



Newsletter

Issue no.24

February 2010

Concert Diary:

21 March – Spring concert
Our Lady & St Michaels
Church, Pen-y-Pound.

Harty – Comedy Overture
Elgar – Sea Pictures
Brahms – Symphony no 1

Our first guest conductor is Eugene Monteith, a graduate of RWCMD, who is already getting some shape on the Brahms. The soloist in the Elgar will be Sally Martin, a student at RWCMD.

13 June – Summer concert
Our Lady & St Michael's
Church, Pen-y-Pound.
Please note the venue

Bernstein – Overture Candide
Rodrigo – Concierto de
Aranjuez
Beethoven – Symphony no 6

Our second guest conductor will be Frank O'Connor who was recently our principal horn but who is now concentrating on conducting. When he is not working as 'Leader of Learning Arts Development' in Bristol he conducts the Forest of Dean SO and the Keynsham SO (Bristol). He has already engaged his soloist, Nils Klöfver, a 27 year old Swedish guitarist who studied at the Royal College of Music and is now based in London.
(www.nilsklofver.com)

November

The autumn concert will be conducted by Ken Woods (www.kennethwoods.net), on 21 or 28 November. The programme is still to be decided so if you have a special request – or any suggestions – for a work, please let Peter or me (Sue) know.

Rehearsal diary:

Every Sunday, 6.30 in the Ballroom of the Angel Hotel, **except**
28 March
4 April (Easter)
18 April (Workshop)
2 May (could be reinstated)
30 May (Bank hol/ Half term)

No rehearsals after the summer concert until September.

Successful Sibelius

After our concert in November, Brian wrote:

"a quick note to say huge thanks for the concert on Sunday. I think it was our best together yet, and the Sibelius was, in many ways, our most difficult symphony to date. It was tremendous and, even though there were a few moments (when aren't there (!), the performance was really very good.

Thanks for putting up with me for the last nine years, thanks for the wine (already drunk) and the flowers for Jen, which was a really nice touch and made her have a "little cry". I am looking forward to some free weekends

next year but, and do forgive the indulgence here, I see you as my orchestra and I will miss you.

I promise to come to all the concerts, to see you at the Workshop and to encourage you to embrace the opportunity of working with some other Conductors, starting with Eugene in January.

18 April - Workshop

By popular demand we will run a workshop again this year, with Brian conducting. Work to be studied – West Side Story

November 2009 CDs

Our last concert was again recorded and Rob Watson will produce CDs at £5 each for anyone who wants one. Please tell Rob asap if you want one, or email me suerogers454@btinternet.com

New Year's Honours

Congratulations must be offered to Sian Rees who was awarded a CBE in the New Years Honours list, "for services to archaeology and the ancient monuments of Wales". For fear of embarrassing her I won't quote her achievements, but they may be viewed at www.cadw.wales.gov.uk/default.asp?id=21&NewsId=289

Also to be congratulated is Dr Noel Meeke who, with his wife Angela is a Friend of the orchestra and wrote the letter I

quoted in the last newsletter, enthusing over our Rachmaninov 2. Noel was awarded an MBE 'for voluntary service to Herefordshire Waterworks Museum'.

New Members

It is great to be able to welcome so many new members at one time, especially ones who have so enhanced the orchestra already:

John Scott is a retired consultant eye surgeon, has recently taken up the viola again and enjoys playing occasionally with quartets who fancy a Mozart quintet! John played with the orchestra ... over 50 years ago when it competed in the National Eisteddfodd (and won! – see www.abergavennysymph.org.uk/history.asp)

Sarah-Louise Tyler (clarinet) plays in the South Wales Clarinet Choir and CCB Wind Band, and is currently studying for her Diploma. She travels from Cardiff.

Hannah Stonelake (horn) is a graduate of RNCM and has returned home to Raglan whilst she searches for a playing job.

Ian Nowosad (horn) lives in Abergavenny and also studied horn at RNCM.

Paul Kelly from Cardiff is converting from a cornet player to a trumpet player – quite successfully it seems!

New Life Member

Barbara Price was elected a Life Member at the AGM in October, in recognition of her long service as Librarian to the Society. A collection raised

£101 which she used to buy a long wanted print by John Knapp-Fisher.

Past member

I have recently had an email from Peter Gardner who played with the orchestra . (under Kazim Hardulak – see www.abergavennysymph.org.uk/kasimerz_hardulak.asp) when he was at Brecon Grammar in the 60s. Peter went on to college in London and was recruited to Newfoundland to develop an embryonic orchestral programme, which has clearly blossomed – see www.nso-music.com/ and he is now General and Artistic Director of the Newfoundland Symphony orchestra (amongst many other things).

He said "I must say that the influence of the AOS and what it can do for rural communities has coloured my work ever since and been contributory to what I think has been a very successful career.

Peter visits Abergavenny when he returns to South Wales and I hope his visit this year may coincide with our summer concert so that we may meet up with him.

Generous grant

We are immensely grateful to Abergavenny Town Council who have again awarded us a grant of £1500. This will help us to finance a third full concert in the year (13 June - see above).

Other Events

On Sat 13 Feb the Brecknock Sinfonia (conductor Michael Bell) will be performing the Beethoven Violin Concerto with Laurence Kempton at Brecon Cathedral (7.30pm). Also in the programme are

Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture and Symphony no 4 (Italian).

On 11 April, the Gwent Bach Society will be performing the Monteverdi Vespers in St Mary's Abergavenny.

There will be a one day Scratch Orchestra at the Colston Hall, Bristol on Sunday 28 Feb.

Morning - rehearse the pieces; Afternoon - a play-through, with audience having FREE tickets (but giving generously to Cancer Research)

Pieces: Purcell Rondeau; Pomp and Circumstance 1; Wine Women and Song; Pirates of the Caribbean; Final Countdown; 1812 (parts of); Dvorak New World - Mvmts 1,2,4

I have registration forms if anyone is interested, or contact theorchestrapitts@hotmail.co.uk

We will have a rehearsal that evening so please make that a priority!

New Look Website

Have you noticed the new website? Many thanks to Simon Large who has revamped it and keeps it up-to-date.

There is a calendar on the 'Members' page, where we will put any notes about forthcoming rehearsals, e.g. the plan.

If you have any ideas for further improvements (especially graphical or photographic), please talk to Simon.

STOP PRESS

New Baby

Congratulations to Adrian (our leader) and Romilly who had a baby son last week.