

DULWICH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

October 2005

Dulwich Symphony Orchestra

NEWS LETTER .

Concert dates for '05 — '06

Concert 1 November 26th '05 Dulwich College Great Hall

Rossini William Tell overture.
Tchaikovsky piano concerto #1
Schumann symphony #3

If any member has any suggestions for possible venues please talk to Frances.

Tickets are available in advance from Graham.

Concert 2 March 25th '06 St Paul's Church, Herne Hill

Dvorak symphonic variations
Rodrigo concieto de aranjuez
Sibelius symphony #5

If members contact details have changed then please let lan know.

Philip has had a letter from St Christopher's Hospice thanking him for the £248 that was raised at our Summer social.

Concert 3 June 17th '06 All Saints' Church

Delius Walk to the Paradise Garden
Elgar Sea Pictures
Moeran Symphony
NB provisional programme.

Winter Social



Tuesday 6th December 2005

From 19:30

Fox on the Hill

Denmark Hill

London SE5

(we meet at the back on the right hand side)

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Farewell and our best wishes to Michael Brooks ...

I joined the DSO with some trepidation in 2000. I had depped for DSO concerts in 1993 and 1994 but I had stopped pretending to be able to play orchestral music having found the Rhenish symphony rather hard going for someone who first started playing in 1992! In 1995 I started lessons with a teacher, who taught me to Grade 8 and I spent a few years learning bandsman-ship in the Southwark Concert Band, COMA [Contemporary Music for Amateurs] and the London Medical Orchestra.

I decided that I wished to join the orchestra in 1999 having heard a concert by the DSO which included the Saint-Saens Organ Symphony. I thought that the trombones needed more presence in the mix! I phoned Mo and asked if I could join the orchestra. I was pleased to be invited to the first rehearsal and could not believe my luck since the piece being rehearsed was Ma Vlast which I had performed with another orchestra just four weeks previously. I was delighted when Julian asked me to join the orchestra although I confess that I did not have the courage to admit that I, unlike the rest of the orchestra, was not exactly sight-reading my part.

It was a pleasure to invite people to join the heavy brass section and see it grow. I found the orchestra as a whole very friendly and it was good to see people of all adult ages represented and this bodes well for the future. I made lots of friendships which I hope will continue despite my current absence.

I enjoyed playing the music but the one concert I remember best was November 2003 when you performed my trombone concerto. To hear St Barnabas filled with sound from just one instrument [pianos don't count in this argument] perhaps let people know why I think that trombones are simply the best. I do hope I can one day describe what it sounds like to hear you perform my symphony.....

The reason I had to leave is because in July 2005, having felt called to this vocation some years ago, I attended a selection process and was recommended for training for ordained ministry in the Church of England and I have now started this training. Unfortunately the classes are on Tuesday nights and so for the time being I have had to leave the DSO. My course runs for three years and as it draws to a close I shall see if there are any vacancies in the Dulwich Deanery for both Honorary Curates and honourable trombonists!!

Michael Brooks

Southwark Sinfonietta

As Michael announced to the orchestra he is re-forming the Southwark Sinfonietta. It will meet for specific projects rather than being an ongoing commitment.

The first concert is for Saturday 18th Feb '06 with rehearsals on the 4 preceding Saturdays (21st Jan onwards).

Please indicate expression of interest by contacting Michael: -

Mail 28 Frankfurt Road, Herne Hill, London SE24 9NY

Phone: 020 7274 5187

Mobile: 07730 885187

E-mail: michael@surefish.co.uk

Or speak to Chris in the orchestra.

A REVIEW OF THE LAST CONCERT

18th July 2005

So, here I was - plucked from rank and file obscurity in the bass section and elevated to the status of critic, a move which allowed me to listen, really listen, to the orchestra for the first time. Impossible to do this when you are pre-occupied by your own limitations of technique; by the need to achieve unanimity with your section and the baton, and by the difficulty of hearing what the rest of the orchestra is doing when - as often happens - there's timps to the back of you, brass to the right of you, all of them volleying and thundering....

This, then was an opportunity to cherish, even if it was in a packed, almost airless church on one of the hottest evening of the year. The concert began with Mussorgsky's "Night on a Bare Mountain" which put me in mind of Yul Brynner leading his Tartar hordes at full gallop! An energetic and exciting performance, this, but not without problems of intonation and ensemble - problems which persisted to a varying degree during the next work, the Third Piano Concerto of Rachmaninov.

There is a suspicion that the great composer-pianists wrote for their own hands, which explains why - for example - the concertos of Brahms and Rachmaninov are so colossally difficult. As Julian pointed out in his programme notes, this Third concerto had for years an almost evil reputation, scaring even the finest pianist almost witless. The saga of the soloists for this concert is too well known to merit repetition; suffice it to say that our soloist, the young Ukranian pianist Sergei Salov, showed himself to be a real virtuoso in the heroic mode, stunning us all with a magnificent technique that made light of the thunderous runs and octaves with which the concerto abounds. The boomy acoustic tended to blur much of the detail of ensemble between soloist and orchestra, but this was a wonderful and exciting performance.

The second half was truly something else. Gone were problems of intonation and ensemble and acoustic, for everything came together - and here was the orchestra at the very top of its game in a superb performance of Vaughan Williams' London Symphony, something that Julian had been patiently coaxing and cajoling us towards during the past term as the orchestra gradually familiarised itself with what, to many, was an almost foreign musical idiom. The work is a huge, slowly-unfolding, panoramic portrait of the city with the music seeming to roam - almost camera-like - so as to pick up its variegated character, reflected in so many changes of tempo and mood. The various solo passages were beautifully played, particularly in the slow movement with Ian Finn's cor anglais solo at the beginning, and the dying fall of Frances Barrett's viola solo at the end.

This must rank as one of the orchestra's very finest performances, one during which the word "amateur" never came to mind, and exemplifies the orchestra's programme policy - with the achievement of each concert as the springboard for the next one. There's never a dull moment in the DSO!

Michael Lasserson

If you have a friend in the audience who would like to write a review of our next concert then please speak to Mo or Chris.

A big thank you

I just wanted to say

thank you to everyone from the orchestra who sponsored me for the London to Brighton Bike



I raised a total of £570, my friend Barbara over £1000, so it was all worth it.

Sam Purser

ride (in aid of the British Heart Foundation).

It was a boiling hot day – the day after the summer concert -

and it took us 9 hours but we got there in the end. Ditchling Beacon was every bit as bad as I was warned, but the ride down into Brighton was great!

Alan Thompson

Sadly, Alan died on Sunday 18 September this year. He had played with the Dulwich Symphony Orchestra for many years, both as an 'extra' for concerts and as a member.

Music was all important to him. Since playing in the National Youth Orchestra Alan had been extremely active in music. This included about 40 years playing in the Orpington Symphony and chamber music.

"Gift Aid and the raffle"

I would like to emphasise the importance of the Inland Revenue's Gift Aid scheme to our finances. The amount which we claim back each year is roughly the same as our surplus, so without it we would be in a sorry state. If you pay tax in any form then please consider making a Gift Aid declaration so that we can claim the tax back on your behalf. I can supply you with a form and further details. If you have made a declaration previously, you don't have to do anything, as they are valid indefinitely.

The weekly raffle also makes a significant contribution; over the course of the year it raises the amount we need to hire Chatsworth hall for an entire term. The rule is that the person who wins has to run it the following week, but this doesn't mean you have to pay for the prize yourself. The cost can be deducted from the takings. I don't think I made this clear in the past, which might have deterred some of you from entering.

Ian Finn
Treasurer

Committee members...

Annual General Meeting Speech by Frances on 11/10/05

I could so easily get up here year after year and say that we're going from strength to strength & what a great year we've just had. But this year it is true! Our orchestra has gained a great deal in the past year in our playing, organisation and social aspects – and we can build upon these gains.

In our playing we have achieved a higher standard that we are maintaining, and that has meant we have tackled pieces by Bax, Elgar, Ravel, V-Williams and Wagner with confidence and style.

Improved organisation from our committee and in particular our talented treasurer, has meant that fees are being paid more promptly, gift aid claimed, more rehearsals made possible, sectionals and play-through evenings and all from the same, non-increased fee.

continued...

Membership has grown and we are now almost a full orchestra, and that every week. We have welcomed new members who have found us on our website or heard of us from friends. This has not only improved our rehearsals but also increased the social side of the orchestra. Sadly some people have to leave us – it is part of being an inner-city orchestra. I would just like to mention Michael Brooks here, who played trombone with us for many years and was also a generous committee member.

Our next concert is in the Great Hall, Dulwich College. It is a larger venue that we normally play and so we'll need to bring a larger audience. Don't be shy and retiring about what we do – be proud & tell your friends to come and hear us. In May '07 we'll be playing in the Dulwich Festival – that's something to aim for!

So, how can we build on these improvements?

We can make sure our fees are in on time – that improves budgeting & gift aid claims. We can practice using photocopies, which reduces the loss of music parts. We can attend as many of the rehearsals as possible – and those promptly for a 7.30 start. We can support the committee members with ideas, practical suggestions and offers of help. We can continue to sell tickets in advance and build a larger core audience.

Doing all these things will help us grow from strength to strength!

Photocopying of Music Parts

Please photocopy your music for practise at home.
No parts will be allowed to be taken away from the
11th November

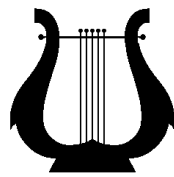
The rehearsal on Tuesday 22nd November
will be in St Luke's, Knight's Hill
(where our Summer concert was) at 7.30

The rehearsal on Saturday 26th November
will be in Dulwich College and will start at 2.30.
Please sign up for the remaining jobs (on the noticeboard)

Sale of charity Christmas cards

Phoenix Trading offers you the opportunity to purchase good quality cards at low prices with up to 50% off shop prices. All types of cards are available including birthday, children's, wedding anniversary etc. Each card is blank for you to write to write your own message. There is also a comprehensive range of invitation and thank you cards, gift bags, gift wrap and tags.

Christmas products include charity Christmas cards sold in aid of Cancer Research



**DULWICH
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA**

Bruckner's 4th symphony playthrough!

On the Tuesday following the concert (29th November), we shall be playing through Bruckner's 4th symphony JUST FOR FUN!

7.30 Chatsworth Baptist Church (Don't be late, it's a long one)

Mo Montrose (viola)

will be having a major operation on 21st November and so will not be playing with us in this concert. Frances will be circulating a card so that we can send her our best wishes.

ARTICLES FOR OUR MAGAZINE

email your contribution to Chris Burns

at

baxquartet@yahoo.co.uk

Joke corner...

Why are viola jokes so short?

So violinists can understand them.