



# DULWICH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

NEWSLETTER January '07

## **Review of our last Concert**

I know that many serious musicians (and concert goers) belittle the familiar favourites as middle of the road, but many of these musical gems are popular because they are good, and I was very happy to sit back and enjoy the Borodin dances. The orchestra started a little tentatively (it may have been the cold which affected both instruments and players), however there was a sweetness and softness in the familiar melody. Once the skirts started to twirl and the ribbons to fly the spirited dance themes warmed us all up. The clouds drifted away to leave moonlight, and fireworks to light the sky.

The Tempest is new to me, but I agree with Julian that this work deserves to be heard more often. Tchaikovsky is so clever at illustrating a story in music. The various sections of the orchestra spoke to each other as the pictures unfolded. The majestic, magical Prospero and the evil Caliban, the lovers, and Ariel, with his fellow sprites, surrounded these forceful creatures with lightness and fun.

When we returned, after the interval, I could almost believe that I was listening to a different orchestra. With a new confidence the orchestra embraced the symphony. Brass and strings seemed to be bowing and curtsying to each other; the rough and tumble of the scherzo and some sparkling, colourful passages in the first movement, only seemed to emphasise the mellow richness of the symphony as a whole. The finale was played with such assurance that the applause seemed to be an extension of the final resounding phrases.

**Norma Francis**

## **Dates for your diary**

We return to rehearsals on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January. A full list of rehearsals will be found on our notice board on the music table at rehearsals.

## **Our next concert**

24<sup>th</sup> February, All Saints, West Dulwich (entrance Lovelace Road). Rehearsal 2.30 – 5.30pm. Concert 7.45pm. Tim has the list of necessary jobs that will make the day run smoothly for us all.

### **Future concert dates –**

May 12<sup>th</sup> (part of the Dulwich Festival), July 21<sup>st</sup>. These are also on our notice board. Next season's concerts will be on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2007, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008 and 21<sup>st</sup> June 2008

### **'Making Music'**

This is the (fairly) new name for the National Federation of Music Societies, of which we are a member. For a modest subscription we get insurance cover for our activities and advice on all aspects of running the orchestra. They also run a scheme for promoting young soloists and to date we have used this to secure the (subsidised) services of Robin Michael (cello), and Christopher Evesham (guitar) as well as our soloist for the May concert, Oliver Coates. Making Music also have a large library of programme notes, some of which are being sent out with this newsletter. You can find out more about them at: [www.makingmusic.org.uk](http://www.makingmusic.org.uk)

### **Dulwich Festival**

This season we have rearranged our schedule so that we can take part in the Dulwich Festival in May. Those of us who don't actually live in Dulwich (i.e. most of us) might not be aware of the Festival and why we should take part in it. It started in 1993 and contains a mixture of artistic and local history activities. Some of the music is provided by professionals, but there is a policy of ensuring that local amateur groups such as ourselves are also represented. Hopefully our participation will raise our profile in the area and lead to bigger audiences at our other concerts. Currently we are hoping to be able to perform every other year. You can find details of the Festival at: [www.dulwichfestival.co.uk](http://www.dulwichfestival.co.uk)

### **Marketing**

The marketing sub-committee meet regularly to find more effective ways of promoting the orchestra. It is essential that the committee have feedback from you the members. We particularly need to know how many concerts you would like to play in future seasons. So grab a questionnaire from the red box and fill it in – even if you just answer that one question it would be very useful to the committee!

### **Charity**

Our open rehearsal raised £46 for Oxfam and at our November concert the interval collection for St Christopher's raised £127.38.

### **Goodbye Lucy**

Lucy Harris had to make the difficult decision to leave us after our last concert. Since her marriage, last summer, she has found it a real struggle to get to week night rehearsals, so now she has found an orchestra that is nearer her and meets on a Sunday afternoon. She says it was hard to leave after many happy years and she will especially miss her colleagues in the horn section, but that she aims to keep in touch. We welcome Naomi who joined the horn section just before Christmas!

**The Raffle**

As ways of raising a little much needed money for the orchestra each week the raffle is fairly painless! It also can be a means of getting to know more people because if you win you have the chance to take a turn at running it. (But if you win and don't want to run it then ask someone in your section to.) The cost of the prize can be taken out of the money raised. So if you haven't tried it before – give it a go!

**Jewellery & Card Sales**

We are awaiting to agree dates with Paula and Sam.

Items for the next Newsletter to Frances Barrett by April 4<sup>th</sup>, please.