



WOS News

Issue 2

March 2002

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Well here we are with another edition of WOS News. The first issue was well received creating a great deal of discussion among members when it was published which of course is the whole object of the exercise. It is not surprising that with a membership of over fifty players there is a lot going on and plenty to report.

Once again we would ask you to keep us informed of any items of news concerning members of the orchestra as and when available. Also we would like to have your comments about the newsletter and your ideas for improvement.

p.s. Liz has been totally underwhelmed with articles and suggestions from members!



Flower Festival

St. Ambrose Church is holding a flower festival on 6th-8th September. David Portsmouth has agreed that the orchestra should participate in this important event in St. Ambrose's calendar. Gill Slater has volunteered to help design and organise the WOS display. The cost of the flowers is to be borne by orchestra funds. The NPC (Newgarth's Popular Classics) is to provide a charity concert on the Saturday 7th as part of the celebration. More details from Jean Budd.

Golden Jubilee

We have been asked to perform the world premier of an eight minute piece for full orchestra by Bournemouth composer Paul Coles entitled 'Celebration Rhapsody'. Paul will be writing to the Palace to determine if we can use certain words confirming Royal permission to be included in the programme.

Watch this space ...

George Carnell

It is with sadness and regret we report that George Carnell passed away in January. See page 4.

For Sale

CDs and Audio Tapes of various concerts. See Brenda.

Video of the Richard Davis Memorial Concert. See Garth.

Orchestra and individual photos. See Liz.



Dates

Presentation

Friday March 8th (*see p 2*)

Monday Orchestra

Concert on Monday March 18th at St. Clements

WOS Spring 2002 Concerts

Saturday 16th and Saturday 23rd March 2002

NPC (Sam's) Concerts

Sunday 6th April 2002 at the Village Hall, Toller Percorum.

Saturday 11th May 2002 at the Unitarian Chapel Crewkerne.

Becky's Workshop

Orchestral violin playing workshop on Saturday 18th May.

Autumn Term

Rehearsals now re-commence on 13th September (not 6th September!). Please make a note of this change.



RICHARD DAVIS MEMORIAL CONCERT

Friday 8th February 2002

"My thanks to Father Graham Wheeler and members of the Parochial Church Council for agreeing so readily to my request for this memorial concert to be held in St. Ambrose."

These were the opening remarks of Tricia Davis after the performance of Dvorak's New World Symphony. She

went on to thank all those who had contributed to the organisation of the concert and Marjorie Hall and her daughter for providing refreshments during the interval. She also thanked the audience who had come in such large numbers (over 230) out of respect and devotion to Richard. In addition she thanked the large number of musicians, some of whom had travelled a long distance to supplement the orchestra on this very special occasion. She made special reference to Kathelijne van Bouwel from Belgium who was leader of the orchestra some 20 years ago and her two sons Brendan and Edwin Walsh. Tricia was especially grateful to Brendan the cello soloist who played the Pau Casals 'Song of the Birds' so beautifully at the conclusion of the concert.

Father Graham had already paid tribute to Richard in his opening address making reference to his long and loyal service to the orchestra as well as his fine cello playing as soloist and leader of the cello section for so many years. The concert commenced with a short prayer as was fitting on this occasion and in such a beautiful venue.

In addition to the 'Song of the Birds' the programme consisted of Franz von Suppe's 'Morning Noon and Night in Vienna', 'Suite from the Ballet, Swan Lake' by Tchaikovsky and Dvorak's 'New World Symphony'. Soloists included Orchestra Leader Rebekah Reeve, acting Cellist Leader Zoë Hunting and Oboist Heather Makiola.

One disappointment was that Tricia was unable to play owing to a fall, which resulted in a broken wrist. Fortunately Sam was able to persuade timpanist Dave George to step in at the last moment to save the day.

The retiring collection together with profits from the refreshments and members donations made at the funeral resulted in a total of well over £1000 and it was Tricia's wish that it should be given to the Friends of the St. Alban's Medical Centre. The doctors, nurses and staff had provided such wonderful care and support for Richard over the past six years.

Tricia is arranging for a large cheque to be supplied by the bank so that a photo with representatives of the WOS, Church and Friends of St. Albans can appear in local newspapers. This will take place on the evening of March 8th.

St. Ambrose Church Magazine

Our thanks go to Peter Steer treasurer and also editor of the church magazine for the continued editorial support the magazine provides each month. On most occasions there are 3 or 4 references to the orchestra and on one occasion there were 6. We are also indebted to Father Graham and the members of the PCC for their help and not inconsiderable co-operation at all times.

One attendee at the concert recalled a poignant experience after the death of her mother many years ago. At that time she had been trying to explain to her daughter why she would not see her grandmother again. They had been living on a marina in America and were looking out to sea from the waterside. Unexpectedly, they saw a sea eagle - for the first time - and watched it as it flew out to sea, until it disappeared. The granddaughter identified the eagle as her grandmother saying goodbye for the last time. The mother, now retired and living in Westbourne said how the Casals piece had transported her back to that memory.



Member News

Dick Upton (2nd Violin) celebrated his 91st birthday on the 4th February. Dick has been playing in the orchestra for something like 16 years. Unfortunately he has some bad luck over the last two months. Since attending the Orchestra Dinner in December, he has missed several rehearsals. First of all his doctor advised him to stop driving for a short spell. Then his wife had a fall and broke a hip but we are happy to report she is now out of hospital. Then just after Dick attended one rehearsal he also had a fall and broke one of his ribs. He was very upset that he missed the Memorial Concert but has already placed his order with Garth for a video as he thought it was such a lovely programme. We are delighted to see that Dick had recovered sufficiently to be able to resume attendance at rehearsals. Congratulations Dick.

Becky Reeve (leader) is currently taking a distance learning course in order to obtain the "Certificate of Teaching" from the ABRSM. One of the projects she has chosen as part of this course is to demonstrate that she is competent in the training of a group of players. She has therefore arranged for a few of the WOS violinists to meet at Tricia's house on May 18th next from 10.00 AM until 2.30 PM on first come first served basis. More details from Becky

Alan Braughton (bassoon) has been exploring the canals and waterways over the last several months and sends his greetings to all orchestra members. The latest news we had from him is that he is on the Shropshire Union Canal. Alan will be joining us again when he returns to dry land at Easter time. Meanwhile, check out his web site at www.b-hive.co.uk.

Eileen Tombe the WOS leader from 1987 until 1999 is in Aranlaw Nursing Home, in Tower Road recovering from a stroke she suffered some nine months ago. She would be delighted to see any visitors from the orchestra if they can spare half an hour or so.

Arthur Shaft (1st Violin) has also celebrated his 91st birthday. Congratulations Arthur.

Spotlight on Gill Price

There are no age restrictions for members of the Westbourne Orchestra, but it is rare in its 72 year history that a musician as young as Gill been accepted as a member.

She joined the cello section in November last year when she was only 14 having been introduced to the orchestra by one of the staff at Bournemouth School for Girls.

Gill is at present at Wentworth College and has been studying the cello since she was eight years old. First of



all at Reading, then at London and currently with Joseph Kaas at Bournemouth. She is now preparing to take her eighth grade examination.

She has already acquitted herself well in that during one recent rehearsal she found herself on her own, owing to other cellists having other commitments, and all members showed their appreciation and applauded her rendering of some short and not particularly easy solo phrases.

Gill promises to be an exceptional musician and the orchestra extends a very warm welcome to her.

We hope she will be with us for a very long time and we wish her every success with her music studies and other academic studies as well.



George Carnell

George joined the Westbourne Orchestra over thirty years ago. From 1972 he was appointed First Oboe, a position he held until illness forced his retirement from the orchestra in 1999. He died on 19th January 2002.

George was born in Devonport in 1923, where his father was a prison officer. At fourteen years of age he joined the Army Rifle Brigade as Junior Bandsman and received his musical training with the Brigade and at Kneller Hall. During the Second World War he distinguished himself on active service abroad. In 1946 George married Audrey and they had three sons and three daughters. He retired from the army in 1962 but carried on playing as an amateur with various organisations.

George joined the Westbourne Orchestra in the late sixties and his ability, as an oboe player was apparent from the first rehearsal. His enthusiasm as demonstrated by his encouragement of younger players, and his sense of humour was not discovered until later.

He was as mentioned at his funeral a 'Gentle Man'. He was a popular, loyal and trusted member of the orchestra, always ready to help whenever he could. For example, he was a key holder and if you came early to rehearsal you would find him setting out the chairs. However, in spite of being so useful and important to the orchestra he declined membership of the committee preferring to serve behind the scenes.

As a personal tribute to George I will always remember him for his keen sense of humour. No rehearsal or meeting went by without a topical quip coming from him. On one occasion at an AGM several years ago the secretary resigned at a moment's notice. No one was available to take on the task at so I volunteered to take on the job on a temporary basis. At the next AGM we had found a lady who was willing to take on this arduous and sometimes thankless task. I said how pleased I was and how much better a secretary she would be than I had been. At that moment a voice was heard to say "And a lot better looking too". That was George.

His family and many friends will sadly miss him.

Arthur Shaft, President of the Westbourne Orchestral Society February 2002

South West Opera Company

The South West Opera Company was created some 10 months ago with the amalgamation of the South Coast Opera Company and the Wessex Opera company which was founded in 1946.

The musical director is flautist and pianist Patricia Bonelli who has known Sam for many years. She has relatives who have played in the BAPS orchestra in the past and of course we are well aware that Sam knows everyone in the area that has an interest in music!

SWOP is providing the chorus for our two productions of the concert version of *The Merry Widow* for which we are very grateful. WOS and SWOP will be rehearsing together on Friday 15th March and on the two Saturdays 16th and 23rd March. Patricia hopes that this co-operation will develop and she has ideas for even more ambitious programmes in the future.

In addition to rehearsing for 'The Merry Widow', SWOP recently produced the opera 'Amahl and the Night Visitors' by Italian composer Gian-Carlo Menotti at three local churches and is now preparing for four performances of Offenbach's 'Orpheus in the Underworld' to be staged at the Regent Theatre Christchurch on 16th-18th May.

SWOP rehearses at Christ Church Alumhurst Road on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 PM until 10.00 PM and welcomes new members. Applications to Membership Secretary Diane Worthy Tel: 01202 531215.