most intelligent and knowledgeable audience in the world! On the zoom people regularly produce programmes and libretti from the past and compare performances.

## Adrian Tring

My first visit to proms was in 2016 – a newbie compared with some of you. Though classical music drew my attention early in life when I heard Beethoven's Symphony No 5 whilst not quite a teenager on a gramophone with a crystal pickup working into valve (UCL82) amplifier. I am a railway systems engineer.

## Hazel Morgan

*How long Promming:* Longer than I can remember. First in Gallery c.1969.  
*Occupation:* looked after subtitling foreign-language programmes and films at Channel 4, from its 5th day on air (6th November 1982) till April 2009.  
*About me:* Graduate of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama (GGSM). Still singing, solo and in choirs. Sang at Proms 1966-68 in LSO Chorus, and throughout the 1970s in London Philharmonic Choir.

... and here's a link to Hazel's interesting article on the Proms:  
<https://allmusicismusic.blogspot.co.uk/>

## Dale Eaton

Born in Oxford but raised in Melbourne, Dale Eaton is a retired IT guy whose first Prom was in 1981. He became a "season" prommer in the mid 90s, first in the Arena before upgrading to the Gallery. Loving travel and music he is happy that the Proms and the lecture series at the Royal Geographical Society neatly dovetail, drawing him (in more normal times) to Albertopolis all year.

## Marilyn Nicholls

I can't compete with that, but my first visit was, I think, in 1966, still a school girl.

## Keith Wayne

I'm a London Tour Guide specialising in all things to do with The Royal Household and The Royal Collection. I have an eclectic taste in music and went to my first Prom in 1983 to hear Simon Rattle and The Philharmonia play Rachmaninov's Symphony #2. Since then I have been to over 1,000 Proms and in 2012 decided that it was getting crazily expensive sitting in the Circle so I started Promming in The Gallery. The people in the queue are my friends now and we have great fun in and around Bay 18. I hope it returns next year as I feel a great sense of loss not going to The RAH most nights.

## Lynn Baker

I'm a steward at the Royal Albert Hall. I have the honour of looking after the wonderful group of people who are the Gallery Prommers. I travel into work every day from my home in Bedford, a bit of a trek at times but I wouldn't work anywhere else. I first met these folk in 2016 when I joined the staff at the RAH and they have welcomed me into their fold. I had never been to a Prom before but now it is my favourite time of my working year.

