

# SOIRÉES MUSICALES

Spring 2010 ~ Edition 41



*The Magazine of the BBC  
Concert Orchestra's Supporters Club*

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Soirées Musicales is the Magazine of the BBC Concert Orchestra's Supporters Club, which is an independent body set up in 1984 for the purpose of promoting and supporting the Members of the BBC Concert Orchestra. We are not affiliated to the BBC, neither do we receive any financial support from them.

*Disclaimer: the views expressed by the contributors to this magazine are not necessarily the views of the Chairman, the Orchestra or the BBC.*

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*Copy for the next edition to be submitted by 31st July 2010*

**WE NOW HAVE A WEBSITE!!**

**<http://www.cosc.co.uk>**

**VISIT US.**

**ED LINES.** *Chairman Brian says.....*



I hope that all Club members received and enjoyed the free CD just before Christmas which the Orchestra made to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Many thanks to all concerned in the making of this excellent recording. It seems to have been very well received, judging from various comments, some of which are printed elsewhere in this edition. I am hoping that we may be able to do something similar in the not too distant future.

This CD was undoubtedly one of the brighter spots in an otherwise difficult 2009 – made so of course by a long list of “you can’t do that” received from BBC personnel. As so many of you have pointed out it does seem as if the BBC don’t want the Orchestra to have a Supporters Club – but I’m assured that the Orchestra want one, and that’s what really matters.

For lovers of “Friday Night is Music Night” I have at least one item of cheering news and that is the year 2010 does in fact contain 53 Fridays! I don’t think that even the BBC can change that!!

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# CHANGES IN THE ORCHESTRA & OTHER NEWS.

## *New Faces in the Orchestra:*

*Welcome to:-* Katharine Wood, the newly appointed Cello No2.

## *Welcome Back Wishes to:*

Lucy Hartley & Chereene Allen, recently returned from Maternity leave, Also James Casey (Principal Trombone) fully recovered from a facial injury.

## *But it's "Goodbye"*

to Jayne Ross who leaves the Orchestra at the End of March.

## *Next Generation in the violin section: - continuing.*

In December 2007 David Beaman became a Father. Since then virtually all eligible members of the violin sections have become parents, there must be a virus! Now we hear David became a Father again on Saturday 20th February, when wife Julie gave birth to 7lb 15oz baby girl Alice Ruth.

*Are the rest of the violinists prepared?*

Meanwhile the first of the rest was Katharine Wood. If you wondered why you hadn't seen much of her the excitement of her first live FNIMN in post was overshadowed by the arrival of her 6lb 13oz baby, Benjamin Isaac O'Kane at 13.55 the following day 14th November!

Strangely his older brother Thomas, also arrived 3 weeks early and his birthday is 13<sup>th</sup> No excuses for forgetting birthdays then!



Next came Dominic Worsley, Principal Double Bass, who became a first time Father to daughter Natalie Ann on 28<sup>th</sup> November.



And horning in on the act, we now have a Baby Bell! Stephen, the Principal French Horn, and Charlie celebrated the arrival of 7lb 11oz daughter Beatrice Rachel on 5<sup>th</sup> February.

### *A run for your money!*

Well done Scott Jones (Transport) & Dan Mullin (2nd violins) who completed the Northampton to Tring Ultra Marathon (47 miles) on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January coming 48<sup>th</sup> out of 67 (5 non-finishers) in 11 hours, 40 minutes & 22 seconds.

They raised over £700 for Children in Need, (it's still not too late to donate!)



# Changes in the Club Committee.

During 2009 we said goodbye to Esther Lawrence and Vivien Shannon who served for many years as the Clubs' caterers at Club parties.

Dr Donald Dean, who was one of the original committee members and was responsible for the Club Constitution as well as keeping the rest of us in order!

Barry Shannon, our Treasurer who had not enjoyed the best of health for a long while

Elizabeth DeLeiros who collected your signatures at AGM's, and finally Paul Taylor our Assistant Minute Secretary. Our grateful thanks to them all for their past efforts.

At the AGM we will introduce and welcome Treasurer Jim McLauchlan, well known to those who attended our "Saturday Serenades" at Finchley Methodist Church. Jim had a career in banking, and soon sorted out our problems associated with the change of Club name and Treasurer.

Jan Mentha, who has rewritten the Constitution to reflect our new name & status.

And Stephen Greenhalgh, who created and runs our Website.

**Website : <http://www.cosc.co.uk>**

# YOU KNOW THE VOICE, NOW MEET THE MAN *KEN BRUCE* .



Ken Bruce has been broadcasting on the BBC for some years, although the suggestion that he was the first person to announce the retreat of Bonnie Prince Charlie's army from Derby is untrue.....

He was educated at, or at least attended, Hutchesons' Boys' Grammar School in Glasgow, where his achievements included being named "Laziest Boy in the School". He did however, become Captain of Curling and took his team to the final of the Scottish schools Championships.

On leaving school he studied accountancy for two years before discovering that he was not cut out to be a financial genius, or indeed any other kind, and became involved in a car hire company, rising from washing the cars to minor Management. In his spare time, he enjoyed hospital radio, although the patients may not have, and eventually talked his way into the BBC in Scotland, where he became an announcer. He read the news, introduced concerts and laughed and smoked and drank a great deal. He has, of course, improved his behaviour since then by giving up smoking.

His own daily show in Scotland followed and he would have played out his days there had Radio2 not come calling. The "Saturday Late Show" in 1984 was his first regular gig, and this led to the offer of the "Breakfast Show" the next year, when Terry Wogan departed to television. The year after that he moved to the 9.30 slot, where he has remained, with just two intervening years in other slots, ever since.

In 1988 he became the Radio commentator for the Eurovision Song Contest and has been doing that ever since too, although he is never quite sure why. Ken loves *proper* live music despite being a failed drummer, and has a special soft spot for orchestral concerts, which is why he is delighted to have been involved with "Friday Night Is Music Night" for over ten years.

He has avoided the telly over the years, finding it all a bit frenetic, and also with a feeling the viewing public are not quite ready for him: but he is happy

to go on “Countdown” every so often because it is more like radio – no one rushes round pretending its important.

He has been married three times and has six children, so is an obvious descendant of Robert the Bruce, whose experience with the spider led him to “try, try, try again”. When he wasn’t looking after the Bruce clan, he pieced together the events of his life and wrote his Autobiography which was published in September. Ken is content to remain at Radio2 until the call comes to restore him to his rightful place on the Throne of Scotland.

© 2010 Ken Bruce

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## **POSTBAG**

### **A selection of letters received.**

Dear Brian,

Thank you for the Autumn edition of Soirées Musicales. You and Jenny have again produced a really interesting magazine – even better than usual.

It makes me feel both sad and angry to think of the way you are both being treated. It adds so much to the enjoyment of listening to the Orchestra when one knows personal information about individual players.

Thank you for arranging another evening of pure pleasure for Club members. The talk by Geoff Bowden about June Bronhill was full of interest and I agree with him that her voice is a real pleasure to listen to, unlike a lot of sopranos. The second half of the evening with the quartet was just as enjoyable and the expertly played pieces also gave much pleasure to everyone there. I like the way you conduct the whole evening and ensure that everyone concerned feels appreciated, which in our experience doesn’t always happen at similar events. If we are unable to have tickets for the concerts by the Orchestra, this will certainly be compensated for if you are able to arrange more of these occasions.



Once again we enjoyed our "Afternoon Out" and will you please put our names down for the next one.

Best wishes and keep up the good work!

Pat Clark

Colindale.

Dear Brian & Jenny

Thank you for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary CD which we are enjoying very much, especially the last item which we remember from our childhood as being the signature tune of "Music While you Work".

We had a lovely time at Finchley Methodist Church, September 26<sup>th</sup>. It was a long way to come, but well worth it! The music was very well chosen and the talk really interesting.

The cup of tea was much appreciated, especially as we had eaten our tea on a park bench with only orange juice to drink! Thank you Jenny and everyone else for that, you all worked very hard.

Yours sincerely

Robert & Angela Hills

Wilmington.

Dear Brian,

We are writing to thank you very much indeed for the lovely Concert Orchestra CD. This excellent recording really shows off the versatility of the Concert Orchestra and provides over an hour of very happy listening. We would like to express our grateful thanks to all the members of the Orchestra who gave their performance and to the Club for meeting all the costs of recording & distribution. A really superb Christmas present, and we feel very lucky to be members of such a fine organisation.

We would also like to tell you how much we and our companions enjoyed the FNIMN recording we attended at

the Mermaid on 20th November. This was the concert in which several members of the Orchestra were able to demonstrate their skills with their own instruments as soloists while being accompanied by the Orchestra. This novel idea really paid off and the result was a highly unusual and very enjoyable concert. Many thanks for making the tickets available to us.

Yours sincerely  
John & Audrey Day.  
Winchester  
Hants

*(What nice letters – it's good to know at least some of our members are happy with our efforts!)*

Dear Brian

Sometimes the actions of the BBC defy comprehension – stop £2000.00, stop CD sales, restrict the number of tickets and change the name of the club at your expense.

Last year you may remember they invited me to represent the public on a TV broadcast and I got the impression they were in favour of giving us their support. Now I wonder if they have a policy, and if so they keep it to themselves!!

Yours sincerely  
Charles Oliver  
Gravesend.

Dear Brian & Jenny,

I enclose cheque for Alan's & my membership renewal. Once again I would like to thank you for all the hard work you put into running the Club and allocating the tickets. I must say that we really enjoy going to FNIMN concerts – no matter how bad you feel when you go in, you always feel uplifted afterwards.

With kind regards  
Kathryn King  
J4818.

Dear Brian & Jenny

Many thanks to you both for all your hard work keeping the Club going.

Yours sincerely

Rosemarie Harris, Watford

Dear Brian

A big “thank you” for the energy you project on behalf of the Supporters Club of the BBCCO. Great news that the Orchestra members like us and in turn are supporting us!

Now that there are less tickets to distribute among us is a “wake-up” call - “never take anything for granted! When we are lucky enough to have tickets dropped through the letter box, it should be a reminder of just how privileged we are to be part of this musical entertainment & appreciate the effort and devotion of all those who enjoy making Friday Night is Music Night a happy night for us.

Valerie Eve

Maldon

Essex

*(If only a few more members thought along those lines! We get more than a fair share of gripes!.....other Ed)*

### ***What you think of our website:-***

Congratulations!

An informative & easy to understand website.

With thanks for all your hard work.

Best wishes

Diane & Susan Killick

Tonbridge

# The BBC Concert Orchestra's Supporters Club 25th Anniversary CD

The recording of our CD took place at Watford Colloseum on Tuesday 29th & Wednesday 30th September. The recording was split into four 3 hour sessions spread over the two days. Each session was a rehearsal and recording of each piece, with a brief break in between items.

Brian & I had been invited to attend, and of course we were delighted to accept. We arrived in good time – terrible area for daytime parking – and were welcomed by Neil Varley, who was producing, and conductor Roderick Dunk.



The Colloseum was unrecognisable! Not a chair in sight and the carpet had been rolled back, this for added resonance. The stage curtains were partly drawn and there were miles of cables and dozens of microphones. The Orchestra's chairs were in the middle in the traditional fan shape, but more spread out.

We mingled with the Orchestra in the restaurant before making our way up to the balcony, choosing our seats with care, testing them for squeaks and groans, as silence is essential during recording.

We had been warned that the first session is normally a bit slow whilst microphones and balance are sorted out, but we felt that this would add to the interest. Twenty five past 2 the Orchestra made their way to their chairs

and promptly at 2.30 launched into the first number with enthusiasm. It has often been said that after a first rehearsal it sounds like they have been playing it all week, but it was hard to believe that there had been no earlier rehearsing, this *was* the first! Just one quick run through and then ready for the recording, amazing!

This did take a little longer, with minor adjustments to the stage curtains (for echo), microphone & instrument positioning etc. followed by the dialogue between Neil & Rod. (Anyone who has attended a “Discovering Music” recording will know about this!) A few minor passages were repeated – we wondered how the splicing was done - then “ok, break!” Three items had been rehearsed and recorded between 2.30 and 5.30. Another two followed between 6.30 and 9.30.

Wednesday Morning and a 10.30 start. We were extra careful choosing our seats, as the Orchestra said they had heard us yesterday! No two recording sessions are the same, and there were fewer adjustments necessary. One of the pieces is Brian’s favourite, and he got to hear it 3 times which made his day! The session ended 10 minutes early. Unfortunately we were unable to attend the afternoon session due to commitments, so missed the final 3 items.

Brian was asked to submit a selection of music for inclusion on the CD, many of which were accepted, whilst other pieces were selected by Neil & Rod. So it is a delightful selection of popular light music of the traditional “Friday Night” flavour which we are sure everyone will enjoy.

Our thanks are extended to Neil, Rod and Michael Dutton We were privileged to attend the recording, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The performance by the Orchestra was outstanding, and it seemed they were enjoying doing it too. We were surprised how relaxed the atmosphere was, casually chatting one minute and a faultless performance the next. True professionalism.

Jenny & Brian.

## **A selection of your comments about the CD.**

"Many thanks for CD. What a splendid collection! If only I had a programme on which to plug it mercilessly" Brian Kay.

"Best CD I've ever had. Bought loads none as good as this" Elizabeth Christie.

"The range from classical to popular musicals brings out the quality & professionalism of the Concert Orchestra. A delight to listen to" Clive Busby.

"Only received it this morning and played it twice already" Peter Elsdon.

"This is the kind of music they do best" Douglas French.

"Thanks for CD - Brilliant!" Roderick Elms.

"Mother's CD arrived this Morning, She's over the moon with it" Stephen G.

"Very many thanks for the CD just received. Brilliant choice of music. My morning plans are out of the window, I shall now put the kettle on - nice cuppa, biscuit tin out, put the CD on and listen. Ah bliss." Susan Killick.

"Lovely choice of music which we will continue to enjoy" Tom Sawyer.

"A great selection of lovely music, lots of memories came flooding back" Robert Thomas.

"Absolutely fantastic, we love it" Cyril Macey.

"Thank you so much for the CD, we are delighted to have a copy & are enjoying it very much" Pam & John Atkinson

"This excellent recording really shows off the versatility of the Orchestra" John Day.

"I am really delighted with it" Maria Bridge

“Thank you for my copy of the CD, I was very pleased and touched to receive it” Nigel Blomiley (Vice President COSC)

“ Thank you for the wonderful CD. It’s terrific” Vernon Midgley

“I played it last night and it was superb” Fred Turner.

“A glorious CD of our wonderful Concert Orchestra”. Jasmine Brown.

“It’s the best CD we have ever recorded” Bob Cooper (violins CO)

“It is a lovely recording and I enjoy listening to it” Lorna Bartlett.

“ Wonderful CD.” Renee Goldsmid.

“Played it again last night – it’s superb”. Frank Turner.

“We listened to it straight away and enjoyed it immensely. It brings back memories of the many concerts we have so enjoyed”. Rosemarie & Johanna Harris.

“I think the CD is fantastic and totally representative of us”.  
Judith Webberley (Violas, CO)

“I love it! What a brilliant compilation of music. Showtime is just what the Orchestra do so well” Margaret Heppenstall.

*“An excellent selection of music and of course brilliantly played”  
Jack Robinson.*

**“The CD makes us realise what an excellent Orchestra it is and how enjoyable to listen to” Pat Clark.**

*“We’re glad you’re happy with the CD, and are very pleased ourselves to have the recording as part of the Dutton Epoch catalogue” Oliver Lomax & Mike Dutton.*

## ONE FOR THE BOOKSHELF

“A VIEW FROM THE STALLS (a concert goers survival kit)” by Peter Akehurst, takes a light hearted view of concert going.

### Concert goers

share the hope of many motor racing enthusiasts – they are waiting for something to go wrong. Although musical disasters are less likely to be fatal, even the most experienced orchestras are still accident prone....

Published by Nova Music Ltd, Goldsmid Mews, 15(A) Farm Street, Hove, BN3 1FB. Also on sale at Benslow price £4.95.

**“Radio2 must broaden its appeal” says BBC Trust**  
*Says it needs to do more for over 65 & over 75s in music!*

To see the full report visit:-

<http://newsbbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/8516370.stm>

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## ***General Manager's Round Up.***

***2010 promises to be an exciting and eventful year for the Concert Orchestra as we continue to perform a huge range of music to as wide an audience as possible. With the closure of Watford Colosseum for a year in April for refurbishment, the orchestra will undertake its rehearsals, recordings and invitation concerts in various venues in and around London. These will include some FNIMN's coming from TV Centre on a trial basis. The South Bank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall will host Discovering Music and we will make increased use of Maida Vale Studios and the Mermaid Theatre.***

***2010 also sees the orchestra giving projects in the east of England with our popular young people's MusicMix concerts - its Watford, King's Lynn, Great Yarmouth and Grantham this March. We are also hoping to spend 3 days at the Eden Centre in Cornwall in June, with more MusicMix and concerts of Nature's Great Events and a live broadcast for Radio 3. This is not confirmed yet so keep an eye on our website for details.***

***On the subject of our website - I am delighted to reveal that an all new [www.bbc.co.uk/concertorchestra](http://www.bbc.co.uk/concertorchestra) website will be launched in the coming weeks, with improved diary and increasing audio-visual facilities.***



***Away from the UK - the CO will visit Abu Dhabi for one concert in May at the lavish Emirates Auditorium for a programme of British and American music conducted by our recent, and increasingly popular, visitor from the Boston Pops - Keith Lockhart. Keith also conducts the orchestra in a planned 15 concert tour of east coast USA in November. You will be able to get a sneak preview of the tour repertoire on October 23 at Fairfield Halls, Croydon.***

***TV and film soundtracks have continued to occupy the orchestra in recent months with notable projects being Glorious 39, Nature's Great Events, Walking with Dinosaurs - Live and Inside the Perfect Predator. We will also record the music for the BBC's General Election coverage and hope to be involved in a new BBC Film of Brighton Rock. Composer in Residence Jonny Greenwood has finished his second piece for us entitled Doghouse. This too is likely to be used for a film soundtrack in the near future. All excellent publicity for the CO and challenging repertoire for the players to enjoy!***

***Our CD recording continues with multiple projects for Dutton Epoch and new releases for Chandos and the Carl Davis Collection later in the year. A particular highlight was to record the Showtime CD that celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the CO Club, conducted by Roderick Dunk and featuring music selected by Chairman Brian Crouch.***

***I do hope you have all adapted to the new set up between Club and the BBC. I know many of you were unhappy about the changes and also issues to do with allocation of tickets. My view is now that you are entirely independent of the BBC, as members you are in a better position to make you feelings known to the BBC and to publish comments, write letters and articles as you choose.***

***Finally, I am convinced that the CO is as vital to the BBC as it has ever been and we now enjoy stronger connections to Radio 2, Radio 3 and the Proms than we have at any time in my nine years here. This is testimony to the virtuosity, experience and professionalism of the players plus creative brilliance and hard work of my management colleagues.***

***Please carry on supporting the Concert Orchestra and attending our events whenever you can. Knowing so many of you support us is a source of great strength.***

***Andrew Connolly  
General Manager  
February 2010***

# CD & BOOK REVIEWS

By Dave Daniels.



Dave Daniels

Fans of quality film music will be well aware of the excellent series of recordings available on the CHANDOS MOVIE series. Most of these have been made with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra & Rumon Gamba but the Concert Orchestra have contributed several including those featuring the music of Stanley Black (CHAN10306), Clifton Parker (CHAN10297), John Addison (CHAN10418) & Constant Lambert (CHAN10459)

The Orchestra's latest issue in this splendid series is again conducted by Rumon Gamba (CHAN10543) and contains film music by Mischa Spoliansky. Not a name which springs readily to mind perhaps, but the films certainly do – “King Solomon's Mines”, ”North West Frontier”, & “The Happiest Days of Your Life” amongst them, from this prolific composer who along with so many other European Jewish musicians was expelled from Germany in the 1930's. In Britain Spoliansky was taken up by the Hungarian émigré Alexander Korda who produced several films for which he wrote the score.

Looking down the contents of the disc one piece which caught my eye was “Voice in the Night” from the film “Wanted for Murder”, because I could recall a 12” 78 RPM of this piece I hadn't heard for years, Delving into the archives of my record collection indeed there it was – originally my Father's bought in 1948, recorded by the Queens Hall Light Orchestra under Charles Williams with Eric Harrison at the piano. The piece is another of the so-called “Denham Concertos” so popular at the time and for me brought back many memories. The new version features Roderick Elms and is every bit as good as the original.

Also appearing on this most attractive selection is the bass Mark Coles who sings 3 songs from “Sanders Of The River” made familiar in recordings by Paul Robeson who also appeared in the film.

From familiar music by a less well known composer to a first recording of a work not heard for over 100 years by a famous name indeed and yes, those people at Dutton have come up with the goods again! “Heroic Elegy & Triumphal Epilogue” by Ralph Vaughan Williams I found simply stunning. A very early work (1902) anyone familiar with RVW will find traces of the great things to come here, such as “A Sea Symphony” the 3<sup>rd</sup> movement or even the Tallis “Fantasia”. The piece is just 2 movements of what was going to be a Symphonic Rhapsody in 3 movements, and with Roderick Elms at the organ in the “Epilogue”, it certainly had the hairs standing up on the back of my neck! This disc (CDLX7237) also contains premiere recordings of music by York Bowen in particular an exquisite tone poem “Eventide” and William Alwyn’s attractive “Overture In the Form of A Serenade” featuring the London Chorus plus the early “Peter Pan” suite from 1923. This quite remarkable issue is completed with incidental music by Hubert Parry for the play “Hypatia” first performed in 1893. The BBC Concert Orchestra play magnificently throughout under John Wilson. Highly recommended!

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Now just for once may I leave recorded music and refer to the printed word. Ken Bruce has been one of my favourite FNIMN presenters in recent years and undoubtedly the best Christmas present I was given this year was his autobiography “*The Tracks of My Years*” (Sidgwick & Jackson £18.99) and what a splendid read it is.

Full of anecdotes ranging from his early years in Scotland, many of which had me laughing out loud, to a quite moving account of his meeting with the great Ella Fitzgerald for Radio2 in the 1980s

What shines through this book however, are two things. First Ken Bruce’s love of radio as a medium, he has seldom been tempted by the dubious delights of TV, and secondly his delight and enjoyment of working with real musicians – be they from the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra or one of the much missed Radio Orchestras.

The respect and affection in which he holds the members of the BBC Concert Orchestra is quite evident “*it’s a fine old institution Friday Night*” and believes the successful 57 year run of FNIMN is due to the “traditional”





content – music seldom heard elsewhere on the airwaves, (mores the pity!) It not only brings the sound of a live orchestra to the public but also the repertoire of the CO encompasses today’s performers who might not otherwise experience working with an orchestra. Of FNIMN he says “*It seems to me to be exactly the sort of thing the BBC ought to be doing more of*”

Quite! And for my part Ken Bruce is exactly the sort of person there should be more of at the BBC!!!!

Members will no doubt remember the article in Radio Times written by Michael Parkinson following the spectacular success of the MGM Film Music Prom last year and the public’s enthusiastic response. In this he questioned some aspects of current Radio2 music policy, pointing out that this station was once the natural home for this type of music. He also suggested making John Wilson head of Music. I would add to that short list Ken Bruce, for with his background, expertise, musical taste and personality who better?

© 2010 Dave Daniels.

*(This was written with the kind permission of Ken Bruce who said “Dave’s piece is very kind and generous and I couldn’t ask for a better review. Many thanks”)*

For my part I would say that once I started Ken’s book, I couldn’t put it down. It is very funny and brilliantly written. I don’t recommend anyone try to read it on the train! And like all good books, there is an unexpected twist in the final chapter.

*(Other Ed)*

## *The Annual General Meeting*

of this Club will be held at  
The FINCHLEY METHODIST CHURCH,  
on **SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**  
commencing at 6.30pm  
**SEE BACK COVER FOR DETAILS**

## *It's "Goodbye" to JAYNE ROSS of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Violins*

I joined The BBC Concert Orchestra in 1978 aged 21, after studying at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama with David Takeno.

After a successful audition with the C.O., I travelled to Portugal for a trial period with the band. Andy (Ross) was also on trial at the same time for the Bass Trombone job. We met, fell in love and married in 1980.

Our daughters Katie and Amy were born in 1984 and 1988. They have grown up with Mum and Dad working sometimes long hours, and have loved coming to some of our concerts, especially the Bolshoi Ballet in 1992, and latterly the Electric Proms and Proms in the Park.



I loved working at the Hippodrome, Golders Green, and since we left it hasn't felt quite the same. I also look back with fond memories to some of the places we have travelled to, Hong Kong, Europe and America. Bexhill was also a favourite. We would do a Friday Night, followed by Melodies for you on Sunday morning, happy days.

The Orchestra has always had great spirit, and even though people leave, and you hold them dear in your heart, others come along and you forge new friendships.

After 31 years, I'll miss everyone so much, it's hard to imagine life without the Concert Orchestra, but here goes!  
Love to you all,

© 2010 Jayne Ross.

## *And “Hello” to KATHARINE WOOD Cello No2*

I started the cello at the age of 5 after my Dad just went out one day and came back with a cello for me, and I loved it. There was a lot of music in our family because my Mum teaches the clarinet and I have two sisters who also play instruments. My older sister, Rebecca plays the oboe in the musical “Oliver” and my younger sister, Helena plays the violin in the English National Opera and we used to play a lot together when we were younger, but we do not have the time now.



I studied the cello at Junior Royal College and then studied with Ralph Kischbaum at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. Then in 1999 I went to Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York to study with Steven Doane.

I then came back to London and freelanced for a few years before becoming the number 3 cello in the Philharmonia Orchestra for 5 years, then in October 2009 I got the job in the BBC Concert Orchestra. I only managed to play with them for a month before I had my second baby, Benjamin.

Having been in the Philharmonia Orchestra for 5 years I am used to playing concertos and symphonies, so it is a real challenge to play completely different repertoire with the BBC. The orchestra play such a wide range of music from symphonic to pop, so it is a real change for me.

©2010 Katharine Wood.



# CLUB OUTINGS

## *Afternoon Out:*

### *1)Afternoons in Letchworth: Carvery lunch & Benslow Music recitals.'*

September 14<sup>th</sup> – yet another fine Monday – strange only the Bank Holiday has been wet since May – 33 members and guest Alex Walden, the Orchestra's Manager, sat down to the usual excellent Carvery lunch. The procession to Hitchin with the balloons caused a minor stir with the locals - after all they hadn't seen us for a while! It works as everybody arrived at Benslow in time for a stroll in the garden, whilst Alex was given a guided tour of the house.

Our concert performed by Sinfonia Ariella Ensemble, was well up to the usual standard, and everyone enjoyed the varied programme of works by Mozart. Special mention must go to John Whitfield for his outstanding performance on the bassoon.



Finally it was tea with homemade ginger cake. Another successful Afternoon Out!

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Our last for the year on yet another fine – if windy! – Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> November attracted over 30 members, Dinner was carved by Matthew, everyone went shopping and we only lost one balloon en route to Benslow. The afternoon recital was advertised as a solo pianist, not perhaps everyone's cup of tea, but what a treat we had!

Iain Farrington, a local Hitchin lad, sang in the Church Choir, studied piano & organ at Hitchin Boys School went on to Royal Academy of Music & Cambridge University where he was organ scholar. He was previously organ scholar at St George's Chapel Windsor where he played at many

Royal occasions. His solo performance on the Royal Albert Hall organ at the 2007 Prom had the *Independent* writing “he’s an authentic star & deserves a Prom all to himself”



So getting us into the swing of things with the Sailor’s Hornpipe, Slow Dance by Herbert Howells & Country Garden (how appropriate for the venue!) he introduced his own composition “Animal Parade”

This is a remarkable suite of 12 short pieces, each depicting a different species as diverse as Giraffes, Hippopotamus, Sparrows, Penguins & Alley cats. He concluded with his own arrangement of three songs by Gershwin. This was possibly the best concert of the year.

*By popular demand we will be resuming our “Afternoon Out” programme on **MONDAY MAY 10<sup>th</sup>**. To book or for further details ring Brian on 01462 892670. There is no price increase, it is still just £20.50 per head. Carvery lunch, concert & home made tea. Excellent value.*

### ***Visit to Globe Theatre, 12th October, 2009***

On 12th October, together with 18 other Supporters' Club members, we met outside the Globe Theatre for a tour. Once inside our Guide gave us a brief history of London in the fifteen hundreds and why the original Globe and Rose Theatres were built South of the Thames. She then took us into the Theatre itself. As we wandered around the auditorium it seemed much larger than we had imagined. Our Guide explained the meaning of decoration on the stage canopy which was supported by two oak trees.

Theatre in the fifteen and sixteen hundreds was a noisy smelly affair, so music and special effects played a large part in the performance. The upper classes sat in the galleries which we visited by climbing lots of wooden stairs. The tour lasted about 45 minutes after which we proceeded downstairs to a dressing demonstration. A slim young woman was chosen

as a model. Sitting next to her American husband we ascertained that they were on a week's holiday, so many photographs were taken. After seeing the many layers of clothes that were worn we were grateful not to be living in the 16th century.

It was the dream of Sam Wanamaker to recreate the Globe as a lasting memorial to Shakespeare but sadly he died before the Theatre was completed. But his family supported his project and their names, together with many other famous people, are carved in the paving stones beyond the special metal gates.

A great afternoon,

Reg and Pat Scott

### *Visit to Globe Theatre, 19th November 2009*

The sun shone on our group of twenty members visiting the Globe this month and we were fortunate to have Colin as our as guide. A former teacher, his extensive knowledge of history and literature enabled him to transport us back to Shakespeare's London, as well as giving an interesting account of the rebirth of the Globe and present day operations. Most English visitors are familiar with Sam Wanamaker's devotion to this project and have high regard for his daughter Zoe Wanamaker, who continues her father's work by leading the trust. However, Colin frequently accompanies groups from overseas and Zoe's name sometimes gets a blank response ...until he reveals that she is Madame Hooch in Harry Potter films ...and normal communication is restored amidst bursts of laughter!

Apart from a special show at Christmas, there are no productions during the winter months and, there being no professional actors present who might object, we were invited and encouraged to take pictures. Colin welcomed and responded to our questions. It was interesting to note that a second (indoor) theatre is well



on the way to completion next to the main theatre. The trust has many projects in hand, including a library and archive.



Parties of schoolchildren are able to spend a "Shakespeare Day" at the Globe and it was fun to stand in the Penny Stinkers' area and watch 7 - 11 year olds striking a Shakespeare pose, strutting on the stage and shouting lines in big Shakespearean voices! They will remember this when back in the classroom and getting to grips with The Bard.

We had been meaning to do the tour for ages, so many thanks to the club for arranging this. Well done.

Jeff Klepper & Brian Austin.



## FORTHCOMING VISITS

It is hoped to pay back-stage visits to  
SADLERS WELLS this year.

We have nothing booked as yet depending on your response.  
Please let Brian know if you are interested 01462 892670

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"Musical people are so tiresome they always  
want one to be perfectly dumb at the very moment  
one wishes to be absolutely deaf" Oscar Wilde.*

## Calling all BIG BAND fans

Join the BBC Big Band Club and get up to the  
minute details of all the BBC Big Band's  
appearances and recordings.

For full details contact the Honary Secretary:  
Sylvia Ritchie, 5 Osborne Terrace, Crail, Fife KY10 3RR  
Telephone 0133 345 0941  
Email: [bigbandclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bigbandclub@hotmail.co.uk)

Anyone who is interested in joining the Robert Farnon Society, or  
for a FREE sample of their Magazine "Journal into Melody"  
should contact the Secretary,  
RFS, Stone Gables, Upton Lane, Ilminster, Somerset, TA19 OPZ,  
or ring 01460 242226.

Don't forget to mention you are a member of the  
BBC CO Supporters Club!

# TICKETS

You may have noticed that the cost of membership to this club has not increased for 8 years. To enable us to maintain this happy state of affairs a few SAE's would be appreciated.

If you receive tickets which you are unable to use please phone Brian on 01462 892 670, and you will be given the name & address of another member who would be delighted to attend in your place.

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## RADLETT RAMBLINGS.

I had the great pleasure of being the after-dinner speaker recently at Radlett Rotary Club. After my usual 20 minutes of spelling out the wonders of the BBC Concert Orchestra, I decided to do a little investigating.

Of the 31 people present it transpired that 3 had actually been to a FNIMN, 14 regularly listened to FN and 6 had never heard of it! But at least I managed to sell 5 of the Orchestra's CDs, so all was not lost, *and* we gained a new member for the Club!

BAC.

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## It's Panto-time all year for Eunice.... (Oh yes it is!) with BACCES

Anyone who works closely with the Concert Orchestra will be familiar by now with the "Round Robin" e-mail that goes out towards the end of November, informing colleagues that Eunice will be Musical Director for the BA Cabin Crew Panto at the beginning of December (oh yes she will!) and won't be around the Orchestra that week! What many of the



Eunice

recipients will not be aware of is that the Panto is in progress throughout the year, and the first week of December is simply when it all comes together. During the Spring the Production Team gets together and chooses music for the main chorus numbers, then Eunice gets busy sourcing arrangements for a three-hour session donated by members of the LSO (including some of their regular Deps) to record backing tracks. (This association with the Cabin Crew goes back around 30 years when BA flew the LSO around on a World Tour!) The session is usually scheduled during the summer, working around any LSO Tours and holidays, and trying to find the optimum time to get the most volunteers to come into Angel Studio 3. A small band of 35 or so is usually the result, and after recording, a rough mix is taken back to Eunice's studio (a multi-purpose space originally called a garage, but which has never seen, nor is ever likely to see, a car!) where vocals are added and CDs produced for the cast to rehearse their routines. Rehearsals begin in September – two nights a week until the end of November – and a couple of All-Day rehearsals mid-October when (hopefully) all the cast request the days off, as for the rest of the time, half of them are out of the country! Angel Engineer Gary Thomas is a great friend of BACCES and sorts out the final mix for the theatre.

Eunice first became involved with the *British Airways Cabin Crew Entertainment Society* way back in 1989 whilst still working in the BBC Music Library and a Cabin Crew member came in to hire music for the LSO session. Over the ensuing years she was able to arrange some of the tracks for them, and when the previous Musical Director decided to give



up, she was asked to take over MD. Since 1998 she has not only MD-ed the show, but for many years now has conducted the LSO session.

BACCES has been in existence for some 38 years and over those years has raised over £1 million for various charities. They have a very high standard,

both of performance, and production team. Their lighting rig last year had more lights than any West End show bar one, and their contacts are able to get hold of equipment for around a tenth of the real cost, leaving them more dosh to be able to pass on to the charities! Everything is moved into the Beck Theatre (Hayes) on the Sunday of show week, and Opening Night is usually Tuesday!



Several colleagues have come to see the show over the years – not only Graham Bunce & Cath Welsby, but even Alan Boyd and Robin Stapleton on one occasion! Eunice is also greatly indebted to many of our CO players who have stepped in to fill gaps for the LSO session – Alasdair, Ileana, Kate M, Marcus and Helen K, former members Chris Green, Roger Groves, and Nigel Blomiley who since his retirement has also joined Eunice in the pit for the December run of nine or ten performances over six days!



If, like Eunice & Terry did originally, you envisage a village-hall-amateur-show type Panto – they invite you to come next year, and they think you'll be amazed. Be very amazed!



# THE CONCERT GOERS.

***FIBONACCI SEQUENCE, KINGS PLACE, SUNDAY OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup>***

Benjamin Hughes mentioned this to us at a Friday Night. It was another splendid concert by this group, which on this occasion included Charles Mutter as well as Benjamin from our Orchestra, with Julian Farrell (clarinet) Stephen Stirling (horn) Yuko Inoue (viola) and Kathron Sturrock at the piano.

The programme was Haydn: Sonata for violin & viola, Brahms: Clarinet trio, Graham Fitkin: “Sinew For Sextet” (London première), Dvorák: Four Romantic Pieces for Violin & Piano, (a brilliant performance by Charles) and Ernő Dohnányi: Sextet in C major.



Fibonacci Sequence is part of the London Chamber Music Society at Kings Place. Check out their website [www.kingsplace.co.uk](http://www.kingsplace.co.uk) for details of weekly concerts on Sundays at 6.30.

The Associate Leader of the Orchestra, Charles Mutter, has many strings to his bow and one of them includes the formation of “FLORIN” a chamber group who gave an exhilarating performance at Hampstead’s 17<sup>th</sup> Century Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel **on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October.**

Charles set the scene with an informative pre-show talk, and then the attentive audience were treated to a Dohnányi Serenade for String Trio in C Major, a Ravel Duo for violin & cello, and Schuberts “Trout” Quintet.



A really melodic two hours and there was more to come at the same venue on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7 pm when the programme was music by Britten, Mozart & Beethoven.

Visit [info@florinensemble.co.uk](mailto:info@florinensemble.co.uk) or ring 0945 052 7557 for details. Or just turn up on the night – you will be most welcome.

Nearest tube: Hampstead on the Edgware branch of the Northern Line, or bus No 268 & 46. The Chapel is situated between Willoughby Road & Pilgrims Lane.

B.A.C

### **Monday November 2nd: 7.45 Luton Library Theatre, St George's Square, Luton, LU1 2NG.**

Symphonia Academica, Leader Peter Bussereau and Conducted by David Beaman, performed the concerto for violin and oboe by Bach, followed by an arrangement of the same work by Richard Sisson. The Christmas concerto of Corelli, Mozart's Divertimento in D K136, Karl Jenkins' Palladio and Holst's St Paul's Suite.

### **Saturday November 14th:**

Symphonia Academica, leader Peter Bussereau, conductor David Beaman performed Vivaldi's Four Seasons by candlelight to a capacity audience in St Luke's church Legrave.

The work was split into its four parts with interpretations by members of Moorlands School under the direction of Richard Sisson, pianist of Kit & The Widow fame.



After “Spring” the children sang “Spring is Sprung” from Mendelssohn’s Spring Song. Next Kate Moore gave an interesting talk on the workings of the trumpet before playing Neruda's Concerto for trumpet

After “Summer” the children sang Gershwin’s “Summer Is Icumen In”, and after Autumn and Handel’s Music for the Royal Fireworks, “Diwali Nights”. The final act “Winter”, was followed appropriately by Waldteufel’s “Skater’s Waltz” and everyone singing “Let it Snow”

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November** saw Brian & I nearer home at Welwyn Garden City's Campus West Theatre for "*A Very Merry Christmas Music Hall*". This was an excellent afternoons' entertainment with Marilyn Hill-Smith, in the company of Adam Day, an excellent comic ventriloquist & perfect impersonator, especially of Max Wall!. Baritone Tony Leyton, the talented instrumentalist duo Andante and Andy Eastwood.

Andy is brilliant, with banjo, ukulele, & violin. He has George Formby off pat! He performed a very impressive rendition of Monti's Czardas, and the William Tell overture at a gallop!

Marilyn sang "O Holy Night", and "The Twelve days After Christmas" as well as a selection of her beloved Novello songs, which suit her voice so well. We all ended up singing carols. This show was on tour around the country for just 15 performances, so I hope some of you managed to catch it.



We heard that David & Norma Potter, on an outing to Felixstowe were surprised and delighted to see this advertised and were able to get seats, as it was better attended than at WGC. They too were very impressed with the show.

**Saturday November 28th: 8pm St Nicholas' Church Hall, Barton-le-Clay, MK45 4LA**

Despite atrocious weather conditions the Hall was packed to capacity for this concert when Quartet Camerata performed Vaughan-Williams' Quartet in G minor and Brahms' Quartet in A minor. As usual Leader Peter Bussereau informatively introduced each piece, which always adds interest to the works, which were faultlessly executed by this talented group.

To find out more about Symphonia Academica & Camerata Quartet or to join their mailing list, call 01582 882 159

## BARNET SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

### *Barnet Symphony Orchestra. Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December St John's, Friern Barnet.*

Martin Loveday (former CO Leader) conducted the Barnet Symphony Orchestra, Leader Philip Gibson (former CO Violinist) in an ambitious concert for a predominantly amateur Orchestra.



Glinka "Ruslan & Ludmilla" was followed by Mozart's Exsultate Jubilate K165 (*yes that is the correct spelling*) with Dublin born soprano Sarah Power, a rising star on the opera circuit, who recently graduated from the National Opera Studio, London

After the interval Anton Bruckner's Symphony No4 in E flat "Romantic" challenged the orchestras' skills and they passed with flying colours.

*(It was good to see several Club Members at this event, shows some of you read your magazine! Now how about the rest of you.....?)*

Their next concert on Sunday March 28th at 7.30, again at St John's will be Mussorgsky: Night on Bare Mountain, Tchaikovsky: Swan Lake and Prokofiev: Symphony Concerto. The guest soloist will be the brilliant cellist **Natalie Clein** winner of the Young Musician of the Year 1994. Admission to this concert is by ticket only, Contact Paul on 07990 510102 to book.

For further details or to join their mailing list, call 07990 510102 or alternatively email your details to: [info@barnetsymphony.org.uk](mailto:info@barnetsymphony.org.uk)

***Don't forget Club Members will receive a £2 discount on production of membership cards, so for £6 you get an excellent concert, a programme and interval refreshments.***



We are very pleased to announce that Marilyn has successfully auditioned for the part of Mother Superior in "The Sound Of Music" which will be on tour for six months starting in Belfast in February, Watch out for it! We will post dates & venues on our website when we have been advised.

## He gets everywhere!.....

*There has rarely been a Club magazine that doesn't mention Roderick Elms in some context or another – he's even on our CD! - and this edition is no exception. At the Nine Lessons & Carols Service at St Mary at Hitchin the choir sang the traditional Czech "Rocking Carol" with a flute accompaniment arranged by, you've guessed it, Rod. The choirmaster said he chose it "as it's such a lovely setting".*

**Associate Leader Charles Mutter is organising his own Loch Shiel Spring Festival between 9-15<sup>th</sup> May. Visit [www.shielfestival.com](http://www.shielfestival.com) for details. Only snag being it is in the far North West of Scotland. I mention it as somebody may be on holiday up there!**

# **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.**

Peter Bussereau has notified the following concerts,

## **Sunday 14 March 7.30pm. *Classics For Mothering Sunday***

University of Bedfordshire Theatre, Polhill Avenue, Bedford, MK41 9EA  
Symphonia Academica, conductor David Beaman, perform works from both sides of the Atlantic. Richard Strauss' serenely beautiful opening to his opera Capriccio and a chamber version of his witty tone poem Till Eulenspiegel. Aaron Copland's popular and evocative Appalachian Spring. Kurt Weill's most popular songs in arrangements by Richard Sisson and accompanied by the amazing dance students from the University of Bedfordshire and Luton's Sixth Form College.

## **Sunday 9 May 3pm St Luke's Church, Langley Way, Watford, WD17 3EG**

Peter Bussereau (violin) and Wing Yun Wu (piano) perform sonatas by Beethoven and Elgar together with salon pieces by Elgar and Wieniawski and Saint-Saens own arrangement of his Dance Macabre.

## **Saturday 5 June 7.30pm *Summer Serenade***

The Rufus Centre, Steppingley Road, Flitwick, MK45 1AH  
Symphonia Academica, conductor David Beaman, perform a programme of music to herald the holiday season.

## **Saturday 19 June 2010 8pm**

St Nicholas' Church Hall, Church Road, Barton-le-Clay, MK45 4LA  
Quartet Camerata performs a Nordic rarity, Rutavaara's first quartet, Smetana's powerful and melodic first quartet "From My Life" and Mozart's popular "Dissonance" quartet in this beautiful hall in the heart of rural Bedfordshire.

## **Saturday 17 July 7.30pm *Messiah***

St Mary's Church, Hemel Hempstead Road, Redbourn, AL3 7DU  
Symphonia Academica, conductor David Beaman, perform Handel's Messiah as part of the Redbourn 900 festival.

## **Wednesday 21 July 7.30pm**

Riverside Suite, Gypsy Lane, Luton, LU1 3JH.  
Peter Bussereau performs Beethoven's violin concerto with the Luton Festival Orchestra.

For further information or to book for any of the above,  
contact 01582 882159

## Rod Dunk Heartily Recommends This Unique Album!

Dear Friends,

I would like to take the opportunity to recommend this new Carol Jarvis CD to you. This CD has been made with the specific intention of raising both funds and awareness (particularly in young people) of the work Macmillan Cancer Care do for sufferers and their families and friends. Carol Jarvis is an extremely versatile Trombone player, who works across all styles of music from symphonic to rock. In 2004 aged 26, she was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma Cancer. Throughout six years of gruelling treatments she has continued her fight and her tenacity and spirit in continuing her busy career and refusing to give into the disease has been an inspiration to all who know her.



All of the musicians who took part in the CD, including myself and Carol, did so for no fees, in an effort to maximise the benefit from sales to Macmillan. Rolf Harris kindly embraced the project and produced a wonderful portrait of Carol to be used as the CD cover you see here. This was his gift to the project. The music is very much an easy “Jazz standard” style, with rhythm section and strings, horns and woodwinds, focusing on the Great American Songbook, with a few original compositions thrown in. I assure you, it is a really good listen. Many names you know well from the CO past and present and FNIMN appear on the recording!

Please order a copy and help the cause! If you buy direct from Divine Art Records ([www.divine-art.co.uk](http://www.divine-art.co.uk) or Tel: **01609 882062**) we maximise the money that goes to Macmillan, around £7 per unit as opposed to as little as £1.50 per unit if you buy from a record shop in the high street, who will take a huge cut first! Thank you for your support and please tell all your friends!

Best wishes to you all,

Rod

The 28th  
Annual General Meeting of this Club  
will be held on

**SATURDAY MARCH 27th 2010**

at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards Lane, Finchley N3  
commencing at 6.30pm. Doors open 6.00pm  
Please be seated by 6.20pm.  
*(please note change of venue from previous years)*

It is important that all Club Members attend, as there is a new Constitution and Committee to be ratified. This is your Club, come along and have your say, and find out more about its aims & functions and our future plans for the Members. Last year over 100 attended and we hope to see even more of you this year.

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After the preliminaries, there will be a short interval when refreshments will be available, followed by the usual Guest appearance. Anyone who has attended an AGM will know we have had a succession of well known personalities connected with the Orchestra – Members, Presenters & Conductors.

Who will it be this year?

You will have to come along on the night to find out!