



WOS News

Issue 7

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SPECIAL EDITION

WOS have received such wonderful letters about the summer concerts we decided to have a special edition of WOS News so that you can see them all.



Guest musicians join the Westbourne Orchestra



Mayor Anne Rey is greeted by WOS chairman David Portsmouth



Percussionist Adam Kidman presenting a bouquet to soloist Jenny Holt

www.westbourne-orchestra.co.uk



I thoroughly enjoyed the first concert and found it so exhilarating that I went again to the one at St Thomas' Church at Ensbury Park. The Children's Overture by Roger Quilter was particularly moving as I used to listen to this on a 78 record when I was a child, and even remember where I had to turn the record over to play the other side. The tunes are familiar and fun, but the harmonies and the weaving together of the melodies is masterful. The programme notes were interesting - they usually contain something I didn't know before - and I learned that Quilter wrote songs and light music.

The children in the Flute and Clog Dances played beautifully and obviously were trying their best. The Toy Symphony, with the younger children also participating, was great fun. The drums and triangle particularly were very well played. Percussion instruments are more difficult to play than it appears because the player has to count endless bars of nothing before producing a needful tinkle or crash. Woe betide the cymbalist who comes in a bar too soon!

I love classical music and was so pleased that the Westbourne Orchestra were giving children the opportunity to play, listen to and learn about music with more depth and meaning than lazy pop music. It requires dedication, concentration and hard work, which was ably demonstrated by all players.

The Mendelssohn violin concerto was superb and Jenny Holt, the brilliant soloist, played it with gusto and pleasure, and it was a delight to listen to. This concerto 'sparkles', and should be played with enthusiasm and eagerness, and, the orchestra members being keen and able amateurs, this one was.

Anne Jacobs.

Summer 2003 Concert



28th June 2003 must rank among the most happy, and successful musical events in the history of St Thomas' Church; although I haven't seen as many here as some readers, I've seen a few.

The exuberance and enthusiasm of the children who performed with the Westbourne Orchestra was in itself an encouraging sign of the future for 'real' music in this area. This was especially the case of the two young timpanists who played all through the entire evening with serious application matching the rest of the orchestra.

However we were still totally unprepared for the magical playing of soloist Jenny Holt, in the Violin Concerto by Felix Mendelssohn. To be honest the applause which was long, loud and sincere, reflected the privilege which we felt at hearing the playing of such an obviously talented and charming musician.

My only sadness was the behaviour of some louts outside whose parents were obviously as blissfully unaware of the cultural shortcomings of their offspring, as they were devoid of any training in good manners.

But thank you Sam Newgarth for bringing us such a superb concert, and for the privilege of hearing Jenny Holt; surely someone with a tremendous talent and an assured future.

The same evening witnessed the presentation, by Her worship The Mayor of Boumemouth, of Lottery Grants, to the Westbourne Orchestra, and to The Ensbury Park Community Association. Councillor Anne Rey was proud to reveal she was herself an Ensbury Park girl. By the end of the evening doubtless prouder still that such culture in music is alive and well in this charming part of the Borough, even if it has been allowed to depart from the Winter Gardens.

Editor.



Mulberry House
47 Queens Park Avenue
Bournemouth
BH8 9LH
28/6/03

Westbourne Orchestra Concert at St Thomas' Church on 28 June 2003

A memorable occasion. The performance in front of a packed audience in the church had all the excitement of anticipation even before the programme started. I was particularly pleased as I had brought along two friends, who had not been to a concert before and in fact had not even heard of the Westbourne Orchestra before the invitation to attend. I hoped they would enjoy the evening, and on the way home they could not stop saying how much they had enjoyed it. The next day, they told me they had played some tapes of their own at home, and having listened to 'Peter and the Wolf' at the concert, asked each other, - "Now, what instrument is that?" and "Can you hear the violin?", etc. They certainly want to know about the next concert of the orchestra. We thought the violin soloist, Jenny Holt, was superb and quite inspiring. Peter and the Wolf, with the delivery of the prose was excellent too, and the Toy Symphony and two dances with the additional interest of the young children taking their parts so seriously, were also perfect. What a privilege to have the opportunity to hear music such as this, in our own community.

Dear Mr Newgirth,

I would like to thank you for inviting me to join your Orchestra for the Children's concerts. I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and thank you for making me feel so welcome.

Yours sincerely Adrian Kidman

Mary Gilbert

CHILDREN'S CONCERT AT ST THOMAS' CHURCH, SATURDAY 27 JUNE 2003

Ella, (7yrs) and Amy, (5yrs) decided on the day of the concert, to take part and play the triangles in the Toy Symphony. They rehearsed all afternoon at home with a cheese grater and potato masher and spoons. They were placed one on each side of Matthew, the triangle player from Hill View School, and Amy was told to play when he played and stop when he stopped. During the rehearsal and concert she never took her eyes off him and played perfectly, as did all the children. They both said they enjoyed the experience and found it very exciting in spite of being very nervous. They loved taking a bow at the end. Ella loved the Children's Overture, and both were enthralled by the skill of the solo violinist playing from memory.

Before the concert, Amy said that she was frightened of the wolf, having previously only listened to a tape of Peter and the Wolf, so I introduced her and her sister to the 'wolf' back stage who was a man with a big smile. He explained that he was the one who made the wolf sound scary, and told her not to mind, and after that, Amy thoroughly enjoyed the whole piece! It was an experience they won't forget.

Thank you W.O.S.

Jean Budd

The Westbourne Orchestral society

Playing with the Westbourne Orchestral society is a great opportunity.

Thank you very much for inviting us it was great fun. I loved playing with professionals because I know what I'm heading for. The best part was Peter and the wolf because when I was in the year below, the class danced and acted to it and I was Peter! So over all I thought it was fantastic!

age 9

Hannah Perry
(the cellist)

To the westbound orchestral society
Thank you for letting me play with you.
Playing with adults was fun. can I come again?
+ the best one is Peter and the wolf - was great
because the noises Peter the wolf and Grandfather
were the best - I liked playing the nightingale
it was fun.

Lots of love
Catherine Rose
(violinist)
age 6

I really enjoyed playing my Violin in two concerts with adults. It's been a great experience for me and it's brought me on immensely. In September I'm joining a Wednesday Orchestra with adults and my teacher is wanting me to join a Orchestra in Bournemouth which is also with adults.

By Becky Vass



THE WESTBOURNE ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY CONCERT AT ST THOMAS' CHURCH WITH CHILDREN FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS.

I had the good fortune to attend this concert at St Thomas' Church, although I must confess to setting out with some reluctance as my first choice of music is not usually classical or orchestral. However I do have a great interest in children and was intrigued to see how this particular combination of youth and experience would work.

From the beginning I felt the programme had been very carefully selected to both interest and involve the children at all times. Their concentration never wavered, whether playing their instruments or observing others, and encouraged all the way by the conductor and members of the orchestra alike, they gave their all. Above all else the overwhelming feeling was that they were having fun, both adults and children, and it must have inspired at least some of the children to work towards joining an orchestra themselves. Surely a heart-warming thought for orchestra members?

If more inspiration was needed it came with young violin soloist Jenny Holt whose rendition of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto was breathtaking and very moving. She too was a wonderful example to the children.

If the concerts were an experiment I sincerely hope they will be repeated. If so, I will be one of the first to take my seat instead of the last!

Lynne Phillips

Lynne Phillips

I think working with the bigger orchestra was fun because the pieces were faster and I think the instruments that played the characters in Peter and the wolf were good.

Holly Bennett

from Todd

I enjoyed playing ~~the~~ in the toy symphony very much and liked the sound of the guitar. It was a different but nice new musical experience for me



Thank you Todd

We had lots of practices at lunchtime and break and finally we were ready to perform.

On Saturday 28th June in the afternoon we met at St Thomas's church for the last rehearsal and all went well. We came back again in the evening and all of the orchestra was there. The men were all dressed in black suits and the ladies were in long dresses, and the church was full.

I was very nervous, we sat and listened to the first piece of music, which included lots of nursery rhyme tunes. When it was our turn we all walked to the front of the church and took our places and the Toy symphony began, it was great fun and everyone enjoyed themselves, we had to take a bow at the end.

At the end there was a solo violinist who played without any music she was very good.

I really enjoyed the day and all the hard work was worth it.

And a big thank you to Mrs Armstrong who helped us.

By Rebecca Fish

Age 9

I really enjoyed the two concerts I did with the Westbourne Orchestral Society and I learned that the conductor could change the speed at any time without warning!

Philip Jury age 11

When Mrs Armstrong asked me to play a percussion instrument in the Toy Symphony, I was very excited. After lots of practise the day finally came. It was really good as the Major was there and lots of other people too. We sat in the front row and nervously watched as the orchestra played. It sounded really good and I wondered how it would sound when I played. I had lots of different feelings from being really excited happy and proud but also nervous. I wondered if I would remember to come in at the right time too. When I stood up there to play I felt pleased and I concentrated hard to make sure I would get it right and not let anyone down. At the finish it was fine, everything had gone okay, it was a real achievement. I could now sit and relax and enjoy the rest of the concert. The Westbourne orchestra were brilliant.

By Simon Lever

Age 9