



WOS News

Issue 5

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The idea of a WOS Newsletter was conceived at the Annual Dinner 2001. The first edition came out in January 2002, which proved to be very successful so it was decided to continue and now we are up to No.5.

Not wishing to be too ambitious we set ourselves the target of three Newsletters per year to be published just before the concerts. We hope members have found past issues interesting and trust that any news items concerning members of the Orchestra will continue to come in on a regular basis. That could be school and university exam results, participation in other events including non-musical events such as charity walks marathons etc. Also we would like to have your comments about this Newsletter, and if positive your ideas for improvement. Articles for future issues, comments and suggestions can be given to Liz Sansom or e-mailed to liz@roger-sansom.freemove.co.uk.

For a variety of reasons, including the tremendous efforts of Vic, our publicity manager, concert audiences have been very good during the year 2002. Our first concert of the year was the memorial concert for Richard Davis, and then the Merry Widow Concerts in collaboration with the South Wessex Opera Company followed by the Queen's Golden Jubilee Concerts. All of these concerts had exceptional reasons for attracting large audiences. Only the Autumn Series concerts had no special additional appeal other than the programme choice and it is very gratifying to be able to report that there were capacity audiences once again.

With the full co-operation of all members your committee will work even harder to maintain the momentum.

Dates

You will know from the calendar that was issued at the beginning of the season that we commence rehearsals on Friday September 5th September 2003 after the summer holiday. However, the next two rehearsals i.e. the 12th and 19th September will be at St. Michael's Church Poole Hill, owing to a special evangelist mission at St. Ambrose which is taking place during those 2 weeks.

WOS Spring Concerts

Saturday 22nd March @ 7:30—St. Nicholas Church, Corfe Mullen

Saturday 29th March @ 7:30—St. Michael's Church, Bournemouth

The programme will include the following:

Pique Dame Franz Suppe

Oklahoma! Selection Rogers&Hammerstein

Kol Nidrei Max Bruch

Vltava (The River Moldau) Smetana

Symphony No 4 Tchaikowsky

Yet again, Brenda has produced wonderful posters and handbills to advertise the concerts. If there isn't one displayed in your supermarket, library, etc. then take one and ask for it to be displayed.

Proceeds are in aid of the host's funds, Hahnemann House and Herbert Hospital.

You should be aware that you can now go to www.westbourne-orchestra.freemove.co.uk and click on "Next Concerts" to find location maps for all concert venues for 2003.

BPS (formally BAPS)

The next concert of the Bournemouth Philharmonic Society (formally BAPS) is on March 1st at St John's Church, Moordown. The main works will be Tchaikowsky's 6th Symphony (Pathétique) and Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto

For more information, see their web site www.baps-orch.fsnet.co.uk.

BCMS

The Bournemouth Chamber Music Society hold a recital once a month through the winter months. The performances are always given by top quality professionals and it is always worth going to. The next recital is at 3.00 pm Saturday, 1st March, 2003 at Talbot Heath School and is given by Bronte String Quartet.

For more information, see their web site www.bcms.fsnet.co.uk.

Workshop

A little while ago a member of our audience suggested we organise a workshop for people who would like to come along and play with the orchestra either simply to enjoy the experience and/or to see if they could become a member of the orchestra.

The orchestra has decided to take up this excellent suggestion and intend to hold such a workshop at the end of the summer term on July 11th 2003 from 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm.

Claire Randall has agreed to act as organising secretary so if you know anyone interested in dusting down that instrument stored in the cupboard who would like to attend the workshop let her know.

Arts Tax

Members of the Westbourne Orchestral Society are celebrating victory with others from over 200 choirs, orchestras, and other instrumental groups who contributed to a petition of 8,149 signatures against the Government's plan to impose an "Arts Tax" in the form of licensing charges to churches for hosting secular concerts. Just a week after it was delivered to No. 10 Downing Street by the petition's sole organiser, professional conductor and pianist David Meacock, Kim Howells MP has been forced into a humiliating retraction of his proposed new Arts Tax on Church Concerts.

Programme

The new style concert programme has been a great success and we shall continue with the same design cover for the Spring and Summer Concerts. However we need to consider a new design cover for the 2003/2004 season. If there are any graphic designers (real or aspiring) out there then suggestions please to any member of the Committee.



Member News

A comment from one reader was "Your news sheet is very well turned out and very entertaining. Reading about other people's past, murky or otherwise is always interesting". So here is the latest gossip and news.

John Berry (viola)

Unfortunately, John missed the autumn concerts as he was visiting his elderly uncle in South Africa. It was a great shame as he had attended all rehearsals and then had to pull out at the last minute. He hopes to be home some time in March, but meanwhile, he has sent the following message:

Hello everyone. Greetings from Hermanus, S.A. I trust the rehearsals are going well. Am missing the orch. very much but am keeping up the playing. The workshop on 11th July sounds worth attending. Could you add my name? Hope to see you all in March. Good luck, John Berry.

We miss you too John—meanwhile, George is doing a magnificent job keeping the Viola section in order.

Claire Randall (violin)

Claire also missed the autumn series concerts owing to family business that necessitated her spending several weekends in the Midlands. Claire had also attended all rehearsals and was very disappointed to miss the performances. Fortunately for us she has completed the business and has now returned to us. Welcome back.

Claire also has some exciting news—her boyfriend Mark proposed to her on her birthday (she said yes) and they are planning an early Autumn wedding in 2004. Congratulations to you both.

Andrew Collinson (horn)

In the last newsletter we reported that Andrew was moving to Bristol to join the BBC. So you will be wondering why he is still turning up to rehearsals! In fact, Andrew is now working in London for a firm of Chartered Surveyors, which necessitates him getting up at 5:30 a.m. each morning to get a train (which is always late!). He doesn't get home until 8pm which is why he is late for rehearsals. We're really pleased to still have you with us even if you can't make the 7:30 start.

Victoria Slingsby (viola)

Victoria is expecting her first baby in April and therefore will not be able to be at our Spring Concerts. However she hopes to be playing us at the Summer Concerts in June. We understand she is keeping well doing all

the recommended exercises including "Yoga for Expectant Mothers" and looking forward to the happy day. Our thoughts and best wishes are with you Victoria and hope everything goes according to plan.

Gill Price (cello)

Many congratulations to Gill for her composition 'Concerto Grosso'. We thoroughly enjoyed playing and recording it during one of the rehearsals. Gill has written this piece as part of her GCSE examination. Most of Gill's classmates were content to compose a simple song but Gill decided that she needed more of a challenge! We are sure she will obtain high marks for this section and we hope she does as well in the other parts of the examination.

Kathy Skinner

We are sorry to report that Kathy is not in the best of health and has been waiting to go into Poole Hospital for a by-pass operation since before Christmas but as yet has not been given a date. It is very worrying for her and her family. She has our very best wishes and we do hope the waiting will not be too long.

Meanwhile we are very grateful to have the services of **Betty Ricketts** who has kindly stepped into the breach by taking over the responsibility of making and serving our tea on Friday evenings.

Jean Budd (violin)

Jean is a keen and regular swimmer and in November after a great deal of training, managed to swim 80 lengths in one go to achieve a distance of one mile. She received a certificate from her trainer and raised £200, which she split between the RSPCA and RSPCC. No doubt both charities are delighted

Congratulation to Jean who wishes to thank all the members of the Orchestra who supported her sponsored swim.

Catherine Denton (violin)

We were delighted to see Catherine at rehearsal recently. Although she is now living and working in Southampton she will do her utmost to attend some rehearsals in order to be able to play with us at the two Spring Concerts. Always good to see you Catherine.

Hor Shun Li (violin)

Hor Shun is recovering from an operation so we shall not see him for a few weeks. We miss you Hor Shun and look forward to your return when you are recovered.

Arthur Shaft (violin)

January saw our president, Arthur Shaft and his wife Margo start their world tour. We received the following message just before they set off:

"Now we must get ready for our cruise on the Saga Rose. Madeira first then the Caribbean, Panama Canal, the Pacific Islands. After that we meet the Family in Auckland where we stay with them on their yacht, until we go to South Island for a weeks tour. Then we fly to Melbourne to see a long lost cousin. We break our journey home with a two-day stop over in Hong Kong to be with my nephew. We arrive home in the spring for Easter; we leave on Jan 5th, Arthur's 92 Birthday, so it's quite a big adventure for a couple of oldies".

New Full Members

We welcome the following new members since the last newsletter:

Stephen Cornick (bassoon) from Verwood.

Melanie Morgan (violin). From Wimborne.

Rie Uehara (violin) is from Japan and is over here until March learning English. You can help her by giving her lots of practice in conversation—but NOT while we are meant to be playing!

Helen Muller (cello) is from Switzerland and is over here working as an au pair and studying English.

We hope you all enjoy playing with us.

New Friends

We welcome the following new friends since the last newsletter:

Mr. K. Fisher, Mr. P.J. Derwent, Mr. A. Danielsson, Mr. N. Mosley, Mrs. A. Mosley and Mrs. P. Chrisman.

This means we now have a total of 12 Friends.



The talents of our members are not restricted to making music as proved by the following poem by Jean which she has also illustrated beautifully. The reproduction here does not do it justice so do ask her to show you the original.



Thanks & Appreciation

From Roger Gregory, general manager of Pramacare:

'On behalf of all at Pramacare I would like to thank every member of the orchestra for the time effort they put in to making Saturday evening a success. Congratulations to you on the selection of the programme for the evening and for making it such an enjoyable event.'

From Nina Hudson Pramacare:

'Many thanks for the concert and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.'

From Jenny Glendinning, Parish Treasurer of St, Katharine with St. Nicholas Church, Southbourne:

'Thank you for a lovely evening'

From Peter Byrt, Churchwarden of St Luke's Church, Winton:

'...The concert was much enjoyed...

With all good wishes.'

Friends of WOS

This new class of membership was introduced in October with the objectives of extending the membership to non players and enabling non players to feel a part of WOS.

One of our Friends asked if one of the privileges could be to drop into a rehearsal occasionally and just sit at the back for a while and listen to what goes on at a rehearsal. It was agreed that this was an excellent suggestion and was readily agreed to (subject to being prepared to hear all sorts of odd noises in the Tchaikovsky early in the term!).

Annual Dinner

For the second time it was decided to hold the Annual Dinner at the Liston Hotel Boscombe and some 56 members, partners and friends made their way there on Friday December 6th. We were particularly pleased that representatives from the Bournemouth Philharmonic Orchestra also attended.

Once again it was a very successful evening. There was an adequate choice of food on the menu and everyone spoke highly of the quality of the cooking and extremely efficient serving.

Garth Habgood proposed the toast to the Westbourne Orchestra in his kindly, gentle and amusing way. He mentioned that his introduction to the Westbourne Orchestra arose out of his love of music and his membership of the Day Break Choir where he met Becky. Apparently he was once mistaken for her father, which he thought quite hilarious.

Garth has made several videos of the WOS concerts over the last few years and he finds that the enforced study of the players faces during the performances quite fascinating.

President Arthur Shaft responded by thanking Garth for his kind remarks. Then he went on to thank several people who have made helpful contributions to the work and organisation of the Orchestra and especially to Secretary, Jean Budd and our indefatigable Chairman David Portsmouth who has worked so hard since taking over the reigns from Richard David in 1999. Arthur went on to introduce Sam Newgarth who made some wry comments on the pleasures and pitfalls of 'after dinner' speaking. His story about the professor and his chauffeur was particularly amusing. Sam finished by wishing everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

We missed a number of regulars but enjoyed the company of some of our new members.

The evening was so enjoyable that it is quite possible that we will choose the Liston again for the 2003 Annual Dinner.

Paul Coles

Most of you will know Paul who composed "Celebration Rhapsody" for our Queen's Golden Jubilee Concerts programme.

Another one of his compositions "Snowman's Waltz" from his "Christmas Suite" was broadcast live by the BBC Concert Orchestra on December 20th "Friday Night is Music Night". Those who heard it agreed that it was delightful short melodic piece and we understand that the whole suite is under consideration for being broadcast next year presumably in December again. So many congratulations to Paul.

Other local orchestras have also been performing his works including the Dorset Chamber Orchestra with "Moonlight over Kimmeridge" in their programme last October and Bridport Chamber playing "Dorset Seascapes" (first performance) last March.



Pen Portrait - Dr. Hor Shun Li

Hor Shun was born in Canton, China, near Hong Kong in 1934 and was the sixth child of four brothers and four sisters. The family moved to Hong Kong when Hor Shun was about 4 years old.

One of the brothers plays the Er-hu; a Chinese two-string instrument smaller in size than a violin but played in the vertical position. Otherwise neither his parents nor his other brothers and sisters are musical in any way.

Owing to the War there was not much music in Hong Kong in the late 30s and early 40s when Hor Shun was growing up. Therefore it was not until he saw the film 'Limelight' and heard Charlie Chaplin playing his own composition the beautiful theme tune, that he was inspired to take up the violin himself.

So in 1953 when he commenced medical studies at the age of 19 at the Hong Kong University he also started to take violin lessons as well. Unfortunately violin studies only lasted for a few months owing to the demands of his chosen profession. Nevertheless, some years later he again started to take lessons. After two years he had to give up owing to the pressures of a young family and his medical practice.

Again in 1970 when children were a little more off hand he took lessons for three years from an Italian violinist who was also the conductor of a very active and thriving orchestra in Hong Kong. This Orchestra eventually became known as the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.

One of the reasons for Hor Shun coming to England was that he wanted his children to be educated in an English School. At that time in Hong Kong his eldest daughter Man Sze, was under intense pressure at school, which was causing depression and he was very worried about her health. Seeking information from a neighbour, a civil engineer from Winchester who had a temporary job working on the Cross-Harbour Tunnel in Hong Kong, he was advised to apply for his daughter to go to Talbot Heath School in Bournemouth. He took the advice and she was accepted. Later on Hor Shun's other two daughters also went to Talbot Heath School.

All three daughters are musical. Man Sze plays piano, the second daughter Man Chung plays the piano and violin, and the youngest daughter Stella Man Sum plays the cello.

Number two daughter, Man Chung, is the most musically gifted and obtained Grade 8 in both instruments at the age of 15.

Whilst visiting Hong Kong, a music authority from the Manchester Royal Northern College of Music, on hearing her play, offered her the opportunity of taking a performers violin course at the College, without the need for an entrance examination. However, Man Chung declined the offer, as she preferred to follow the traditional academic course at school and university.

Shortly after arriving in England in 1979 Hor Shun found a flat in Westcliffe and now having time on his hands he set out to find an orchestra to join in which he could

practice his violin.

Fortunately it was not too long before he saw a poster on the notice board outside Alumhurst Day Centre in Alumhurst Road where the Orchestra used to rehearse. He contacted Richard Davis who invited him to join and has been a stalwart member ever since. He became leader of the second violin section a few years later.

Hor Shun is a member of the committee and often hosts committee meeting in his house on the cliff overlooking the sea near Alum Chine. He acts as Concert Manager helping the Chairman and Secretary with choosing and arranging venues and also assists the Music Librarian.

The Westbourne Orchestra is extremely indebted to Hor Shun for his consistent dependability and unswerving loyalty over the nearly 23 years he has been a member.

Hor Shun also plays in the second violin section of the BAPS Orchestra and is leader of the Corfe Mullen Orchestra as well.

For several years after Hor Shun came to England he would return to Hong Kong to his medical practice for several weeks at a time as he was not allowed to practice in England without taking a full course of medical studies again.

His wife is also a doctor and continues to work in Hong Kong so there inevitably has been a continuous round of exchange visits throughout the years.

Pen Portrait - Rob Hanmore

A few months ago our Cello Section was really suffering from lack of numbers and we had to augment several players for all our concerts. Since then things have improved in that we can now boast six good cello players which was very evident in our last series of concerts with the beautiful cello introduction to Schubert's Unfinished Symphony. Rob Hanmore, aged 22, joined the Cello Section of the WOS in May last year after seeing one of our regular adverts in the **Daily Echo** - thanks very much to Lorraine May and

Marion Coles. His contribution to our music is very much appreciated by everyone. Rob, who comes from a very musical family first started to play the cello when he was about nine years old at Atwood Primary School in Croydon under Mrs D Elliot. He took a few examinations and reached Grade 5 of the Associated Board and has continued with his instruction and enjoyment of the instrument ever since. He joined the Chichester University Orchestra and played with them for the 3 years from 1998 to 2001 while he was at the

University studying music. Rob concentrates on the cello but is also able to play the piano as well. Currently, Rob is working at The Royal Bournemouth Hospital, in the Haematology Laboratory as an assistant. However, this we understand is a temporary position as he would very much like to find an opening in a music related career as soon as he is able. We offer an extremely warm welcome to Rob and we are particularly pleased that we are able to attract younger players.