

SOIRÉES MUSICALES

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*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 1983 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.

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Cover Picture

Keith Lockhart Principal Conductor ~ Photo Christian Steiner



ED LINES.

Chairman Brian says.....

First and foremost a big “Thank you” for all your cards, letters & messages received following my spell in hospital. I was sorry to have missed the Saturday Serenade as well as several FNIMN's. However it's now back to business.

I am sure most of you were delighted with the “Light Fantastic” week of programmes in June, celebrating the Light Music which many of us grew up with in the 50's & 60's. Congratulations to John Wilson, Gavin Sutherland and all concerned for a breath of fresh air! Our Orchestra was heavily involved – and so they should be as in my opinion this is the sort of thing at which they excel.

But why only *ONE* week of the year when we used to have the pleasure of this type of music every day of the week? All we have now on a regular basis is Friday Night is Music Night on Friday and Alan Titchmarsh on a Sunday.

As far as FNIMN is concerned there has been a concerted effort to minimise the content of light music in comparison to a few years ago, and as far as Alan Titchmarsh is concerned his programme started off as 2 hours but is now 1½ hours and several times a year replaced by other events.

I know the powers that be are bending over backwards to encourage younger listeners, but who's to say that youngsters wouldn't like light music if they were given an extended chance of hearing it?

Just a few of the programmes I'm sure would be popular if they were given a comeback include “Grand Hotel”, “Melody Hour”, “Gala Concert Hall”, “Marching & Waltzing” & “Glamorous Nights”

There are of course several others which many of you will remember – programmes with memorable tunes and diction which you can understand!

Here's hoping.....

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CHANGES IN THE ORCHESTRA & OTHER NEWS

Welcome back to: Lucy Hartley following maternity leave.

Trials are currently taking place for the No5, 1st Violin position and a Tutti Cello position. It is nice to see lots of new faces in the Orchestra throughout this process.

Next Generation in the violin section: - the continuing saga.

To recap. During 2008-9 virtually all eligible members of the violin sections became parents. Then round two started in 2010 and continues.....

Double congratulations to Chereene Allen – 1st violins (*where else!*) - on the safe arrival of her twin daughters Jasmine Willow & Scarlett Rose.



Twins

Chereene writes-

My twin girls Jasmine and Scarlett were born on the 26th May 2011 at 22.55 and 23.05. Jasmine entered the world head first and weighed 5lb 6oz and Scarlett feet first and needed a little help with forceps and weighed 5lb 1oz. They are identical which gave us a couple of tricky days trying to tell who was who. They are feeding and sleeping well and their big brother Harry has welcomed them into his home with no problems



And now we are 5.

Congratulations to Carolyn Hendry on the birth of her 8lb 2oz daughter Neve on Sunday February 20th. Carolyn is the Concerts & Planning Administrator, and co- author of the brilliant USA Tour article in the last edition of Soirées.

*But does she also play the violin
???????*



Meanwhile NEXT???????????????

News came through just too late for the last edition that Vernon & Anna Midgley, and Brian Kay's son & family, all living in Christchurch NZ, are safe & well following the earthquakes in February.

Introducing Anna Ritchie



Anna was offered a tutti position in the 2nd violins last summer but didn't start officially until December. Despite Jenny's gentle reminders, Anna missed our last magazine deadline, but we are pleased she can now introduce herself to us.

Anna was a pupil at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester for ten years and continued her studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. After finishing her degree she decided to take a break from the violin (it turned into six year break) and put her efforts into learning the viola and teaching. She taught mainly adult learners and directed and coached various amateur orchestras and ensembles. The violin, however, couldn't be completely forgotten

and it came back out of its case, was given a quick dusting and practice started in earnest once again.

Anna was soon appointed Leader of the Salomon Orchestra and seemed to fall very quickly into a busy freelance career, playing with orchestras such as Glyndebourne on Tour, the Philharmonia and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

(Now she has settled well into the Concert Orchestra and we are grateful for her contributions to the Magazine... Other Ed)



GOLDEN OLDIES

We were happy to raise our glasses to four Club members who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversaries on Friday June 17th David & Monica Gardner and Allan & Pamela Middleton.



DIAMOND DUO

And then it was glasses out again on 14th July when members John & Betty Evans celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary with a Mediterranean cruise.



NONAGENARIAN

A special Happy Birthday to member Lilian Evans as she celebrates her 95th Birthday on 26th September. Lilian still regularly attends FN concerts at the Mermaid, and never misses an event at Finchley.

Can any of our members beat that? Let's be hearing from you!

SPORTS DAY

WEDNESDAY MAY 25th

On a beautiful sunny Wednesday afternoon in mid-May, several members of the Concert Orchestra musicians and management took to Paddington Recreation Ground to participate in the first ever Concert Orchestra Sports Day. After a little stretching and changing into lycra, we launched straight



Matthew is leading the egg & spoon race.

into the egg & spoon race. Several heats and a triumphant Senior Producer later, we made our way through the relay race, the sack race, the three-legged race, the bean bag race and the wheelbarrow race - with a good few close finishes too!

The day was rounded off (so to speak) with a game of rounders, and finally everyone got involved! One shoulder injury later (no names mentioned but a sling was being used the following day!), we left the pitch triumphant and a little tired!

A big thank you to the BBC Concert Orchestra's Supporters Club without whose financial support we wouldn't have been able to have this day - thank you very much!

Cath Welsby (Orchestra Assistant)



Daniel is wheeling Matthew Elston.



**Left to Right (1) Tom Rumsby (2) Stephen Whibley (3) Alex Walden
(4) Anna Ritchie (5) Sarah Freestone (6) Matthew Lee (7) Rustom Pomeroy
(8) Caroline Bishop (9) Claire Barnes**

Claire Barnes just walloped the ball in rounders



It was with great regret that Jenny (flat on her back with a trapped nerve) was unable to attend this auspicious occasion. As it was such a success, it would be nice to have this as an annual event. Many thanks to Cath for the report and photos.

The Orchestra's trip to Abu Dhabi

by Anna Ritchie

The Abu Dhabi trip went ahead...eventually...despite being told only a few days before we were due to leave that the funding for our concert was non-existent – or something like that! Well, thanks to everyone in the office, the trip was back on track or so we thought! Disaster! Our plane seats had been cancelled. But yet again, behind the scenes, the office were working hard to ensure that we got there and, to our delight, it was announced that we would have our own plane! The downside – we had to travel from Luton! However, Luton turned out to be a fairly good place to fly from – we had our own private departure lounge with a bar that a few of the more experienced and canny players discovered sold (or perhaps even gave away) alcohol, even at 7.30am!!!

Despite the plane being some clapped out old Boeing 767, it took off successfully and the trip began. It didn't take long for the party at the rear of the plane to get going – Alex (the Orchestra's Manager) had managed to supply us with numerous bottles of wine for the journey! He naively suggested that we could save a few of the bottles for the return journey but was heckled and booed immediately! A trip to duty free would ensure that we were well stocked for the final leg!

The hotel was gorgeous! There were swimming pools, restaurants, bars, a little harbour (for posh boats) and even a man-made beach! And despite the rowdy plane journey, the time spent in the hotel seemed incredibly civilised - everyone appeared to be relaxing and thoroughly enjoying themselves. Oh, apart from the day of Alex's birthday – was he spotted floating on his back in the pool with a pint resting on his stomach? No, surely not!!! Must have been someone else!?!

With the excitement of being on tour, dare I say it, - it was easy to forget that we were actually there to work. However, rehearsals for the concert, entitled From Broadway to Hollywood, started in earnest on the first morning led by our Principal Conductor, Keith Lockhart. The programme included music from various shows such as Kiss me Kate, South Pacific and The King and I. We were joined by American singers, Marin Mazzie and Jason Danieley as well as the Abu Dhabi Community Choir. The venue was

incredible. The concert hall, set in the Emirates Palace Hotel looked as though it was made out of gold – it probably was! It even had a gold nugget machine! No, not a cigarette machine, an actual gold nugget machine! Impressive! The concert was a huge success, the choir rose to the occasion, the singers were great and the orchestra, as always, sounded fabulous.

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NEWS & UPDATES

from the Orchestra's Manager Andrew Connolly.

"I know the Club would like to sponsor a second CD with the Orchestra to follow on from *Showtime*. In order to make these discs we have to secure agreement from Radio 2 or Radio 3 that they will broadcast the recordings in advance of the CD being released. So if I can agree repertoire with them that the Club would like to support, we will be able to schedule the sessions with the Orchestra. With Watford Colosseum available to us again from October, if all goes well the recording could be early in 2012."

In the meantime I will ask Neil Varley to work with BBC and Dutton re repertoire ideas.

All best

Andrew

Andrew Connolly

**The Orchestra now has a Facebook page.
Visit: www.facebook.com/bbcconcertorchestra**

WATFORD COLOSSEUM

We were privileged to be invited to the pre-open day guest evening event on Wednesday 17th August, with a guided tour of the premises. What an eye-opener! The place was totally unrecognisable. But we won't spoil it for you, come along to the BBC CO's Gala Concert on 1st October and savour the transformation for yourselves. You won't be disappointed.

TICKETS ~ TICKETS ~ TICKETS

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. Please complete the proforma enclosed with this magazine and don't forget if you wish to receive tickets please send a few SAE's in.

Disturbia

Monday 31 October, 7.30pm
at Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall
BBC Concert Orchestra ~Keith Lockhart conductor

Programme includes:

Francis Poulenc La Voix Humaine - opera in 1 act
Krysztof Penderecki Polymorphia
Jonny Greenwood 48 Responses to Polymorphia
Aphex Twin Nannou arr. Patrick Nunn
Luciano Berio Visage

As an alluring alternative to mainstream Halloween entertainment, the BBC Concert Orchestra weaves scintillating tendrils of sound with an unforgettable psycho-dramatic musical tapestry. All tickets £12 available from southbankcentre.co.uk.

POSTBAG

A selection of letters received.

Dear Brian & Jenny,

Joyce & I so much enjoyed the January Evening at Finchley and were so pleased at the turnout.

On returning home I dug out my Marilyn Hill-Smith CD of Ivor Novello songs and had a wallow, and lent it to Joyce. Now we are listening to some original cast recordings of songs from his shows – one long stream of glorious melody - (eat your heart out Andrew Lloyd Webber!) Perhaps one day someone will write a show detailing Ivor's life and bring back all those lovely songs.

Thank you for all you do to make the Club such a success – we do appreciate it

Best wishes

Canon Graham Derriman & Joyce Clay

Morden.

Dear Brian

Thank you for the ticket to the concert at Queen Elizabeth Hall. I managed to get there and back successfully – for which I am proud (only the 5th time to London by myself in 82 years!) and the subsequent broadcast – with the magnificent playing – was wonderfully enjoyed.

I hope to see you at the next Lunch & Benslow

Best wishes, and thanks.

Lawford Smith

Bury St Edmunds.

(Well done Lawford! And you made it to Letchworth too. If only you could hear some of our younger, London based members on the subject of getting to South Bank concerts... ...! other Ed)

Dear Jenny

Please renew our membership. Brian & I thoroughly enjoy our trips to "The Mermaid" and look forward to seeing the tickets coming in the post.

Yours sincerely

Barbara Cronin

Nazeing Essex

Dear Brian & Jenny

Many thanks for organising an extremely enjoyable outing (Afternoon Out 13/6)

The Carvery was delicious and plentiful, Lawford's company delightful and the recital was brilliant.

We returned home via a dear relative in WGC after a lovely day

THANKS!

Linda & Roger Chartrand

London N11

(And thank you Linda for sending us the photo of Robin Ward)

Dear Jenny & Brian

We would especially like to thank you for sending us the tickets for the special concert celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the RSC, recorded on Saturday 4th June. We thoroughly enjoyed this marvellous performance and we feel we have never heard the Orchestra play better. The beautiful and varied music together with the impressive speeches from the top-quality actors created a simply superb evening for us, and we heard many similar comments as we made our way out at the end. Many thanks again.

We realise it may be some time before our turn for more tickets comes round again, but anyhow I am enclosing another SAE, just in case!

All good wishes

John & Audrey Day

Winchester.

Dear Brian

Can I thank you and Jenny for all you do for the Club. I do understand that tickets these days are somewhat scarce! Please note I shall be interested in going to future concerts at Watford Colosseum, as I will possibly be taking early retirement in the near future.

With best wishes

Alistair Wills

St Albans.

(Congratulations for escaping the rat-race. Hope you enjoy your retirement)

Dear Jenny & Brian,

At the risk of stirring up a hornets nest I feel I must comment on a couple of matters arising from the last Club magazine. Firstly, as you say, we have had no increase in subscriptions for many years despite the removal of the support we used to enjoy from the BBC. In my opinion a modest increase would now be justified, after all for just £10 (single, £15 joint) we get two issues of a well produced informative magazine, a free CD with another in prospect, plus a chance to obtain free tickets for FNIMN in addition to social events for those in the south (more on this anon). A higher subscription would also enable us to sponsor recordings or concerts perhaps on a more regular basis. What do other members think?

As you see I am one of the more far flung members and time was that we in the provinces got the chance to enjoy live concerts when the Orchestra visited the North of England. Those were the "good old days" and no more. Now, in my case to hear the Orchestra live I have to make a 150 mile journey and stay overnight in London. An expensive exercise then, which means I can only see them perhaps three or four times a year – but it is worth it! It is therefore disappointing and frankly more than a little irritating to read that some members, because they are unable to make their regular free visits to concerts for whatever reason feel the necessity to cancel their membership. As far as I am concerned the BBC Concert Orchestra's Supporters Club exists to do just that, to support and promote this unique group of musicians wherever and whatever they play!

In conclusion may I reiterate what I have felt for some time that if you don't like a programme then by all means complain but when you ENJOY something, then let "them" know, positive feedback counts more than constant moaning. Looking at things I like the light music concerts in June I think we just might be getting somewhere at last!

Yours sincerely
Dave Daniels
Doncaster.

Well what do our other members have to say on the subject? Let's be hearing from you!

Dear Brian

Firstly we must thank you and Jenny for the 50th Anniversary card you sent it was very kind of you and very much appreciated.

The Club evening you organised at Finchley was spectacular and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. Jenny did an excellent job representing you and as usual provided tea, coffee and biscuits. She must have worked very hard getting everything ready. Everyone we spoke to asked about you, so you were greatly missed.

Please convey our sincere thanks for the great effort the orchestra members made in providing us all with a great evening.

We do hope that we shall soon see you at Friday Night Is Music Night

Best wishes

Pam & Allan Middleton

Dear Brian & Jenny

We were sorry to hear that you have been in hospital Brian, and hope that by now you are feeling better.

We thoroughly enjoyed the concert at Finchley Methodist Church and as usual were grateful to the people who worked hard to provide us with refreshments.

Yours sincerely

Angela & Robert Hills

Wilmington.

Dear Brian and Jenny

First and foremost a big thank you to Brian for taking the time to call us last evening with the offer of tickets which unfortunately we could not take up.

Next the Soirees Musicales, which as always keeps us up to date with the comings and goings of the Orchestra and Club.

To both of you, for the time taken encouraging members and for the contact at the concerts a very big "thank you".

With every best wish

Diane and Susan Killick

Tonbridge

(I contacted Brian Kay who has family in Christchurch NZ for news of them and the Midgleys following the devastating earthquake in Feb)

Dear Jenny & Brian,

Good to hear from you. I was in NZ for a couple of weeks earlier in the year, conducting & broadcasting, but it was all work, except for two days in the middle when I went to Christchurch, for my Kiwi grandson's 5th birthday party. I spoke to Vernon whilst I was there and he asked to send his love to all.

My son & family in Christchurch are alive & well, thank God, and as he's a Civil servant in the City Dept will be busy for years to come. Vernon and Anna are also fine and safely away from the danger zone. I will be back in NZ in December as I have two "Messiah" performances to conduct in Auckland, and will stay on for Christmas on the Beach!

I still miss all those lovely Friday Nights and my good friends in the BBC CO and its wonderful Supporters Club – fond memories all which came to mind when I went to Alan Owen's funeral recently – it was he who gave the fledgling King's Singers our first break on radio, in Steve Race's "Invitation to Music" Happy days.

Thanks for keeping in touch and love to all, as ever.

Brian Kay

(Chairman Brian remembers that Alan Owen was the producer at the first FNIMN he went to in 1966, and was especially noted for his long black cigarette holder and his enthusiasm for finishing the programme with a community medley)

Dear Jenny,

I enclose cheque for subscription, I have been ill again with a heavy fall – old age, & will be unable to attend functions again. At least I listen to the Orchestra on R2 &3. Thanks for your efforts.

I am now 87 next month. We've just had our Diamond Wedding and a letter from the Queen. I first worked for the BBC in 1940-1, guarding Brookmans Park transmitters!

Basil Edmond

Potters Bar.

Dear Jenny

I must thank you for sending the Soirées Musicales over, I have read it from cover to cover, and I thoroughly enjoyed doing that. I did get pangs of nostalgia when I read all about the musical programmes you have on the radio over there, as over here I hardly have any radio programmes on, as they mostly consist of talk back programmes. Quite a few years ago we had the luxury of having the BBC Overseas Service broadcast and I was in heaven, as you can imagine! Somehow it got discontinued and I tried various avenues to get it restored, but didn't get anywhere. They broadcast it in Auckland and I believe in Palmerston North, but we can't get it here in Wellington.

I am so glad I have on tape & CD beautiful music which I can choose to suit my mood. I just have to be content with what I have. So you see the CD you sent me of the Concert Orchestra is really treasured.

I found the magazine to be really interesting to read indeed, and feel I am getting to be "friends" with all the members of the Orchestra through reading all the wonderful reports that folk submit. You sound to be a very happy band of musical folk and perhaps I might just be able to read more of the events that occupy the musicians as time goes by.

Lots of love

Betty Glover

Wellington NZ

(So often members moan and gripe about the content of FNIMN programmes, but as Betty discovered, you'd really miss it if, -God forbid- it ever disappeared from our airwaves!)

Dear Jenny

With great pleasure I am renewing my membership to the BBC Concert Orchestras Supporters Club. Although I am unable to travel to London to most of the concerts, I find it rewarding to join for the extremely interesting Magazine.

I do hope to attend the concert included in the Cheltenham jazz Festival, April 29th. Not far to travel!!!

Yours sincerely

Madeleine Burmingham

Stroud Glos.

Dear Brian

Thank you for arranging yet another successful lunch at the Broadway and visit to Benslow (June 13th)

Thank you also for the tickets to FNIMN at Hackney Empire, what dreadful weather!

It was no joke waiting in the pouring rain and I wish they had opened the Upper Circle earlier, such as when my part of the queue was moving past the door.....

However once inside, having dripped our way upstairs, we settled down to an excellent evening with those wonderful soloists and our favourite Orchestra. What a change from those scruffy individuals.... It's been said before.

My favourite item was the BBCCO playing the 1st movement of Mendelssohn's "Italian Symphony" It conjured up thoughts of a lovely June evening, which we didn't have in Hackney – not on that Friday anyway. I also enjoyed the Lesley Garrett FNIMN from the RFH Is the tide turning?

Best wishes

Susan Ruckes

Ilford

(One can but hope Susan, only hope!!)

Dear Jenny

With much regret we must inform you that we shall not be renewing our membership. We have spent many happy years with the Club and enjoyed some lovely music. However, unfortunately it has been finally established that I have a rare leg & foot problem which means standing & walking is most difficult and I am now unable to use public transport.

This has been a decision not taken lightly and would like to thank you both for all the effort & hard work you have put into the Club and for your help in the past.

Good luck for the future. Again thank you.

Yours sincerely Valerie & Richard Brighton

Rush Green

Dear Jenny & Brian

Firstly we want to thank you both for the sterling work you are doing in making the BBC Concert Orchestra's Supporters Club such a wonderful organisation.

We have had a lovely year so far, firstly the AGM which as always was a delightful evening particularly the quartet ensemble led by Marcus Broome. Next the tour of the Royal Albert Hall, and lovely tea. This particularly brought back memories for Sheila jiving in the gods to James Last. Then the tour of the Palace of Westminster. The guide we had was a delight with his lilting Scottish accent and his great sense of humour. Then the day outing with a terrific lunch, and music and tea at Benslow, where Robin Ward played the triple harp, a charming instrument, which neither of us had heard before. Finally the Summer Serenade at Finchley. Once again a very enjoyable evening when 15 musicians gave a medley of music including "Appalachian Spring" and "Quiet City"

While all the above were excellent the pièce de résistance was the BBC Concert Orchestra's tribute to the 50th Anniversary of the Royal Shakespeare Company. The Orchestra really excelled themselves, the music, the narrative and the atmosphere made a fantastic evening which will long be remembered.

What a lovely year! Roll on 12th September and the next "Afternoon Out" and of course, hopefully, many, many more Friday Night is Music Nights.

Sincerely

Sheila & Brian Sieff

Ilford.

Dear Madam

Thank you for your recent membership note. I am seriously considering whether to renew my membership as it seems to me the only benefit I get is your Magazine. There are never any Own Concerts by the Concert Orchestra for me to book up and all your outings and social gatherings are north of the Thames, making it difficult for me to attend.

If you can justify my continued membership then I will of course renew, until then, I remain,

Yours sincerely

Frank Turner

Farnham Surrey.

(Apart from occasional concerts at Fairfield Croydon, FNIMN concerts have nearly always been north of the Thames – in Camden & Hippodrome days. We also bemoan the fact that Own Promoted concerts are a thing of the past. However the Orchestra have visited Chichester, Cheltenham and Plymouth so far this year. There have been several “Discovering Music” recordings on the South Bank and more recently the Festival of Light Music at the Festival Hall in June and the Proms in July & August

Trips to places of interest – Globe Theatre, Palace of Westminster & Royal Albert Hall have all attracted members from Surrey, Sussex & Kent, and of course there is the added bonus of a second complimentary CD planned for the future, in addition to our magazine... other Ed)

PS Mr Turner did renew!

Dear Jenny

We will not be renewing our membership this year as the later evenings do not allow for us to get a connection train at London Bridge

Yours sincerely

Mr & Mrs Grundy

Crayford Kent

Mr Thrush of Chatham contacted to advise he would not be renewing his subscription, because the BBC had only sent him tickets for one concert, and that back in February. On questioning it transpired that he was only interested in organising a coach party, as he found it too expensive to travel or drive to London! I am sure members would be none too pleased if the Club's entire allocation of tickets were sent to one member!

(Ah well, can't win 'em all.... Other Ed)

Classical Gala.

Join the BBC Concert Orchestra as they celebrate their return to the newly-refurbished Watford Colosseum

on Saturday 1 October, 7.30pm

**Roderick Elms organ
Benjamin Hughes cello
Barry Wordsworth conductor**

On the five star classical programme; Elgar's hugely popular 'Enigma Variations', Debussy's *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune* and Roman Carnival by Berlioz. Roderick Elms takes on the magnificent Colosseum organ in Saint-Saëns's 'Organ Symphony', whilst the orchestra's Principal Cellist Benjamin Hughes performs Fauré's hauntingly beautiful *Elegy for Cello and Orchestra*.

Tickets: £15, £20, £25
For more information and to buy tickets visit
www.watfordcolosseum.co.uk

Reflections on “Light Fantastic”

by Dave Daniels.

You wait ages for a bus then three come all at once. That is the feeling after three days on the South Bank in June – almost too much to take in! As one who has written to the BBC as much as anyone I never expected to hear almost two weeks of wall to wall light music – an embarrassment of riches!

I do hope that regular Radio3 listeners enjoyed it as much as us, for the whole weekend was so enjoyable and thanks are due to all the BBC performing groups who played a vital part.

Sadly the weather spoiled for me what was for me the first event – “Brass On the Bridges”, the fanfare by Anne Dudley written especially for the event would have sounded amazing out on the terrace but the heavens opened so it had to be done indoors but was nevertheless very impressive.

Friday Night Is Music Night was great though personally I would have been happy to sacrifice Billy Mayerl for the full set of dances by Montague Phillips. However the singing of Charlotte Page and “Our Leslie” was wonderful, as was the Concert Orchestra as ever showing how light music should be played.

The following evening with John Wilson and the Symphony Orchestra was quite brilliant though the Edward German piece chosen was hardly “light”! As you would expect all the music was in 1st class performances and specially nice to hear music by Ernest Tomlinson, who John Wilson pointed out (in one of his many talks on offer throughout the weekend) *has done more than anyone to keep light music alive*. This concert was recorded for TV so we look forward to that.

The Central Band of the RAF gave an excellent concert the same afternoon in the QEH and I was so happy to hear Gilbert Vinter's “Hunters Moon”, so memorably recorded by Dennis Brain and the BBC CO in the 1950's.

Altogether a great weekend!

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THE AGM IN BRIEF

The Club's 29th Annual General Meeting was held on April 2nd at Finchley Methodist Church commencing at 7pm.

Chairman Brian welcomed the 69 members, 5 guests & 1 guide dog attending. Apologies had been received from a further 34.

Minutes of the 28th AGM, which had been circulated, were agreed correct and signed.

Committee members were re-elected as follows.

Chairman: Brian Crouch. *Treasurer:* Jim McLauchlan. *Minutes Secretary:* James Connelly. *Membership, Accounts & Soirées:* Jenny Thomas. *Constitution:* Jan Mentha. *Trips & Visits:* Douglas French. *Webmaster:* Stephen Greenhalgh: and *Orchestra's Representative:* Marcus Broome.

Chairman's Report.

Brian reported that the Club's allocation of tickets had been cut to 1/3. As a result various activities had been arranged to compensate. Visits had been arranged to the Globe Theatre, Royal Albert Hall and the Palace of Westminster and had all proved very popular. The Afternoon Out, Carvery lunch, Benslow Concert and tea had been well supported. Members had experienced problems with the Mermaid, with the later programme time and Blackfriars station closure. The refurbished Colosseum was due to reopen in the autumn when it was hoped the Club would receive 100 tickets.

Membership Report.

Jenny said that the membership stood at 85 single & 213 joint, a total of 511, based on the number of people who had paid their subscriptions during the Club's Financial year 1st Jan – 31st Dec. There were always a few who were not paid during the due month, particularly December, with Christmas & New Year postal disruption, which distorted the figures. Losses of 121, whilst not as high as previous years, were attributed to age & health, Watford refurbishment and transport difficulties due to the Blackfriars station closure, coupled with the later FN finish time. However 33 new members had been welcomed.

Treasurers Report.

Jim reported the Club account stood at £18,500 a sound financial position enabling the Club to stage further evening events for members.

Webmasters report.

Stephen said the website now one year old was attracting 500 visits a month. He was hoping to introduce a regular newsletter page and a feature to encourage younger members to the site. Although disappointed by the lack of contributions from members to date, he was planning on setting up an open page where members could perhaps start by listing their favourite pieces of music and the reasons for their choice.

Orchestral Report.

Marcus thanked members for their continuing support which was greatly appreciated by the Orchestra. They were looking forward to returning to Watford, enjoying a more permanent base and expected to work 100 days of their 220 working day year there.

Work wise the Orchestra had a heavy workload. A trip to Abu Dhabi, concerts, CD recordings, film music and the Proms, one of which would involve working with a choir of 400, another the “Comedy Prom” and Proms in the Park, and work with George Fenton on a score for a new wildlife series. All in addition to the FNIMNs

The new head of all BBC stations is Tim Davey, and his objective is still to provide high quality live music but at a reasonable cost - no increase in financial support and savings targets imposed over the next 5 years!

Brian thanked Marcus for his continued support of the Club, serving on the committee and particularly for his help arranging not only the Guest speaker at very short notice, but also the musical interlude for this AGM

The meeting closed at 7.45.

After a refreshment interval the Guest of the evening, Brian Grogan, the Orchestral Production Manager, was introduced by Marcus who explained that the intended guest – Anthony Cherry, the executive producer of FN, had been unable to attend due to family illness, but Brian was *much* more essential to the Orchestra!

Brian explained that his job is to set up the sound stage for the Orchestra. Having joined the team in 1991 in Hippodrome days where the Orchestra were based, had experienced many difficulties since its closure, with the Orchestra performing at many different venues and often at short notice. One week they could be in a theatre whilst the next a Cathedral. CD recording sessions were the most tricky in order to get the sound balance perfect.

Tours abroad had their own problems. Brian would travel ahead to meet the players and (hopefully!) their instruments on arrival. The Japan trip had been a challenge if not a nightmare with only 40 flight cases for 500 instruments, and it had taken over 3 hours to get 56 musicians and their instruments through Abu Dhabi customs in searing heat and only hours before their only concert!



On a lighter note in Greece Brian was following the lorry containing the instruments from the airport to the hotels when the driver stopped at a village square and attempted to sell his cargo! On another occasion the lorry caught fire, but fortunately the instruments were unharmed. Never a dull moment!

Chairman Brian thanked Brian for giving the enthralled audience an interesting glimpse of his role in getting the show, not so much on the road, as on the stage!.

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

AGM Quartet



Following on from this, four familiar faces from the Orchestra – Rebecca Turner, Marcus, Anna Ritchie and Josephine Abbott gave a very professional recital of popular waltzes and tangos.

All the guests were presented with suitable bottle bags, and members agreed it had been yet another successful and entertaining evening.

Anyone wanting a copy of the minutes, or to listen to the recording of the AGM should contact Brian on 01462 892670 or of course visit the website www.cosc.co.uk



CLUB OUTINGS

The first Afternoon Out was held on 14th March when 43 members sampled the gastronomic delights of the Broadway Hotel Carvery, followed by the usual convoy of balloon decorated cars for a mystery tour of the locality - due to roadworks on the regular route - to Benslow. Members enjoyed a stroll in the lovely gardens before the afternoon recital performed by Sirocco, a Saxophone Quartet, who performed works by J S Bach, Ligeti, Rivier, Piazzolla & George Gershwin. This was rounded off with Afternoon tea and home made cakes to ensure nobody was hungry on the way home!



Balloon procession



Members on the lawn

The second on 13th June attracted 31 members. Many of our regulars were away, so it was good to see some new faces round the tables. Ralph served the Carvery, whilst Mark did an excellent waiting job. Daria must be congratulated on achieving 31 sweets in 6 varieties in the 20 minutes we were eating our main course! The clouds dispersed as we made our usual balloon convoy to Benslow, so members were able to admire the gardens before settling down for the concert.

It was a welcome return visit for Robin Ward and his Triple Harps, and he gave an informative talk about his instruments. His recital featured the contrasting works of Alonso Muddara (1548) “Fantasie in the Manner of Ludovico”. Luis de Narvaez (c1500-50) “Milles Regrets” & “Guardame las Vacas”. Johann Sebastian Bach (1658-1750) “Suite BWV996”. A selection of Celtic Airs. Johann Baptiste Krumpholz (1742-1790) “Sonata for Harp”. And finally, Isaac Albéniz (1860-1909) “Leyenda”.

(visit Robin's website www.earlyharps.com for more information)

Photo Linda Chartrand



Robin Ward



Sirocco Quartet

The tea ladies did us proud with delicious strawberry & cream scones and home made fruit or ginger cakes, and so ended yet another very successful Afternoon Out.

The next one will be on Monday September 12th and will feature Emma Halnan, *Winner of the Wind Section Young Musician of the Year 2010*



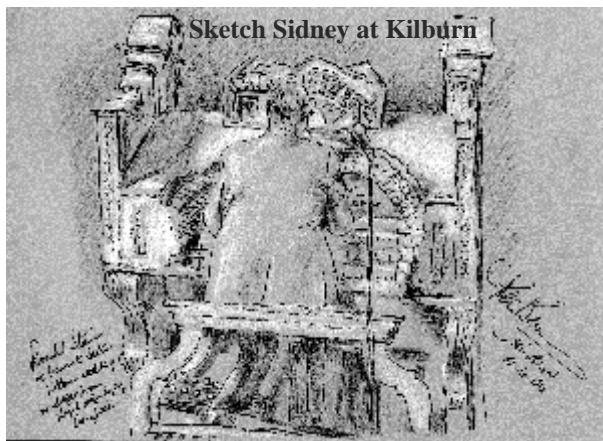
Family Connections.

By Ronald Stein

Beware the Glare of the Torch!

That was the warning passed onto singers who were subject to Sidney Torch's searching for perfection when artistes were performing for his recordings. He wasn't known as 'The Toscanini of Light Music' for nothing!

He was born at 27 Tottenham Court Road, in 1908, and then lived round the corner in Stephen Street, very near to my Father's property in Rathbone Place. I presume the original connection between the two was that my Mother was Sidney's cousin, and must have been introduced by Sidney's Mother to him. My Father went on to lend Sidney his tuxedo for Sidney's first musical engagement. There is a further connection as both my Father and Sidney's Father were from the Ukraine, Sidney's Father's original name was Torchinski, a very common name in the Ukraine I was told by the Leader of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Yuri Torchinski, a distant relative to Sidney. Sidney's Father, a trombone player, used to sit next to another trombonist, Gustav Holst, both playing in such places as the old Holborn Empire.



Sidney started his career as a pianist, then took up the cinema organ, seemingly by luck and professional dedication, finally opening all the Odeon cinemas with organs throughout London. One of the most famous ones was the mighty Wurlitzer that was in the Gaumont State, Kilburn, which I sketched

being played by another organist. He was also featured in the BBC Television series 'The People's Century' playing a cinema organ as part of the entertainment scene of the era.

Besides conducting and arranging music for the 'Friday Night is Music Night' programme Sidney also conducted the Queens Hall Light Orchestra, and I remember attending one recording session at Abbey Road Studios where they recorded the signature tune for the Archers Programme, 'Barwick Green' amongst others, and the cream of the instrumentalists of the time were there – Dennis Brain, with a copy of 'Autocar' on his music stand, and Marie Korchinska, the Queen of the Harpist's at the time. I sketched Sidney conducting that orchestra, as well as some of the musicians, and he was so pleased with my drawing he 'borrowed' it to make a reproduction on a set of cuff-links, but I never got the sketch back! I attach one of the series of musicians I sketched then to give a slight impression of the scene at the time.

He also collaborated with Jack Hylton, and with another Business Associate, Harry Alan Towers, founder of 'Towers of London' of which Sidney was his Music Director for various projects.

Amongst his many compositions one has achieved a special significance - "Off Beats Mood", which was chosen by Stanley Kubrick as the theme tune for the fictitious BBC news programme "The World Tonight" seen on board the spaceship Discovery. He was also shown playing the cinema organ on one of 'The People's Century' series as being typical of the type of entertainment at that time.

Archie Jacobs (clarinet) & Sidney Torch 1948 sketch



He also found time to join the Performing Rights Society, an organisation to protect and remunerate composers, etc. for their work. He was elected



Sidney at organ

firstly as a Full Member, then as Director of their General Council, and on retirement, to Honorary Member of the Council.

He was awarded the MBE in 1985

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Summer serenade, Saturday July 9th

It was a delight to welcome our President Richard Baker accompanied by his wife Margaret, and Vice President Nigel Blomiley, who together with well over 100 members attended the Club Concert at Finchley Methodist Church. One notable absentee was Chairman Brian, who was in hospital recovering from treatment for acute pancreatitis, which left Jenny to do the honours. Although the hospital had been in favour of discharging Brian that day, Jenny explained that whilst capable of doing several things at the same time, it was impossible to be in two places at once, so Brian had had to stay put!



This really was a spectacular evening with David McCallum (of the trumpet section) conducting 15 musicians in a superb selection of music. The CO line up included Peter Bussereau, Matthew Elston & Marcus Broome (violins) Ileana Ruhemann (flute) Victoria Walpole (Cor Anglais)

Kate Moore (trumpet) Michael Pearce (clarinet) Jane Sibley (bassoon) Josie Abbott (cello) & Andy Wood (double bass)

Also guests Peter Randall (cello) & Paul Bennett (viola) from Camerata Quartet, Lyn Cook & Kate Robinson (violinist friends of Kate & Matthew) and pianist Alison Berry.

The programme of Martinu's "*La Revue De Cuisine*", an arrangement of Debussy's "*Prelude A L'Après Midi D'un Faune*", Copland's "*Quiet City*" & "*Appalachian Spring*" was well received by the enthusiastic audience.



Special thanks were extended to David, members of the CO and the other musicians who had spent long hours rehearsing, and a grateful “thank you” to Stephen, Leo, Pamela, Shirley & Bernard for their invaluable help with the refreshments and the washing up!



The performance

As Club Treasurer, Jim McLauchlan had arranged the Church letting at no charge to the Club, a retiring collection was made for Church Funds which netted £239. Thank you to everyone for contributing.

Jenny

WE NOW HAVE A WEBSITE!!

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

VISIT IT & CONTRIBUTE TO IT.

CLUB NIGHT AT FINCHLEY ON 9th JULY 2011

A member's perspective:

On a pleasant summer Saturday evening many, many members came to the Methodist Church to enjoy the privilege of hearing ten members of the Orchestra along with five “extras”. All had given up their time to entertain us.

David McCallum conducted the group and introduced each musical item.

They played many pieces for us, chosen for the instruments on offer. The highlight was Appalachian Spring in its original form.

We have been blessed with members of the Orchestra playing for us, but never with so many fine players.

Jenny had to wear many hats, playing hostess and organizing the evening as Brian was still in hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery following his lengthy stay (nowadays), in hospital. In fact he had to stay one more day so that Jenny could oversee the concert for our enjoyment.



Thank you to all who helped and played. It was delightful and very much appreciated.

David & Monica Gardner
BBC Concert Orchestra addicts

Backstage at The Royal Albert Hall

by Valerie Connelly

On 26th May a group of members of BBC Concert Orchestra's Supporters Club visited The Royal Albert Hall for a conducted tour. We were met by our delightful guide Nia and given some background information to start.

The land we were told was purchased with a grant from the profits generated from "The Great Exhibition" and the Hall built in 1871. The building has five floors from ground level and five floors below. Below ground there is car parking, storage, admin offices and staff rooms and restaurants.

Debenture seats were originally sold for £5 and boxes for £100 each. These boxes now change hands for in excess of £100,000.00, and seats remain in families for generations and can change hands for as much as £40K each.

Sound quality had been an issue in the early days due to echoes from the high dome and a number of solutions were attempted through the years without success. However in 1969 a number of acoustic saucers were suspended from the ceiling and the problem was solved at last.

We were very fortunate to be shown around the main hall where Eric Clapton was rehearsing a concert for that night. We stayed and listened to three numbers and he was as good as ever. The rehearsal included his trademark mist around the stage and the whole thing was very effective.

On the occasions when pop concerts are staged the area where promenaders normally stand is filled with seats at other events such as opera or circus the area is utilised by the performers. It makes the venue extremely flexible and suitable for all entertainments and events

We then visited The Royal Box and the private room where Royalty and guests retire at the interval. There is also a royal staircase which was especially constructed at the correct width to accommodate the ladies dresses of the time. No one is allowed to take food or drink into The Royal Box, and special velvet covered chairs are brought out of storage for Royalty and their guests.

All of the beautiful wrought iron staircases in the building have “A” for Albert built into the iron work of the magnificent banisters. Victoria wanted her subjects to remember her beloved Albert.

The tour was delightful and interesting. We ended the visit with tea and biscuits in the best café as the normal refreshment area was occupied with another group. Yet another bonus as we sipped our tea under the magnificent crystal chandeliers!

CD REVIEWS

By Dave Daniels.



In the last Soirées I mentioned that Vol 2 of the music of John Foulds (Dutton CDLX7260) had not been reviewed in “Gramophone” magazine, well now it has and as I suggested they were as enthusiastic as they were for Vol 1 “*Sparkling performances of works by a true individual, all new to disc*” is how they describe it and with the BBCCO in sparkling form under Ronald Corp “*this is a disc that has you attracted from one track to the next*” Couldn't have put it better myself! This is top quality light music.

So to another batch of rarities from the Dutton label. Members will no doubt be aware that the CO joined with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales for a rare performance of “A Gothic Symphony” by Havergal Brian at this years Proms which all the critics seemed to agree was a once in a lifetime experience. Well with 1000 performers Dutton have NOT recorded this (!), but have recorded on a 2 disc set (for the price of 1) his Concerto for Cello and Orchestra with Martin Yates and Raphael Wallfisch (Dutton CDLX7263) This was written in 1964 between his 21st & 22nd Symphonies and is quite unlike his other symphonic works the very light scoring giving it an almost chamber music feel, and is most approachable. It is coupled with 2 other works for cello and orchestra – York Bowen's “Rhapsody” which is really a concerto in 3 sections but played without a break. This was first performed by the famous cellist Beatrice Hamilton in 1927 and then

played again in 1937 by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Boult, but by this time the avante garde music was all the rage, so sadly the piece was forgotten, which is a shame as it is very much in the English Pastoral tradition. A Concert Suite for Cello and Orchestra by Alan Bush completes this set. Again essentially a concerto in 4 movements it was first performed at the Proms in 1956 and takes its inspiration from music of the 17th Century and whilst using full orchestra Bush scores in chamber music style. Well worth a listen! In the absence of Watford Colosseum these discs were recorded in St Jude on the Hill Hampstead, as was our next offering.

Gordon Jacob – “The complete music for Viola and Orchestra”, This time with our own Stephen Bell conducting the CO and Helen Callus as the distinguished soloist. Whilst hailing originally from Kent, Helen is now Professor of Viola at the University of California. This disc (DUT TON CDLX7258) contains all pieces receiving their first recording - the Viola Concerto No1 from 1925, a very enjoyable Concert piece for Viola and Orchestra in 9 short movements, 3 pieces for Viola and Orchestra written in the 1930's for Bernard Shore (who I believe played for Beecham) these have been specially arranged for this session by Graham Parlett, and finally, from 1979 the 2nd Viola Concerto with String orchestra. All unjustly neglected music in idiomatic performances.

The famous Abbey Road studios are the venue for DUTTON CDLX7266 and some very enjoyable film music from Doreen Carwithen in enjoyable performances by the CO under the ever vibrant baton of Gavin Sutherland. Again all World premiere recordings though with my “other hat” as a railway enthusiast at least one piece was familiar namely “East Anglian Holiday”, a British transport film from 1954 showing the delights of Suffolk and Norfolk naturally travelling by train! Doreen Carwithen wrote lots of attractive film scores, over 34, between 1947-1955 and many chamber and Orchestral works but was never widely performed due, one suspects at that time, to her gender. A splendid overture opens the programme “The Men of Sherwood Forest” from 1954 and then “Boys in Brown” a suite from the 1949 film arranged like everything else on the disc by the indefatigable Philip Lane. Other Suites appear such as “Mantrap” (1953) and from 1952 “Travel Royal” commissioned by the then BOAC to show overseas tourists the delights of Britain! All in all a delightful and rewarding recording.

Now I have expressed my view many times what a great debt all lovers of British music owe to the Dutton record label, for over recent years they have unearthed a veritable treasure trove of neglected music for our pleasure. However I notice they are now spreading their wings in a new international series of recordings featuring neglected composers from further afield. The one we are concerned with featuring the BBC CO conducted this time by Martyn Brabbins (hero of the “Gothic Symphony” prom mentioned earlier) is of the music of TOIVO KUULA. Yes I know – *who???*. I had never heard of him either! Nevertheless Dutton CDLX7272 contains some of his orchestral music and songs, the latter with the excellent soprano Susan Gritton. The Finnish composer Toivo Kuula was born in 1883 and died (murdered!) in 1918, yet in his short life produced, on the evidence of this disc, some very attractive music and would no doubt have gone on to greater things had he lived. As you might expect with Dutton, this music is receiving for the most part first recordings, and there are to be found influences of Sibelius here and also, particularly in the songs, Eduard Grieg. Some of this music would find a welcoming home in “traditional” Friday Night programme. I enjoyed it very much.

© 2011 Dave Daniels

(Many thanks Dave for your informative and extremely interesting articles, which I am sure encourage many Club members to support the CO by buying their CDs and enjoying music which might otherwise not reach them... Other Ed)

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 together with their interesting magazine.

For full details contact the Honorary Secretary:

Sylvia Ritchie,

5 Osborne Terrace, Crail, Fife KY10 3RR

Telephone 0133 345 0941

THE CONCERT GOERS.

Symphonia Academica

After the “Afternoon Out” on 14th March, it was a quick dash over to Luton Library Theatre for a concert by Symphonia Academica. The first half of the performance was “The Mukamba Tree” written and conducted by Richard Sisson (the pianist of “Kit & The Widow” duo), narrated by Petroc Trelawny, and also featured musicians and a chorus from Bedford University.

The Mukamba Tree is a five movement cantata inspired by a book by Jane Farquar detailing her life in Zimbabwe. It was first performed in the 2010 Bulawayo Music Festival.

During the interval Petroc, Richard (and Jenny!) did a bucket collection in aid of the Bulawayo Music Festival



The contrasting second half - Mahler's Symphony No4 - was conducted by David Beaman, Leader Peter Bussereau, and featured soprano Christine Bunning. A truly excellent concert by all concerned.

REGAL CLASSICS.

Flitwick Festival, Saturday 30th July at the Rufus Centre.

The final concert of the current University of Bedford Concert series was a musical celebration of recent Royal events – the marriages of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Zara Phillips and Mark Tindall and Prince Philip's 90th Birthday.

David Beaman conducted Peter Bussereau and Marcus Broome (violins) Katherine O'Kane (cello) and Stacey-Ann Miller (double Bass) all from the CO. Nicola Smedley (flute) Paul Bennett (viola) John Stack (clarinet) Andrew Watson (bassoon) & Paul Cott (horn).

The programme opened with George Frideric Handel's "Arrival of the Queen of Sheba" followed by a brilliant performance of Vivaldi's Flute Concerto in D "The Goldfinch" with soloist Nicola Smedley.



Next came four songs by Ludwig van Beethoven, Francis Poulenc, and Seymour Barab, featuring soprano Christine Bunning. A Schoenberg arrangement of Johann Strauss' stirring "Emperor Waltz", and a Hasenohrl arrangement of Richard Strauss' "*Till Eulenspiegel einmal anders*", and the haunting "Pavane" of Gabriel Faure.

Richard Sisson, who frequently contributes to the Symphonia concerts, conducted his own arrangement of Kurt Weill songs with Christine Bunning, and to conclude the flags were out and waving during John Rand's "Britannia Fandasia" and the capacity audience enthusiastically joined in "Rule Britannia" twice!



Their next concert will be on **MONDAY NOVEMBER 7th** when they will be performing for Luton Music Club at Luton Library Theatre at 7.45pm .

The programme will be Bach's Cantata "*Ich habe Genug*" and his Concerto for two violins, Richard Sisson's Concerto for two violins and an arrangement of Songs by Bridge by conductor David Beaman, with baritone Roderick Williams.

CAMERATA QUARTET.

CLASSICS FOR PEACE

St Lukes, Watford 28th May

Unfortunately, due to a heavy cold & hacking cough, we had to give this a miss. However the Club was represented-

I went along to St Lukes Church in Watford to hear Peter Bussereau & Wing Yun Wu perform music for violin & piano. It was a free concert for BBC CO Supporters Club members, but sadly there were not all that many in the audience! However we were treated to some excellent music, including “Danse Macabre” by Saint Saens, Beethoven's Sonata Op30 No 3, Prokofiev's Flute Sonata (arranged for violin) and some lesser known works by Faure, Poulenc and Marcello.

The proceeds from this concert went to the Peace Hospice in Watford.

Alistair Wills

St Albans

This concert was advertised in the last edition of Soirées Musicales. Where were you all?

A SUMMER CELEBRATION

June 11th, Barton Le Clay.

An unusual but nevertheless enjoyable concert featuring little known or seldom heard works by four very different composers. Opening with an atmospheric work by the minimalistic composer Philip Glass (1937-) A short Quartet written in 1983 as four interludes for a staging of Samuel Beckett's prose poem “Company”

This was followed by the powerful yet melodious Quartet in D by Schoenberg.

The challenging 6th Quartet by Shostakovich, written in 1956, and the Divertimenti, three short movements for string quartet written by Benjamin Britten in 1933 whilst still a scholar at RCM, and originally conceived as portraying his school days, concluded this concert.

For further details of Symphonia Academica and Camerata Quartet, phone 01582 882159, or visit www.symphonia-academica.co.uk.

**BARNET SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.
SUNDAY MARCH 27th St JOHN'S CHURCH, FRIERN BARNET,**

Their programme of Berlioz: Les Nuits d'été and Mahler's Symphony No4, featured a welcome return of the young Dublin born soprano, Sarah Power.



Sarah is a graduate of the National Opera Studio and Guildhall Opera Course London, where she studied with Susan McCulloch, having previously completed a post graduate Diploma at RNCM under the tutelage of Susan Roper, and a Degree and Masters in Music Performance at the DIT Conservatory, Dublin, where she studied with Anne-Marie Sullivan.

This talented 66 piece orchestra again contained a smattering of familiar and former CO faces - Martin Loveday conducting, Philip Gibson Leader, Peter Beament, Clive Hobday, Michael Jeans, and would you believe they had even dug Bob Cooper out of retirement too! It was great to see him again, and he sent best wishes to all.

Their next concerts will be on Sunday November 20th featuring Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No.1 and Borodin's Symphony No. 2.

And Sunday January 29th when Natalie Clein will make a welcome return visit to play the Schumann Cello Concerto.

Both concerts will be held at St Johns Church, Friern Barnet, London N11 3EQ, Starting at 7.30pm Doors open 7pm.

Don't forget Club members can claim a £2 reduction on the ticket price on production of membership cards. Programme & interval refreshments are included.

**The last “Afternoon Out” for this year will be on
Monday, September 12th**

Further details from Brian on 01462 892670

ORCHESTRA MEMBERS

FORTHCOMING CONCERTS

Charles Mutter has advised us of the following Florin Ensemble concerts for the next quarter. See www.florinensemble.co.uk for full details.

22nd September, Music in the Village, Walthamstow - includes the sublime Schubert C Major string quintet -
www.walthamsoft.com/villagemusic/org

16th October, The Forge, Camden - 11am "coffee concert" lasting about an hour - www.forgevenue.org

25th November, Hoylake Chamber Concert Series -
www.chamberconcert.co.uk

26th November, Abbotsholme Arts Society -
www.abbotsholmeartssociety.co.uk

15th January, Minehead & West Somerset Arts Society -
www.mineheadartssociety.org.uk

Also, Katharine O'Kane and I will be performing double concertos (violin and cello) by Delius and Saint-Saëns with the St. Giles Orchestra in Oxford on January 21st 2012
www.stgilesorchestra.org.uk/nextconcerts.htm

Regular FN conductor Richard Balcombe will be missing for a while as he is the Musical Supervisor for the national tour of Top Hat (premiere stage production of the Fred Astaire film) which opens in August and runs till December. Watch out for it in your area.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Our front cover features Keith Lockhart, the BBC CO Principal Conductor. You can see him in action at the following events:

Proms in the Park Saturday 10 September

Hyde Park, London Gates open 4pm entertainment from 5.30pm

Join the Last Night celebrations in Hyde Park with presenter Sir Terry Wogan and a host of internationally acclaimed musical stars. On the bill: Katherine Jenkins, Russell Watson and Josh Groban and special guests Westlife, accompanied by Proms in the Park favourites the BBC Concert Orchestra under their Principal Conductor Keith Lockhart.

And celebrated pianist Lang Lang makes a special appearance on the Hyde Park stage before hot-footing it to appear at the Last Night in the Royal Albert Hall - on the same night!

Tickets: £32.50

For more information and to buy tickets visit bbc.co.uk/proms.

Street Scene The Musical.

Music by Kurt Weill with conductor Keith Lockhart

15 - 20 September, Young Vic, London

25 - 26 September, Theater an der Wein, Vienna

Share 24 hours in the life of a 1940's New York City tenement on a hot summer's day with an eighty-strong cast, full choir - and the BBC Concert Orchestra. A glorious blend of Broadway and American opera, Kurt Weill's music features show tunes, operatic arias, jazz, the blues and spirituals.

Tickets ~ Young Vic: £10 - £29.50 available from the Box Office on Tel: 020 7922 2922

or at www.youngvic.org

Friday Night is Music Night

Friday 23 September, 8pm Mermaid Theatre