



WOS News

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WOS News has been published now for 4 years. The editorial team would welcome the views of members and all readers for the next edition. Do you like it? Does it serve a good purpose? Any suggestions for improvement would be very welcome as well as (of course) any articles or odd snippets you think people may be interested in or amused by. Many thanks to those who have contributed to this edition.



75th Anniversary Dinner

"WELCOME TO ALL MEMBERS, FRIENDS & GUESTS TO THE 75th ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF THE WESTBOURNE ORCHESTRA" was how the nearly 90 guests were colourfully greeted when they arrived at the Liston Hotel, Boscombe. The hotel menu provided a good selection of food and the dining room was sumptuously decorated. After the meal, long serving clarinettist, timpanist and committee member Tricia Davis spoke. She said that it was such a great pleasure to see so many Orchestra Members, Honorary Members, Friends and Guests gathered on this special occasion. She then went on to pay tribute to all that had gone on before over the past 75 years. All the ups and downs, the good times

and the bad times, but nevertheless the Orchestra has kept the 'flag flying' or more realistically the 'baton waving' continuously over all those years. Tricia said that as she sits in the timpanist chair at the back of the Orchestra and during the long rest passages she is uniquely placed to observe the Orchestra beavering away doing its best to create for others the composers' ideas so that the music is shared by all present. She is also able to study the audiences knowing that it includes three sets of people: "Honorary Members" who have made a special contribution to the progress and well being of the Orchestra; "Friends of WOS" who loyally support the orchestra; and members of the public who come to the concerts because they know

someone or out of curiosity or are tempted by the music we play.

"Friends of WOS" was set up a few years ago and the loyalty of the members of this group at our concerts Workshops and Open rehearsals is very much appreciated, and of great benefit to the Orchestra.

She went on to say that *"in many ways the Society is like a family. Each member has different gifts different attitudes and different responsibilities but all have a common dedication and purpose. This has been the ethos and spirit of the Society ever since I joined. I expect we've all experienced support, friendship in many ways. I did both before and after my husband, Richard, died. You are my 'Orchestral Family'. I hope, believe and trust this spirit will continue to flourish so that the Orchestra goes from strength to strength."*



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End of Term Concert—December 2005

Despite publicity for this free of charge concert being quite sparse, 50 - 60 people turned up to make a very enjoyable social atmosphere. It was a really good occasion and a great way to end the term and to start the Christmas festivities.

The programme was quite short consisting of ballet music from the Tchaikovsky ballet *Sleeping Princess* followed by orchestrated traditional Christmas carols specially arranged by our conductor.

Orchestra members entered into the spirit of Christmas with tinsel and party hats. and very generously provided a sumptuous feast for both audience and orchestra in the church hall afterwards.

It was a particular joy to see Hon. Member Kathy Skinner and her husband Bob at the concert. For the information of new members, until she became ill some 3 years ago, Kathy provided refreshments at the break during rehearsals and also handled the box office and other tasks at concerts

for 12 or 13 years. She is working very hard with physiotherapists and hopes she will make a full recovery in the not too distant future.

The one piece of publicity we had was courtesy of James Monger, loyal supporter of WOS and the first to join the "Friends of the WOS". James is also the chairman of the Friends of Canford Cliffs Library (FOCCL) and he permitted some promotion of the WOS Christmas concert at one of the FOCCL meetings, which resulted in some members attending the concert. Thank you James.

Thoughts on Christchurch Priory Concert

To Geoffrey Morgan: As a very lowly member of the Westbourne Orchestra who sits at the back of the first violin section I would just like to say how very much I enjoyed the Poulenc on Saturday. When we first started to rehearse I really thought it would never come off as I found it so very difficult. It was quite a feat for the Orchestra but also greatly demanding and a great challenge for the organist as well. Nevertheless your rendition was absolutely superb and we have had a number of compliments from several members of the audience and orchestra members. WOS is extremely grateful that you agreed to undertake this work. It is an experience and a privilege we shall never forget. Kind regards, (VK)

To Vic King: I am so glad you enjoyed the Poulenc. So did I! I always enjoy playing it, and realise how difficult it is for the orchestra. I thought it came off remarkably well. You had obviously worked very hard at it! The timpanist requires special commendation. She managed the very difficult score with great, dedicated

skill and concentration having to cope with its multitudinous tempo changes throughout. Best wishes for the continued success of WOS (GM)

"Of my 12 members of the audience at the Priory, about half loved the Poulenc & the others were pleased to have heard it! The rest of programme was well received & all enjoyed the (unfortunately dry - no refreshments) Priory. Councillor Beesley of Bournemouth Council enjoyed the concert - violinist (DB)

"Great concert"-violinist (RU), "Brilliant concert"-clarinettist (BS)

"Playing at the Christchurch Priory is a privilege and the highlight of my amateur orchestral playing experience so far" - very new to the Orchestra young violinist (WK)

"Thoroughly enjoyed the concert and congratulations on the Programme a bargain at £1" - member of audience Christchurch Priory "I thoroughly enjoyed the concert at the Priory particularly the Pavane. It is so peaceful and tranquil. Nice to have soft seats as well." audience member (MGB).

Chairman's Thanks

On behalf of the WOS I would like to express our sincere thanks to Mrs Jacquie Uren, Mrs Noreen Price and Mr Robert Griffin who responded to our appeal for volunteers in the last edition of WOS News for Front of House duties. All three joined Richard

Brown and helped out at the Autumn 2005 concert series. The WOS is extremely grateful. Very many thanks indeed.

I should also like to thank Stella Hughes and Inez McGinley for selling advertising space in our Souvenir programmes.

Finally as Organist and Choirmaster I

am personally very grateful to Liz Sansom (violin), Ron Best (trumpet), Christine Taylor (piano) and Brenda Clerici (flute) who helped with their solos at the biennial Tree Festival Concert at St John's church Burley, Saturday 10th December to make the event a total success.

David Portsmouth (Chairman WOS)

Concert recordings

For several years Honorary Member, Garth Habgood, has been making video recordings of our concerts. He is now also able to provide these recordings on DVD. This is a hobby for Garth and a labour of love. They are not for sale as such but Garth will happily provide copies to members and all he asks is for a small contribution towards costs. If you are interested in obtaining a copy loyal and enthusiastic Garth is at most rehearsals to listen to the music and to chat with players during the tea/coffee break.

Dates

- 14th March 2006 Lunchtime concert, St. James, Poole
- 21st March 2006 Lunchtime concert, St. James, Poole
- 25th March 2006 St. Peter & St. Paul's, Ringwood
- 31st March 2006 St. Ambrose, Westbourne
- 1st April 2006 St. Thomas, Ensbury Park
- 17th June 2006 St. Nicholas, Corfe Mullen
- 23rd June 2006 St. Ambrose, Westbourne
- 24th June 2006 St. Thomas's, Ensbury Park
- 14th July 2006 Workshop at St. Ambrose
- 13th October 2006 Open rehearsal at St. Ambrose



A 'Brief Encounter' with Rachmaninoff *certo, Opus 18*

A 'first' for WOS this year was to purchase some tickets for BSO concerts to be used by members on a 'first out of the hat' basis. Here is the account of two lucky members.

"We decided to join forces in order to double our chance of being picked for tickets to a BSO concert. We were delighted to 'win' tickets for the programme which included Rachmaninoff's *The Rock Fantasy* and the *Second Piano Con-*

certo, Opus 18 which took the world by storm with Rachmaninoff as the soloist and Siloti conducting. Also included were excerpts from Prokofiev's Ballet Music *Romeo & Juliet* written circa 1935.

The conductor Petri Sakari studied as a violinist and went on to study conducting in 1974 at Sibelius Academy in Helsinki and later with Rafael Kubelik in Switzerland

The overture *The Rock Fantasy* is a little-known work written by Rachmaninoff when he was in his 20s,

and will probably remain so. This was merely a prelude to the magnificent *Second Piano Concerto*, played masterfully by 33 year old Russian Nikolai Lugansky to a packed audience.

The highlight of the evening was definitely *Romeo & Juliet* which was a showcase for every section of the orchestra with superb playing from the horn section.

We were really lucky to have drawn tickets for such a popular concert."

Anne Finlay-Brown (Violin)

Dave Brooks (French Horn)

Member News

We recently learnt that **Inez McGinley (French horn)** was married to Mr Adrian Pitkin just before Christmas (kept that quiet Inez!). This being the first issue of the year it is the earliest opportunity we have had of officially passing on our very best wishes for a happy and glorious future together. Champagne all round is called for.

On behalf of the Orchestra, membership secretary, Chris Sugden extends a very warm welcome to the following new members. We are absolutely delighted that you have decided to join our, if I may say so, excellent orchestra. Many of our members have been with us for many years and we hope you will be able to do the same.

Rachel Bennion-Pedley (Violin); Hazel Dudley (Cello); Wendy Knutt (Violin); Marion Criscuolo (Viola); Antoine Pillot (Viola); Virginia Fargeot (Cello); Monica Baseotto (Viola); Fran Murphy (Cello).

It is with regret that we report the death of Mr. Ken Fisher who has been a Friend of the Orchestra for some years. Our deepest sympathy goes to his family and friends.

Healthy Orchestra Charter

The Healthy Orchestra Charter was launched at the end of January in an attempt to draw attention to the problems, both mental and physical, of professional musicians. In an interview with Charlotte Higgins of the Guardian, the director of the Royal Opera Orchestra said that repetitive strain injury is prevalent among string players and that three or four members of the orchestra will be receiving treatment for shoulder, neck or wrist injuries at any one time. She also encourages players to have hearing tests and says that the pit at the Royal Opera House had received acoustic treatment to try to minimise potential hearing damage. The new charter will also discourage exceptionally loud pieces from being programmed together and very loud passages from being rehearsed at length.

Those on the internet can find out more by Googling "healthy orchestra charter" which will direct you to both the Guardian article mentioned above and also the charter itself.

Thanks to Janet Ainsworth (cello) for this information.

Caring Home Required for Electronic Organ

"Friend of WOS" Derek Locker would like to find a good home for his Philips Philacordia two manual Electronic Organ.

The organ measures 39" (1 metre) x 26" (0.66 m) x 35" (0.89 m) high. It was purchased in 1973 at a cost of £374 and is still in almost showroom condition.

Derek is offering the organ free of charge to any member of the Society but recipient must arrange collection.

Anyone interested should contact Derek Locker at No 4 Little Court, 15 Martello Road South, Canford Cliffs Poole BH13 7HQ Tel: 01202 700364

The Violin Shop

Visit Geoff at 52a Wycliffe Road, Winton for all your string requirements, repairs, accessories, etc. Tel: 01202 513823/657077.



Pen Portrait—Ron Best (Trumpet)

Sometimes during a concert there is a moment when a musical phrase stands out and you feel the hairs on the back of your neck rising in response to the beautiful sound. Such a moment occurred for me at the trumpet entry at the beginning of the fourth movement of Dvorak's Symphony No. 8 at the recent series of concerts in November 2005.

This was Ron Best and fellow trumpeters Fiona and Peter (trumpets blending to sound like a single instrument) at their best – no pun intended. Clear, pure, trumpet fanfare true and faultless.

Ron joined the local Salvation Army Sunday School and at the age of about eleven he was invited by a member of the SA band to learn to play the cornet. He made good progress and at the age of 15, encouraged by a music teacher at his school, he enlisted into the Band of the North Staffordshire Regiment.

After initial training he served in Trieste in Italy as well as Hong Kong before coming back to England to study at Kneller Hall, the Royal Military School of Music.

He then rejoined the Regimental Band touring the UK, playing at various events including the Edinburgh Tattoo. This was followed by further service abroad in Germany on two occasions and also twice in Kenya.

Throughout this period he gained vast experience of the Wind Band repertoire. This included various brass groups, fanfares, dance and Dixie bands and as a soloist with cornet, trumpet, and post horn.

Upon retirement from the regular army in 1963, Ron obtained full-time employment with Shell International at Waterloo.

At about the same time he transferred to the Band of the Honourable Artillery Company in the City of London (Territorials) and remained with them for the next thirty-one years.

A great deal of work with this band was high profile for Royalty and the Lord Mayor of London. He was selected for membership of a ten-piece salon orchestra providing music at prestigious functions held in the Guildhall and the Mansion House as well as various top hotels in London's West End.

Ron recognizes that he owes a great debt to the services as an army musician and poses the question, "*Where else could you gain experience in such a wide spectrum of music?*"*

In June 1979 Ron threw all caution to the wind, abandoned the bachelor life and married Lili who had two daughters by a previous marriage and subsequently acquired four grandchildren.

In 1995 Ron and Lili moved to Bournemouth and Ron joined the orchestra of the

Bournemouth Philharmonic Society (BAPS). Unfortunately, Lili died from cancer prematurely that same year.

Later Ron joined the Westbourne Orchestra and in 1997 he met and married Molly who had two sons. Both Molly and Ron now work at the Methodist Church on Tuesdays for the "STAY-A-WHILE" old peoples lunch club.

The WOS is greatly indebted to Ron for his contribution to the success of the concerts over the last 11 years.

We respect Ron for taking the adult view that he should retire from playing before he is physically unable to play as well as he does now but we shall miss him dreadfully and wish him and his family every happiness for the future.

Ron was extremely pleased to learn that, proposed by Jean Budd and seconded by Chris Sugden, the WOS committee has unanimously granted Ron Honorary Life Membership of the Society. Hopefully he will continue his interest and support the WOS as much as possible in future years

* *WOS also owes a great debt to the army and Kneller Hall not only for Ron but also for Fiona Bilton (violin and trumpet), George Carnell (oboe), Bill Fendley (cello), Jim Grant (clarinet), Franck Leprince (violin), Ray Slater (French horn), and probably many others over the years.*

The Tricia & Vic show wows the Wallisdown Ladies Group

WOS Friend Doreen Slack made an unusual call to the Friends secretary a few weeks ago. Doreen also belongs to the Wallisdown Ladies Group who meet every two weeks when a guest speaker comes to entertain and enlighten them. Unfortunately, the speaker at the next meeting (just over a week away) had let them down and they were frantically looking for a replacement. "Could WOS help?" Without too much hope of success, an e-mail was circulated and the wonderful Tricia (timp) volunteered to go along. Always on the look out to make WOS more well known, Vic also volunteered to go along with Tricia to help with the talk.

Vic talked about the history of WOS and Tricia followed on with a demonstration of just some of her huge collection of percussion instruments. The ladies were enthralled!

We received the following letter of appreciation from Doreen (Vice-Chairperson, Wallisdown Ladies Group):

The Wallisdown Ladies Group enjoyed a fantastic evening on Wednesday 15th Feb. In the company of Patricia and Vic we were enthralled with the history not only of WOS but an insight into the individual instrumental sections of the orchestra and Patricia brought along several percussion

which were very professionally demonstrated. Vic opened the proceedings with a brief introduction and proved to be a more than able Publicity Presenter. Not only an exciting celebration of music making but a very special evening for everyone attending.

In appreciation of your expertise with the e-mail in sourcing (albeit at relatively short notice) such worthy ambassadors of WOS we were more than happy to contribute an unsolicited donation to the WOS funds.

In taking this opportunity to renew my annual subscription I would like to add that at the conclusion of the above soiree the compliments were forthcoming thick and fast both from the Committee and our ladies which I was more than pleased to pass on to Patricia and Vic prior to the Group's enthusiastic farewells.

Vic did reveal that in the 12 years he has been with WOS no request have been received to acquaint any community organisations with the Orchestra History/Activities but having accomplished such a tour de force I am sure more demand(s) will follow.

It sounds as though they did us proud.