

WESTBOURNE ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY

(fnd. 1930, Reg. Charity No 282074)

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Tel: 01202 701759

e-mail: viking@woodcomp.co.uk

President Prudence Whittaker ARCM Vice President Sir Patrick Moore
Conductor Sam Newgarth MBE LRAM Leader Jane Bultz

New President for the Westbourne Orchestral Society



A short time ago it was announced that Prudence Whittaker, clarinettist, had graciously agreed to become President of the Westbourne Orchestral Society. All members are highly delighted at this great honour.

It was whilst on holiday in Stockholm that long serving committee member and timpanist Tricia Davis browsing in a music shop came across a CD of Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante E flat for oboe, clarinet, horn, bassoon and orchestra, played by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra featuring Prudence Whittaker

As Tricia knew Pru had been a member of the WOS before turning professional Tricia promised the WOS committee to contact Pru and ask her if she would accept nomination for the then vacant position of President of the Society.

Much to the delight of everyone Prudence accepted and all members of the Orchestra are deeply honoured.

This is particularly appropriate as although Pru is now living in East Sussex she still makes periodic visits to Bournemouth. Hopefully, it may be possible to arrange for some of her future visits to coincide with WOS concerts. One such possibility is March 24th 2007. If this comes about we shall be delighted

PRUDENCE WHITTAKER ARCM

Pru Whittaker was born into a musical family, who encouraged her in her desire to learn the clarinet at an early age. When her family moved to Bournemouth when she was 11 she had already passed grade 5, and Raymond Carpenter (Principal clarinet of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra) became her teacher for the next six years.

Pru played in the Westbourne Orchestra during her teens, and has very fond memories of this time. Cecil White, its conductor at this period, gave her a huge amount of help in preparing for her ARCM diploma, which she gained when she was seventeen. In this year she became principal clarinet of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, and was also invited to play in several concerts with the BSO.

She was then offered a scholarship to attend the Royal College of Music in London, and at the same time was offered a position in the BBC Training Orchestra, which was being set up in Bristol. She chose the Training Orchestra, and became one of its founder members when she was eighteen.

At twenty she became principal clarinet of the BBC N.Ireland Orchestra, and a year later took up the same position in the BBC Welsh Orchestra.

When she was twenty-six the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra invited her to become its Associate-Principal clarinet. This was a major break-through, as she was the only woman in the orchestra. A couple of years later she was promoted to Principal, and remained with the RPO for the next twenty-three years.

During her time in the RPO and the BBC Orchestras she played in hundreds of broadcasts and recordings, and in concerts all over the world, with some of the world's finest conductors and soloists and sometimes soloist herself.

In 1998 Pru left the RPO, and a year later she and her husband, Martin moved to Seaford, in E.Sussex. She now teaches the clarinet at Lancing College and at home, and derives a huge amount of satisfaction out of helping her pupils to achieve their potential.

Her life these days allows time for her other interests, which include watercolour painting, gardening, walking and bird watching. She still has a family connection in Bournemouth, and generally comes to Bournemouth once or twice a year.

- ENDS -

WESTBOURNE ORCHESTRA

2006-2007

Programme of Events

AUTUMN 2006

October 13th Open rehearsal
November 18th St Katharine's Church, Southbourne
November 24th (Friday) St Ambrose Church, Westbourne
November 25th (Sat) St Clement's Church, Boscombe

SPRING 2007

January 7th Rehearsals commence
March 17th St Thomas' Church, Ensbury Park
March 24th St Stephen's Church, Bournemouth

SUMMER 2007

June 23rd St Alban's Church, Charminster
June 29th (Friday) St Ambrose Church, Westbourne
June 30th (Saturday) St Francis' Church, Charminster

AUTUMN 2007

November 17th TBA
November 23rd (Friday) St Ambrose Church, Westbourne
November 24th (Sat) Annunciation Church, Charminster

The Orchestra welcomes all new string players. Other instrumentalists please contact Secretary Jean Budd
- Tel: 01202 574399

, "Friends" Secretary Liz Sansom Tel: 01202 708484

or visit the WOS web site www.westbourne-orchestra.co.uk