



WOS News

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Temporary change of home for WOS

By now most of our readers will know that a fire broke out in St. Ambrose Church, home of the Westbourne Orchestral Society, just 4 days before we were due to give a concert at the church. Damage was extensive with repairs estimated at £250K. We won't be able to return to St. Ambrose until well after Easter. Meanwhile we are most grateful to St Michael's Church, Bournemouth for not only providing an alternative concert venue at such short notice but also for offering their premises as a temporary home for our rehearsals.

Many members won't be aware of the efforts that a few put in to ensure that our equipment, stored at St. Ambrose and undamaged by the fire, was rescued and cleaned up from the soot that had accumulated, in time to be used for the concert at St. Michaels.

Stamp of Approval for WOS vice president

The latest set of commemorative stamps feature designs chosen by our very own vice president Sir Patrick Moore. They celebrate 50 years of his astronomy programme *The Sky At Night*, the BBC's longest running programme and the longest running

programme in the world still with its original presenter.

Sir Patrick Moore has brought astronomy to the masses now for half a century, and is widely celebrated for his enthusiastic and supremely knowledgeable commentary on television coverage of

the Apollo missions to the Moon in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

His programme still has a devoted following, which is why it has clocked up 650 editions.

Play It Again

This is a reality TV show due to be broadcast some time this year, that may be interesting to watch.

The BBC has asked Making Music to help with a major new campaign to encourage people to participate in music.

Play It Again launches with a BBC 1 series that captures the stories of 6 celebrities as they learn to play a musical instrument. Dianne Abbot MP (classical piano), Jo Brand (organ), Aled Jones (rock

drums), Bill Oddie (electric guitar), Frank Skinner (banjo), and Lord Robert Winston (saxophone) will be taken out of their comfort zones to experience the highs and lows of learning to play a musical instrument. And whilst this will no doubt be fascinating, entertaining and popular television, from the point of view of Making Music this is only the beginning.

The exciting thing about *Play It Again* for amateur music groups is that viewers will be encouraged to

take up their own musical journey by attending an evening hosted by one of the BBC Orchestras or the BBC Singers. Taking place across the UK, the 14 events will enable beginners and returners to create and perform a piece of music with professional musicians, and this is where you can directly benefit.

For more details see Making Music Highnotes Issue 3 Spring 2007, or go to www.bbc.co.uk/pressoffice and search for "play it again".

www.westbourne-orchestra.co.uk



Autumn Concerts Review

Orchestra and members of the audiences were delighted to see conductor of nearly thirty years Sam Newgarth back on the rostrum after his very serious illness at the beginning of the year. He is now fully recovered from a heart attack and pneumonia and fit to tackle this very demanding programme of music by the 76 year-old Orchestra of some 60 plus musicians, which he directed with resolute confidence and encouragement.

After the introductory Listen Up! Fanfare by Gareth Wood there followed items of music from films from the thirties to the eighties, including "Things to Come" - Bliss 1936, "Dangerous Moonlight" - Addinsell 1941, "Dambusters" - Coates 1954, "The Big Country" - Morass 1958, "Spartacus" - Khachaturian 1950 and "Romeo and Juliet" - Prokofief.

There is always plenty of praise for soloists but it is not always appreciated how important the percussion is to the Orchestra's performance. In this instance the four ladies of the WOS percussion section acquitted themselves with great expertise and precision especially in "Things to come", "Thunderbirds" and "Star Wars" to mention but a few.

All other sections are completely dependent on the percussion being "On the Ball" so to speak as they were at all times during the concert series.

That is not to say there were not excellent solo performances by a number of other Orchestra musicians including leading Violin Jane Bultz, Oboe Heather Makiola, Clarinet Jim Grant, Flute Brenda Clerici and Cellist Rob Hanmore. Also this report would not be complete without special mention of solo pianist Christine Taylor for her moving and sensitive "**Warsaw Concerto**" from the film "**Dangerous Moonlight**".

There were very many complimentary comments from audience members. Here are just two:

"I have a fondness for the marches of Eric Coates, Knightsbridge and all that. Was not that the theme to the In Town Tonight programmes on the old home service with Brian Johnston? I was delighted that "The Dambusters" March was included in the programme. When I was five years of age, this and the "Teddy Bears Picnic" were my very favourites!"
Heather Rawlings

"I wish to express my grateful thanks to all the members of the Westbourne Orchestra So-

ciety for giving me such an enjoyable and uplifting evening of wonderful music.

*I cannot imagine the tremendous effort it took to renew and clean the many instruments affected by the **disastrous fire** which took place at St Ambrose Church. A great achievement carried out over a short period of time by a group of dedicated musicians intent on fulfilling their programme. The 24th of November was an evening to remember. I salute you." **May Banham.***

Afterwards this octogenarian lady confessed to moments when tears were running down her cheeks moved as she was by the performance and the memories the music evoked.

Proceeds from the concert series amounted to over £1,200 which after deduction of expenses will be given to the venue hosts.

The proceeds of the concert at St. Clements went to 'Coda', a group based at that church and led by Jack Maguire (co-leader of the BSO) which teaches the fiddle to young people to encourage them to have fun making music. We were delighted that Jack and his wife joined with us to play for this concert.

The Violin Shop

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



Hiroaki Takenouchi

Everyone who came to our concerts last spring will remember the young man who delighted us all with his performance of the Mozart piano concerto no. 23. We were so impressed that we have invited him back and he will be playing the Rachmaninov this time.

Hiroaki already has an impressive CV. Quotes of audience members include:

"Takenouchi is just the sort of champion the newest of new music needs: I'll be eager to hear him again." - *The Times*

"Precision of detail and fidelity to the text, mesmerizing to say the least" - *L'Arena, Verona*

"What a wonderful pianist, who combines complete understanding of the style of music he is playing with a rare subtlety and brilliance of execution." — *Sir Roger Norrington*

In 2005, HRH Prince of Wales presented Japanese-born pianist Hiroaki Takenouchi with the Royal College of Music's highest award *The Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Rosebowl* for his "outstanding musical achievements". In 2004, he participated in the Mozarteum Sommerakademie in Salzburg, where he also received an award for his remarkable performance and an invitation to play in a concert at the Salzburg Festival. He also made his South Bank Centre début with a solo recital supported by the Park Lane Group, and gave another début recital at the 2004 Cheltenham Music Festival. In March 2005, Hiroaki played two recitals at Steinway Hall in London and at the Sala Maffeiana in Verona, presented by The Keyboard Trust and *L'Accademia Filarmonica di Verona* to great acclaim. He also performed a number of recitals for The Keyboard Trust in October 2005 in Northern Germany. His *Fresh!* Series recital in November 2005 in the Purcell Room was received with much enthusiasm. Most recently he performed Helmut Lachenmann's *Allegro sostenuto*



(1989) in presence of the composer with James Meldrum and Aoife Nic Athlaoich.

Hiroaki has already built a reputation for being a reliable recording artist. His CD recording of Jeremy Dale Roberts' *Oggetti - Omaggio a Morandi* was released in 2004. He also participated in a recording project of Mozart's own Thematic Catalogue for the British Library, which can be accessed on the British Library website from 2006. In 2006 he is booked to record his first solo CD, entitled "Japanese Contemporary Piano Music" for LOREL (Lontano Records, London) featuring music by composers such as Takemitsu, Miyoshi, Hosokawa and Fujikura.

His other future engagements include performances of piano concertos by Rachmaninov and Saint-Saëns, a recording project of *Black/Nebulae* for two pianos by James Dillon with Noriko Kawai, and solo recitals in Tokyo and Kagoshima (Japan), as well as at the Husum Piano Festival (Germany) and the Salzburg Mozarteum Sommerakademie (Austria).

Since coming to London in 1997, Hiroaki Takenouchi has studied piano with Yonty Solomon and Andrew Ball, composition with Edwin Roxburgh, and fortepiano with David Ward at the Royal College of Music. He has also studied with Noretta Conci and Frank Wibaut. During this time, he has appeared on numerous concert platforms including the Purcell Room, St Martin-in-the-Fields, the Fairfield Halls, Hamburg Laeiszhalle and Steinway Halls in London, Hamburg and Tokyo.

He has received guidance from many eminent artists such as Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Emanuel Ax, Imogen Cooper, Elisabeth Leonskaja, Sir Roger Norrington, Bernard Roberts and Howard Shelley. He is also an active chamber musician and regularly collaborates with fellow musicians in a wide range of repertoire.



Pen Portrait—Tricia Davis (Timpanist)

It has been said that the 10–15 minute tea/coffee breaks during rehearsal are not really long enough for WOS members to fraternise and get to know each other. However on one occasion it proved to be sufficient.

It was way back in 1962 that a certain beautiful young lady, Patricia Daish, clarinettist and teacher of modern languages, walked into her very first WOS rehearsal having been persuaded by a friend to do so.

Within twelve months she had fallen in love and married leading cellist Richard Davis, a widower with two children, and in 1968 their son Peter, who now lives in Sweden was born.

Tricia and Richard were dedicated members with Tricia taking on the task of reorganising the WOS library and Richard becoming chairman, a post he held for over 30 years until shortly before he died.

Tricia was born in Southampton but when she was three years old her mother tragically died leaving her and her younger sister (a singer) to be brought up by her father and seventy year old maternal grandmother.

Tricia attended Exeter University where she studied French and German and she lived in France near the border with Germany for some twelve months as part of her university studies. Needless to say, Tricia

obtained an Honours degree and she went on to gain her teaching diploma. After university, Tricia taught at Parkstone Grammar School until her son was born.

Tricia's mother had been an accomplished pianist and her father, who was also very musical, ensured that she had piano lessons. Whilst at university Tricia bought a clarinet on impulse and, having moved to Parkstone, had lessons with Pat Dingle (2nd clarinettist with the BSO at the time) and joined WOS. After her son was born she decided to resume her piano studies and went on to obtain her grade 8 certificate.

After a gap of some years whilst looking after a small child, she was co-opted to play triangle at a WOS concert. Since then Tricia has found her niche as percussionist and timpanist.

Tricia is also a member of The Bournemouth Philharmonic Orchestra (BAPS) where she plays timpani and is called on for her services by many other local orchestras including the Dorset Chamber Orchestra, St Aldhelms Orchestra, the Wimborne (previously Corfe Mullen) orchestra as well as various orchestras in Southampton.

Her other artistic interests are painting and pottery and, along with other members of her pottery group 'Blue Sky Potters', she had exhibited locally at Highcliffe Castle, the Hayloft in



Christchurch and in Ringwood. Naturally she has made friends with other like-minded artistic people such as WOS 'Friend' May Banham (see WOS news issue 12) whom she met at pottery classes.

Since November, when Chairman David Portsmouth suddenly became ill whilst on holiday in Thailand, Tricia had generously undertaken the very demanding duties of Acting Chairman for which we are all deeply grateful. (Incidentally, we are pleased to report that David is well on his way to recovery).

Tricia is one of the longest serving members of the orchestra and with her vast experience and service in so many capacities she is a tower of strength, not only to the members of the committee on which she has served for many years, but also to orchestra members, providing encouragement, assistance, advice and friendship. All this is very much appreciated by the whole orchestra.