



# WOS News

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The 2006/7 season has seen great changes for WOS. The year started with a new president, Pru Whittaker, (see below). In June, Sam Newgarth, our conductor for over 30 years, conducted his last WOS concert before handing the baton over to our new conductor Lee Marchant. This coincided with the retirement of David Portsmouth, our chairman for the last 10 years, who is succeeded by John Budd. In addition to all of this, we had to cope with the results of a fire at St. Ambrose three days before we were due to give a concert there. This also created a major headache over where to rehearse whilst repairs were carried out to the church. Fortunately, St. Michael's, just down the road in Poole Hill came to the rescue and offered both a venue for the imminent concert and also rehearsal facilities until we could return to St. Ambrose. We are extremely grateful to everybody both at St. Michael's and St. Ambrose during this very difficult year. After all the changes, we are now settling down into our rehearsal routine and preparation for the November concerts.

## Lee Marchant

In September, auditions were held for the post of WOS conductor. Lee Marchant was voted in by the whole orchestra and he has now settled in and the orchestra are enjoying his rehearsals. Lee, who studied at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, has a wide experience of conducting with his current appointments including musical director of Theatre 2000.

## Some words from our president, Pru Whittaker

When Tricia Davis tracked me down last summer, and asked me if I would like to become President of Westbourne Orchestra I was surprised and delighted. Many happy memories came flooding back of my time with the orchestra as a teenager, under the baton of Cecil White.

I felt honoured and very touched to be invited to be President after all those years, and greatly looked forward to the first concert which I was able to attend - on 17th March.

When my cousin and I arrived for the concert we were greeted by Vic King. I was very impressed by the warm welcome he gave us, which became even warmer once he knew who we were! Everyone we met was very friendly, and I was delighted to have the chance of saying a few words to the orchestra and audience before the concert began.

What an ambitious programme! Things have really moved on since my day. Of course, the high spot of

the evening was the stunning piano playing of Hiroaki Takenouchi in Rachmaninov's 2nd piano concerto, with real magic in the little Mozart encore. Westbourne Orchestra is very fortunate to have found such an inspiring soloist. There were also some lovely things going on in the orchestra, throughout the very demanding programme. I thought the horns and trombones were particularly impressive.

I was very sorry that the leader, Jane Bultz was unable to play that evening as I was hoping to meet and hear her.

Everything about the evening was beautifully organised, making me feel very proud to have my association with WOS, and I look forward to the next time I can be in Bournemouth when a concert is taking place.

My thanks to everyone who is keeping me in touch with WOS, and with everything that is going on.

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



## Sam Newgarth

After 30 years, Sam stepped down as conductor of WOS after the summer concerts. Timpanist Tricia Davis writes:

As one of the longest serving members of the orchestra, it is my privilege to write this tribute to Sam Newgarth.

When George Freeth retired as conductor of WOS Sam took over and with total dedication and loyalty has transformed the orchestra into a full Symphony Orchestra.

Within quite a short time of his

arrival we were tackling works we would previously have thought impossible. Over the years, under Sam's direction the Orchestra has grown in numbers and the standard has improved enormously.

Sam hardly ever missed a rehearsal and always had the good of the Orchestra at heart.

Sam's departure from WOS has given him the opportunity to explore other areas of music that will allow him to demonstrate other facets of his extensive musical talents. He is forming the

Newgarth Light Orchestra and has been asked to re-form and direct the Mantovani Orchestra—a most prestigious task. Their debut concert will be at Poole Lighthouse on 27th January 2008. We look forward to hearing them and wish Sam every success in these new projects.

The orchestra owes a huge debt of gratitude to Sam for all his hard work over the past 30 years and we wish him continuing good health, success and happiness, particularly in his new ventures.

*Tricia Davis*

## WOS Committee

The WOS committee is elected every year and this year your committee is as follows:

Chairman:	John Budd	Librarian:	Stella Hughes
Deputy Chairman:	Tricia Davis	Committee Members:	Jean Budd
Secretary:	Debbie Stent		Anne Finlay-Brown
Treasurer:	Brenda Sidebotham		Gill Slater
Publicity:	Rob Hanmore		Liz Sansom

The new committee is settling in and any WOS member who has concerns or suggestions (including music to be considered) should approach any committee member so that their ideas can be raised at the next committee meeting. Minutes of committee meetings are available at all rehearsals for members to read..

## Forthcoming Events

- Saturday, 17 November 7:30: WOS, St Clements Church, Boscombe
- Tuesday, 20 November 7:30: Poole Chamber Orchestra, St. Clements, Parkstone
- Friday, 23 November 7:30: WOS, St Ambrose Church, Westbourne
- Saturday, 24 November 7:30: WOS, Annunciation Church, Charminster
- Friday, 14 December 7:30: WOS informal concert and buffet, St. Ambrose
- Monday 17 December 7:30: St. Aldhelms Orchestra, St. Aldhelms, Poole
- Saturday 15 March 7:30: WOS, St Ambrose Church, Westbourne
- Saturday 29 March 7:30: WOS, St. Thomas' Church, Ensbury Park

## Hiroaki Takenouchi

Congratulation to Hiroaki on coming 3rd in the Dudley International Piano Competition (like the Leeds Piano Competition but not so well known!). Everyone who came to our concerts in March will remember the wonderful performance of the Rachmaninov given by Hiroaki.

Hiroaki is due to perform the Beethoven Emperor Concerto with us in the summer and we are all looking forward to this.