**Daniel Friesner - Nomination for President’s Award**

**About Wye Valley Chamber Music**

Wye Valley Chamber Music is a registered charity and operates two festivals each year in rural Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Monmouthshire. The Winter Festival was established in 2000 and has become a treasured part of the region’s cultural life; a group of internationally renowned artists undertake a ten-day residency in Treowen Manor, presenting their music in thrilling, intimate concerts to the local community. In 2013, the Summer Residency was founded, offering a week at Treowen to talented young ensembles, who work with, and perform alongside, inspiring tutors. Wye Valley Chamber Music has been directed by Daniel Tong since its inception.

**Testimonials**

1. Daniel Friesner has been a tireless and dedicated volunteer for our music group for well over a decade. Twice a year, he decamps to Treowen Manor as an unpaid volunteer, in order to help in the kitchen and around the house. Daniel supports the cooks and other house staff with chopping, washing up, cleaning, setting tables and all manner of other tasks that are absolutely essential in making the weeks run smoothly for around thirty resident musicians. He loves music, and in his spare time will often be heard listening to rehearsals and masterclasses; in a quiet moment he will even be heard playing one of the pianos around the house. He has been our most loyal and reliable volunteer for many years. I feel that a round of applause or gift at the end of each festival are really not enough to acknowledge the huge amount that Daniel has given of himself for our group.
2. I first met Daniel Friesner at the Prussia Cove Musician’s Seminar in Cornwall over 15 years where he was acting as a ‘helper’ and assisting the running of the course. It was as a result of this that Daniel Tong and I invited him to our own music festival that we co-direct in the Wye Valley. Here he has been a totally invaluable part of the team for many years, helping in the kitchen and with the day to day running of the winter festival and summer courses. He dedicates himself to the work but moreover connects with all the people and students. A fierce intellect and passionate amateur musician he fits this role perfectly and we have and continue to be indebted to him for his work. I wholeheartedly recommend him for this award.
3. Daniel's dedication and wealth of practical knowledge gained from the years he had been involved with Wye Valley Chamber Music are invaluable. I started in my role just a few weeks before our Summer Residency this year and while the event was running, Daniel was a fantastic source of support. He just understands what has to be done and nothing is ever too much trouble. I thoroughly support Daniel's nomination for the President's Award as he has given so much to our organisation over the years and continues to do so.