



Westbourne Orchestral Society

Established 1930 - Registered charity no: 282074

The Westbourne Orchestral Society: 80th Anniversary Orchestral Prom Concert

(By Patrick Lee, 2010-2011 Chairperson of the Society)

The Westbourne Orchestral Society (known as WOS) was founded in 1930 and held its 80th anniversary celebration concert in the De Vere Suite at the Royal Bath Hotel in Bournemouth on 10 July 2010.

Some 50 players and 120 guests attended the evening. Two of the players had travelled from abroad (the USA and Germany) especially for this event. Although some players joined relatively recently, a significant number have been playing for WOS for several decades, including in one case since 1963!

The evening started off with a “serious” first half, with Brahms’ Academic Festival Overture, excerpts from Grieg’s Peer Gynt (conducted by trumpeter Kevin Penfold) and Dvorak’s Romance for solo violin (soloist: Jane Bultz), after which the guests were served a light supper. We then moved on to a traditional “Last Night of the Proms” style, much livelier second half!

The orchestra, with Lee Marchant wielding the baton, Jane Bultz as Leader and joined by guest singers Glinys Luff and Alex Cook performed several Proms favourites, including Johann Strauss’ Thunder and Lightning Polka, Parry’s Jerusalem, Elgar’s Pomp and Circumstance March No 1, Henry Wood’s Sea Songs Fantasia as well as Benjamin Britten’s arrangement of the National Anthem. Local composer and percussionist Dan Priest also kindly took part in a performance of his own work, the Millennium Fanfare, commissioned of course now a whole decade ago.



The Westbourne Orchestra conducted by Lee Marchant

During this second half, the audience played their full part (particularly those seated in the upper gallery!), with much flag waving and singing along etc. Perhaps as a result of the recent football World Cup in South Africa, in addition to the more conventional football rattle and klaxon horns I'm pretty sure I could detect one or two vuvuzelas too!

The evening finished with not one but several bangs: the finale was Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, complete with indoor cannon and fireworks!

As you can see from the photographs, it was a very colourful evening: while the gentlemen were in black (and occasional Union Jack) tie, the ladies amongst both orchestra and guests took full advantage of the opportunity to sport some of their more resplendent outfits.



The upper balcony of the audience in full flow

Apart from some requests to go easier on the indoor cannons next time (despite being assured that they were very much at the lower end of the available scale, and well within safety limits, they did come across as rather too realistic!), the event seems to have been extremely well received by guests and players alike, with many comments along the lines of "when are you going to do the next one??"

For more information about WOS, please visit our website <http://www.westbourne-orchestra.co.uk> or you can find us on Facebook.

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Photos below appear in full size in case of any use



The Westbourne Orchestra conducted by Lee Marchant



View from the back of the De Vere Suite hall



The upper balcony of the audience in full flow!



The Westbourne Orchestral Society performing at their 80th Birthday Proms Concert



A very colourful evening!