



# WOS News

Issue 16

June 2006

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WOS had planned an ambitious programme for the summer season including Rachmaninov's second symphony. However, due to circumstances beyond our control, not the least of these being that our conductor, Sam, has been extremely ill with pneumonia, we have had to substitute some of the programme items with less demanding (but equally enjoyable) works. I am pleased to report that, after a spell in hospital, Sam is making a good recovery and even hopes to be in the audience for one of the concerts. WOS is extremely grateful to Dave Brooks for taking over the conducting and rehearsals for these concerts. We all appreciate the hard work and preparation time that he has put in for both the rehearsals and concerts.

Following on from the 'Healthy Orchestra' item in the last issue, here is an extract from an article in the *Guardian* (Amanda Holloway, 15/3/06) ... *Conductors generally live to a ripe old age, Rooted to the spot, with nothing to do except terrorise their orchestras, why wouldn't they? Italian conductor Arturo Toscanini abused players verbally and physically. He snapped the bow of one violinist in his face, causing him a serious injury. Though the player sued for damages, he lost: under Italian law, the conductor was deemed to have been "prey to the tyranny of the tragic will".* Hope this doesn't give Dave any ideas!



This picture of the Westbourne Orchestral Society in its early years was supplied by Geoffrey Brown whose father Frank was a violinist with the orchestra. Geoffrey has made Frank's supply of music available to members of the orchestra. See Stella our librarian for details.

[www.westbourne-orchestra.co.uk](http://www.westbourne-orchestra.co.uk)



## Spring Concerts Review

The Westbourne Orchestra continues to attract large audiences and the Spring 2006 concerts series which took place at **St Peter & St Paul Church**, Ringwood on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March, **St Ambrose Church**, Westbourne on 31<sup>st</sup> March and **St Thomas' Church**, Ensbury Park on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April proved to be no exception. Included in the audience at St Thomas's was four-month old baby **Sadie**, granddaughter of violinist Stella Hughes, who sat on her mother's lap on the front row and chortled, gurgled, smiled and slept throughout the whole performance. Thus in addition to providing entertainment the Orchestra is able to contribute donations to various worthy causes. Some £900 on this occasion.

Amateur orchestra instrumentalists have to pay to play but there are some expenses, which are normally deducted

from the proceeds. The balance is donated, notably in this case, to the **Church funds of St Peter and St Paul Church Ringwood** and the **Boo Charity** which was set up to help disadvantaged children in Kenya and in memory of Sarah Hicks (nicknamed Boo) as well as to the **League of Friends of Hahnemann House and Herbert Hospital**.

The Westbourne Orchestral Society is greatly indebted to the officials of all 3 churches for permitting their churches to be used as concert venues and for the provision of refreshments during the intervals.

The concerts opened with the brilliantly orchestrated **Capriccio espagnol** by **Rimski-Kosakov**. This lively and sometimes dramatic music provided the opportunity for several solo instrumentalists to display their individual

skills especially the leader Jane Bultz.

As the year 2006 is the **250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of W A Mozart** the series included **Piano Concerto No. 23 in A**. The Orchestra was extremely fortunate to have been able to persuade award winning Japanese pianist **Hiroaki Takenuchi** to travel to Bournemouth for the concerts.

**Hiro** performed with great dexterity, sensitivity and charm. The applause he received at the conclusion from the very enthusiastic audiences was very well deserved. Hopefully, the WOS will be able to invite Hiro to play with them again in the not too distant future.

The concerts concluded with the very popular **Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony** and performed with great skill and dexterity by the Orchestra.

We have received the following letter from Chris Sugden:

*I am writing to thank you most warmly for the above concert in aid of Hahnemann House and Herbert Hospital League of Friends, a charity which raises funds for patients with mental illness. Very many thanks indeed for helping to raise much needed funds.*

### Dates

|                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 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 |
| 18th November 2006 | St. Katharine's, Southbourne  |
| 24th November 2006 | St. Ambrose, Westbourne       |
| 25th November 2006 | St. Clements, Boscombe        |



## Forthcoming Events

Apart from our normal concerts, there are a number of special events coming up in the near future:

### **Listen Up! October 2006 Festival of British Orchestras**

Listen Up! this year hopes to focus on British and Contemporary Composers which fits in well with our programme for the WOS autumn series concerts (Music from the Movies) in November.

There is to be a £5000 prize competition for the best presentation ideas. Also the opportunity for a small number of orchestras to take part in BBC3 Radio 3's programme Making Tracks concerts for children. A leading composer has been invited to compose a Fanfare, which could be performed at all Listen Up! events.

In conjunction with this, WOS are holding an Open rehearsal on 13<sup>th</sup> October when anybody can come along and watch the orchestra rehearse.

### **WOS Workshop: 14th July 2006, 7.00 pm—9.45 pm**

Following our success with this event in the past, we are again offering an end of season Workshop for instrumentalists of any standard wishing to gain orchestral experience. The format will be the same: a rehearsal for the orchestra followed by a short performance to friends and supporters and then a buffet to which orchestra and audience are invited.

Players are requested to complete a registration form, which should be sent together with a registration fee of £3 to cover hire cost of music. Registration forms are available from Tricia Davis (tel: 01202 513971, email: modernmother@mac.com) or ask any member of the orchestra.

There is no charge for coming to listen but there will be a retiring collection which this year will be in aid of the RNLI.

### **Caring Home (still) 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—Ed Roberts (Trombone)

One of the great joys of belonging to an amateur orchestral society like the WOS is that there is absolutely no age discrimination. Only a few years ago we were celebrating our membership included three nonagenarians and so it was with great pleasure that we welcomed trombonist Ed Roberts who joined us in February 2005 at the very tender age of 15. Not many societies, clubs or other organisations can claim such a great age range of people enjoying the same activities.

Ed already a great enthusiast has for some time belonged to the Wessex Youth Orchestra, the Dorset Youth Wind Orchestra as well as the Bournemouth and District Band. However, he wanted to gain even more orchestral experience. So after seeing a WOS advertisement in the Daily Echo he thought that it sounded like fun and decided to try us out. Fortunately, we must have come up to his expectations as he is still with us.

Not surprisingly Ed has lived in Poole all his young life and started playing the piano when he was 7 years old. He went on to learn to play the trombone when he was eight and is now under the tuition

of Steve Hayes and Kevin Smith the bass trombonist with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to his instrumental work Ed also enjoys both choral and solo singing. He sings in both the main choir and the chamber choir of St. Edward's School in Dale Valley Road, Poole. Ed has also sung in musicals and in November last year he played a lead role singing a solo in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat".

From the above you will see that Ed lives a very full and active life and also finds time once a week to deliver copies of the Advertiser in order to supplement his funds.

Ed is not sure yet what he will do when he leaves school, but he would like to do something involving music. Last summer he did work experience with The Royal Corps of Signals Band at Blandford, **which he really enjoyed so he may join the army.** However another possibility is that he may go to University or Music College and become a teacher.

**Whatever he decides we wish him well.**

When asked about other members

of his family who are musical he replied, " My older brother George learnt the piano and the clarinet to a reasonable standard. He also enjoys singing and was Chairman of the Choral Society when he was at University in Swansea.

My sister Kate learnt the piano and the French Horn and is now in her second year of a music degree, studying on the French Horn at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. My Mum played the recorder at school and started to learn the trumpet. She was taught by a one-handed French Horn player who had to stick his stump into the bell. My great-grandfather played the trombone in the Salvation Army Band and that was one of the reason I chose to play the trombone."

With all his talents, Ed, like most musicians also has a **great sense of humour** and he continued,

"I don't think my Dad can have been very musical because when he was at school the music teacher would tap the pupils on the head when she wanted them to stop singing. My Dad was **tapped on the head before they had even started** because he was so bad."

## Rustom Pomeroy

Many of you will remember Rustom Pomeroy's brilliant rendition of Max Bruch's Violin Concerto in November 2003.

We now learn that for some time Rustom has been thinking of abandoning the idea of becoming a violin soloist, as he has no wish to go globetrotting for the rest of his life and living out of a suitcase. Instead, he will concentrate on his ECLIPSE String Quartet which he formed some time ago.

Equally at home on stage or in the studio, ECLIPSE have recently recorded with The BetaBand for Parlophone Re-

cords and performed live with McFly on all the major TV channels, as well as collaborating with producers and artists independently. They have also performed in all of London's major concert halls in styles of music ranging from classical to jazz, world music to hip-hop.

ECLIPSE play both traditional and electric instruments, utilising a world of exciting effects and textures, as well as the more classic string section sounds.

Those who want to catch up with what Rustom has been up to can look at their web site: [www.eclipsestrings.co.uk](http://www.eclipsestrings.co.uk)