



# Newsletter

Issue no.21

May 2008

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## Spring concert – “Best yet”

Brian reported to the committee at their meeting last week that he felt the last concert had been the best under his baton.

Dedication in the Mozart, observational and sensitive accompaniment in the Beethoven, and power, pace and security in the Dvorak all made him conclude that the orchestra continues to take steps forward.

Some players have commented on “edge of the seat” stuff, but this gave the performance an edge and kept everyone on their toes.

Ticket sales were very good again – that’s two good concerts, income-wise, since Malcolm’s grim message of impending financial doom at the last AGM! The good attendance must be due in part to your efforts to sell tickets, but also due to the increasing reputation of the orchestra. One lady who called into Abergavenny Music (who sell tickets on our behalf) said “Oh! I must go. They are so good these days.”!

A first this time was a newspaper review from an independent critic, namely Nigel Jarrett in the South Wales Argus. He referred to Laurence’s sure fingered playing and the fact that *“the orchestra was with him all the way, supplying timely prompts and agreeable company”*. He went on: *“The strict tempo of the overture to Mozart’s The Marriage of Figaro and the frantic scherzo of the Dvorak’s sixth symphony again demonstrate what conductor Brian Weir sought from his players was delivered in a sustained manner”*.

You can read the full review on the Argus’ website ([southwalesargus.co.uk](http://southwalesargus.co.uk), type ‘abergavenny symphony’ into the search box and the review will be the first hit returned.)

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## Summer Concert Sunday 15 June, 7.30pm

As usual, this will be in the Ballroom of the Angel Hotel, starting at 7.30pm. Final rehearsal will be 4.30 for the Janacek, 5.00 for the Bizet.

Dress code is coloured tops, black bottoms. (Check what colour the person sitting next to you will be wearing!)

We will be playing:

Janacek - ‘Three Lachian Dances’ (for wind dectet)  
Bizet – Symphony in C

We have just 4 rehearsals to put this together so a bit of private study will be needed!

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## Summer Barbecue Friday 20 June, 7.30pm

The committee thought it would be a nice idea to meet up socially after the concert to wind down before the summer break and have organised a barbecue at the St Michaels Centre (at Our Lady & St Michael’s). All members plus friends and family will be welcome for a very informal evening. Tickets will be £8 (£5 for under 12s) and the barbecue (provided by Sugar Loaf Catering) will include sausages, burgers, steaks, chicken, salad and rolls. The bar will be open. Tickets on sale from 1<sup>st</sup> June - see Sue or Ian.

## The 2008-9 Season

The committee has been thinking hard about next year with a view to finalising dates and programmes before the last minute. We hope this will enable you all to organise your diaries/holidays around the concerts! There are some details to complete, but at the moment we have:

**Sunday 7 September**  
6.30pm – 1<sup>st</sup> Rehearsal

**Sunday 23 November 2008, 8pm**  
*Our Lady & St Michaels*

Vaughan Williams: Folk Song Suite

Vaughan Williams: The Lark Ascending

Rimsky-Korsakov:  
Scheherazade

The soloist (tbc) in the Lark will lead the orchestra and play the solo in Scheherazade

**Sunday 26 April 2009 8pm**  
*Our Lady & St Michaels*

Overture & concerto tbc  
Rachmaninov – Symphony no 2

**Summer 2009** (date tbc)

Mozart: Eine Kleine Nachtmusic

Mozart Opera arrangement extracts for wind dectet

Schubert: an early symphony

## Workshop 2009

This has only been discussed in principle but given the late concert (necessary because Easter is late and we cannot do our concert in the Church during Lent) Brian does not want so many rehearsals as we scheduled for our recent concert. An element of staleness crept in during rehearsals which could be avoided by reducing the number. So if you are itching to play a particular work which you think would be suitable for the Workshop, have a word with Brian, or any member of the committee.

## Music in Hospitals

The Welsh Amateur Music Federation has advised us of a new scheme, funded by the Assembly Government, to encourage music performances in the public areas of hospitals. Member societies who give such performances (approved by WAMF) will receive a donation of £200. Ian has written to the Administrator at Nevill Hall to see if we might be given time and space. Whilst we are waiting for an answer, Ian would be delighted to hear from any *ad hoc* groups within the orchestra who might like to perform. Clearly if we could manage one or two such performances a year, it would please the Treasurer enormously!

## Members' News

Congratulations to Becky Rogers (bassoon) who gave birth to a son, Gwilym weighing in at 7lbs, on 18 April (also his dad's birthday!). Some of you will have signed a card for Becky at the concert, but I'm sorry it didn't get round all sections. Special (late) congrats from the lower strings! Becky says she'll dust off her bassoon before September.

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## Masterclasses at WMC

I have been notified of WAMF organised Masterclasses in the Glanfa Foyer at the Wales Millennium Centre for youngsters aged 14 – 21. Music enthusiasts are welcome to attend and observe. The classes are for:  
HORN - 13 May, with Angus West (Principal Horn, WNO Orch)

DOUBLE BASS - 20 May, with Dominic Seldis (Principal Double Bass, NOW)

BASSOON – 3 June, with Meyrick Alexander (Principal Bassoon, Philharmonia Orch)

VIOLA – 10 June, with Philip Heyman (Principal Viola, WNO Orch)