

SOIRÉES MUSICALES

Autumn 2010 ~ Edition 42

'The Brewery Tappers'
from the 30th August Prom They are
Alasdair Malloy, Stephen Whibley, Peter Beament,
Steve Henderson, Tim Barry and Tim Gunnell.



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

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CONTRIBUTE TO IT.**

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



Another six months have flown past since the last edition of Soirées Musicales and for the early part of this period I found myself in hospital for the first time in well over half a century. I was sorry to miss the AGM, and meeting many of you, so this gives me a good opportunity to thank you for all your kind messages and good wishes.

I was especially bucked up by the card I received which was signed by all the members of the Orchestra. I can tell you that the power of music is far more beneficial than the power of Paracetamol!

I hope some of you managed to see or hear the Orchestra in their recent Proms and of course they will soon be off to the USA for three weeks. It's nice to be wanted!

We wish them well in their travels and look forward to illustrated reports in the next edition of this Magazine.

CHANGES IN THE ORCHESTRA & OTHER NEWS.

Welcome to:- Rustom Pomeroy who will be joining the 2nd Violin section in September.

But it's "Goodbye" to Bob Cooper of the 1st violins who retired on 16th July after 35 years with the Orchestra.

Next Generation in the violin section: - continuing.

In December 2007 David Beaman became a Father, since which time virtually all eligible members of the violin sections have become parents.

David started the cycle again with the birth of Alice Ruth on 20th February.

Then Marcus followed with Eliane Leonora, a sister to Galia, born at 02.39 on September 6th weighing 2.75Kg (or 8lbs 4oz in old money!)



“The Beaman Trio!”



“The Broome Duo”

It was another 'marathon day' for Marcus after rehearsing and performing in one of the longest proms ever. He got home and left almost immediately for the hospital with Gabriela. Perfect timing if a little tiring! Her middle name was inspired by the performance of Beethoven's “Leonora Overture” at the proms on the previous afternoon!

Lucy Hartley will be next - due in October.

And we have just learned that Claire Mullin wife of Dan (2nd violins, where else?) is expecting their second child in early March. And so it goes on.....

Who will follow? Will there be a “Quartet?” Watch this space!

The London Marathon

Violinist MARCUS BROOME is not only the Orchestra's representative on our Committee, but a keen sportsman.

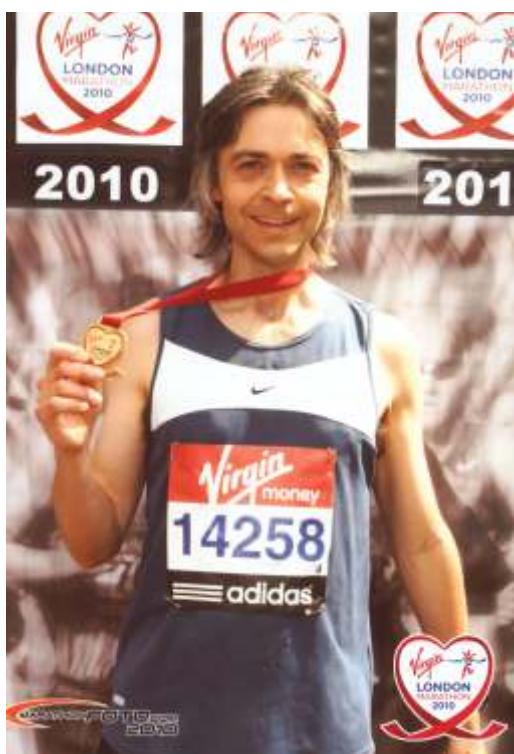
The London Marathon held this year on 25th April attracted no less than 36,550 entrants, and Marcus finished in a commendable 6,301 position overall, (Men's finish position 5,339 out of 24,423) in 3 hours 40 minutes & 51 seconds.

Well done Marcus. That is quite an achievement. No wonder you look so happy!

Marcus writes:-

I competed in the London Marathon to help raise money for two charities that were important for my late mother. I last ran in this event in 2003 so I was slightly nervous about attempting this distance again, considering that there was limited time to train, what with the busy work schedule and a busy toddler at home!

However the day came along and I lined up at the start in Greenwich together with 36,550 other competitors.



To start with the weather was not good, it was pouring with rain, but after about half an hour the sun came out and I was glad that it had not been too hot to begin with! I tried my best to keep up an even pace and also to steer clear of the many runners in novelty costumes! It was great to see 2 Club members cheering me on when I reached mile 24 on the embankment and I staggered across the line in a finishing time of 3.40.51- nearly a whole minute quicker than I had run back in 2003!!

I would like to say a heartfelt thanks to my colleagues and Club members who sponsored my efforts- I raised £250 for Parkinson's UK, £250 for Save the Children and £50 for WaterAid. The competition to win a bottle of champagne by guessing my finish time was won by Stacey from the bass section of the orchestra - congratulations to her!

©2010 Marcus Broome

*Our last cover pic attracted a lot of interest,
“anyone we know?”
being the most asked question.
Well no, sorry, it was in fact a
German postage stamp!*



The Orchestra now has a
Facebook page, Visit:
[www.facebook.com/bbccconcertorchestra.](http://www.facebook.com/bbccconcertorchestra)

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

New Face in the Orchestra.

Rustom Pomeroy

Rustom began his musical studies aged three, with Mary Trewin and the Suzuki Method. He won music scholarships to Queen's College and Wells' Cathedral School, then studied for five years at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London with Prof. Yfrah Neaman and Krzysztof Smietana.

His chamber music performances have included Purcell Room and Wigmore Hall debuts, concerts for the BBC Schnittke and City of London Festivals, and performing for HM The Queen on the occasion of her Golden Jubilee.



His electric quartet 'Eclipse' supported Mcfly on their Arena Tour, playing to 20,000 people at Wembley Arena and Butlins, Minehead. They have performed at the Royal Albert Hall three times for Banardos Charity. In 2008, 'Eclipse' was invited to headline at the Cathcart Spring Proms at the Albert Hall, being backed by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Rustom has performed with pop artists including Dizzee Rascal, Seal, Goldfrapp, Duffy, Mcfly, Lucie Silvas, Adele, Vampire Weekend, Razorlight, Take That, Spice Girls, Rihanna, The Noisettes, Bat for Lashes, Charlotte Church and Katie Melua.

Rustom also performed at the Eurovision Song Contest 2009 in Moscow with Andrew Lloyd Webber and Jade Ewen in front of an estimated TV audience of 150 million. Rustom has performed the Delius, Mendelssohn, Bruch, Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Barber and Mozart concerti with orchestras in the South West of England.

In his spare time, Rustom enjoys writing music, running, tennis, cinema and travel – recent highlights include floating in the Dead Sea, a roadtrip from LA to San Fran, and a skydive over Rio. Rustom is very much looking forward to start working with such an exciting band as the BBC Concert Orchestra.

© 2010 Rustom Pomeroy

New backs to the Audience!

The BBC Concert Orchestra announce new conductors

Hot on the heels of a resounding performance at the BBC Proms *Sondheim at 80* Celebration on Saturday evening, the BBC Concert Orchestra is delighted to announce the signing of **Keith Lockhart** as Principal Conductor and **Johannes Wildner** as Principal Guest Conductor. The announcement signals the beginning of a new era for the BBC's most versatile performing group, renowned for their dynamism in classical, jazz and light music.

Keith Lockhart makes his BBC Proms debut with the BBC CO on Monday 30 August leading an evening of English classics and US pizzazz, featuring music by Bernstein, Walton and Gershwin, with audience participation on a giant scale in 'You Must Remember This: A Cinematic Singalong'.

Keith joins the BBC Concert Orchestra whilst continuing his successful work with the celebrated Boston Pops, where he has been Conductor since 1994, bringing music to a wide audience throughout New England and across America. Previous positions include Music Director for the Utah Symphony Orchestra from 1998 to last year. His formidable experience in broad repertoire, allied with his love of all things British make him perfectly positioned to lead the BBC Concert Orchestra through to its 60th year in 2012 and beyond.

Having already conducted the BBC CO on a number of acclaimed recordings, broadcasts and concerts over the past two seasons, Keith says:

"It has been a joy to make music with the BBC Concert Orchestra and I am honoured to be embarking on a more formal relationship with this virtuosic and versatile group of musicians. The unique variety of the BBC Concert Orchestra's concert offerings in the UK and their unrivalled role on BBC TV and Radio, together with their ambitious touring plans, provide an immense opportunity for audience connection at the most meaningful level. I'm excited to get started, and look forward to our upcoming Proms concert, as well as our United States tour later in the fall."

The BBC CO's General Manager, Andrew Connolly, says:

"In securing Keith Lockhart as the BBC Concert Orchestra's seventh Principal Conductor we welcome a musician who embodies the international appeal and ambition of the Concert Orchestra – 2010"

style! From its roots in the British Light Music tradition the BBC CO now embraces music awesomely broad in range and style. Under Keith Lockhart's direction we look forward to making evermore musical discoveries through a shared, open-minded approach to stretching the limits of orchestral possibilities."

Alongside Keith Lockhart, the BBC Concert Orchestra has appointed **Johannes Wildner** as Principal Guest Conductor. He joins the orchestra after holding positions as Chief Conductor of the Prague State Opera, First Permanent Conductor of the Leipzig Opera and General Music Director of the New Philharmonic Orchestra of Westphalia in Germany, from 1997-2007. At the beginning of his professional career Johannes spent 10 years as a violinist of the Vienna Philharmonic which helped shape his distinctive stamp.

Johannes: says:

"A musician is always audience facing and in my new role as the BBC CO's Principal Guest Conductor I will continue to put people at the heart of what we do. Together we have many ideas, many possibilities and many opportunities to create stand out moments in the hall and on the radio. With high instrumental standards, great flexibility and musicianship I look forward to the future, a future of good music with the BBC Concert Orchestra."

Andrew Connolly continues:

"Johannes's affinity for repertoire from the Strauss family to contemporary music, as well as his first hand experience of the great European music making tradition has won him many friends in the orchestra and audiences alike. His first concert as Principal Guest Conductor will be at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on 27 September this year."

Barry Wordsworth, the BBC CO's Conductor Laureate, says of the signings:

"It is a fantastic moment for me to see two such fine and exciting conductors join us. With Jonny Greenwood as Composer-in-Residence and the support of our forward looking management, we now have a team of great artistic strength to create and deliver distinctive output in all areas of our music making."

Robert Cooper

In July this year after 35 years of sterling service for the BBC, Bob Cooper retired from his position as no.5 1st violin with the Concert Orchestra. His presence in the violin section will be sorely missed by his colleagues, not least for his wonderful musicianship, but also his incredible ability to entertain us all with his inimitable impressions, recitations, beautiful baritone and general 'larking about'. In rehearsals especially when the going gets tough, Bob is able to 'relieve the pressure' with his engaging wit, without ever disrupting the proceedings unduly- a rare talent indeed! I asked Bob a few questions about his time as a member of the BBC CO and his plans for the future.



1. Where did you work prior to joining the CO and how did you hear about the orchestra?

I was doing West End Shows and pop tours and I said to Bob Winquist (CO 1974-6) that I was thinking of getting a proper job. Bob said that there was a job going in the Concert Orchestra.

2. Can you remember any of your first FNIMNs and who were the stars of the show at that time?

Oh yes! The Midgleys were always my favourites.

3. What would you say has been your most amusing moment or experience with the orchestra and which are your favourite venues?

Probably the time when an assistant producer set fire to the Orchestra at a rehearsal of the 1812 Overture. They shouldn't let assistant producers play with fireworks. I always liked the De la Warr Pavilion, Bexhill - sadly just a memory.

4. How have things changed since you joined?

We used not to suffer long-winded conductors, over long rehearsals or short tea breaks gladly. (see question six)

5. What are your plans for life outside the BBC?

To set back the history of photography by 170 years. I have great plans for the Direct Positive process of M. Hippolyte Bayard and Mr Fox Talbot's beautiful Collotype.

6. Which have you enjoyed the most- concerts or studio recording work? (Or were the tea breaks the most entertaining parts for you?!!)

Studio - because there was always the hope of finishing early. Well you can but hope and yes, tea breaks, we eventually got 20 minutes.

7. We're all hoping that you come back to work with the orchestra soon- do you have any other musical plans?

Yes, I do hope to come back to work with the Orchestra from time to time. I have no other plans musically as yet unless you count my long held ambition to play the Serpent - I think it is a musical instrument but opinions vary.

© 2010 Marcus Broome & Robert Cooper

I am sure we all wish Bob a long and happy retirement and will look forward to his return visits to the Orchestra.

Daphne Solomon

23/1/1929 – 10/7/2010

We don't usually run an obituaries column, but it is with great regret we report the passing of Daphne Solomon - "Daph" to all who knew her and most of the members did!

She had been a staunch supporter of the Orchestra since Camden Theatre days in the 60's, and when the Club was formed was one of the first to join. Daph was always cheerful and smiling with an infectious laugh and wicked sense of humour, and despite suffering with MS for many years never let her disability show. In recent times, although queuing in a wheelchair, she always made her way to her seat for the show.

We will all miss Daph, and extend our sincere condolences to Stan.

POSTBAG

A selection of letters received.

Hi Jenny & Brian

I have just discovered the website thanks to the new Soirées Musicales. Great stuff. Really well designed & informative, as is the magazine, – as always.

Thanks again for all the work you do on behalf of the Club

Best wishes

Susi Adelman.

Dear Brian,

Thank you for sending the latest Soirées Musicales, I think it is an excellent Magazine and always full of interest.

I enclose a couple of SAE's for possible tickets to our favourite Radio show.

With best wishes to you & Jenny

Alistair Wills

St Albans.

Dear Jenny,

It will be wonderful to have a refurbished Watford Colosseum by 2011. Whilst we will not have any concerts there for about a year, I very much look forward to attending when the improvements have been completed.

Sincere thanks to Brian, yourself & your committee for all your hard work in maintaining the support of the Orchestra.

I am very disappointed with the BBC's attitude. Quite frankly it is outrageous!

Thankfully the Orchestra are appreciative of the support

Kind regards to all

Lewis Surridge

Watford

Dear Brian

Just a line to say thanks for the tickets to see Neil Sedaka. It was a fantastic, magical evening to say the least. My friend & I were over the moon with the performance.

Vera James

Orpington

Dear Brian & Jenny

Thank you so much for the latest bumper edition of Soirées Musicales – a great read keeping us all up to date with the Orchestra's news.

Thanks also for the FN tickets to the TV Centre, which was a most enjoyable experience once the security was passed! I wonder what the Orchestra felt about playing in such a vast space – so different from the Mermaid and dear old little St Luke's. What a pity about all the empty seats, I'm sure that Club members would have filled them with no trouble.

Please add our names for the visit to Sadlers Wells. We so enjoyed the visits to Covent Garden & the Globe Theatre. Our thanks to everyone involved in all the arrangements.

Once again many thanks to you both for all the hard work you put into running the Club

Joan Harper

Romford

*(Tours of Sadlers Wells are temporarily suspended due to scaffolding.
However as soon as work is completed we will arrange our tours)*

Dear Brian & Jenny,

Thank you for all you do to make our membership and the concerts so enjoyable and friendly, and for the regular magazine / newsletter which is so professional & newsy.

The Concert Orchestra is such a superb and versatile group of musicians it's a privilege to attend their performances.

With best wishes to you both

Graham Derriman

Morden

Dear Brian,

What a grand evening! I think Neil Sedaka was prepared to stay & sing to us all night, Bless him, he was just great. Mustn't forget the Orchestra, as usual they were excellent. Many thanks for the tickets. BBC got it right this time! The new times 8-10, will mean a long evening travelling home afterwards, shall catch up with the Theatre folk, and it will be a long stint for the Orchestra getting home afterwards. Oh well, that's progress!

Best wishes to you & Jenny

Ken & Doreen Batchelder

Sidcup.

(Many members are finding the new times are causing them problems getting their connections to Kent & Essex, – especially with Blackfriars out of action. It's not so bad on a Friday when programmes finish on time and trains run later. But a midweek recording, with the possibility of retakes too, makes it a bit of a scramble. Be patient, Blackfriars won't be closed for ever!!)

Dear Brian,

Many thanks for another excellent magazine. Keep up the good work – it is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Derek Banks

Romford

Dear Brian,

Thank you for sending tickets for FNIMN, we enjoyed the opportunity to support the Orchestra again, and we were delighted to be in the audience for the Kiri Prize semi final. The standard of the contestants was extremely high, so the judges must have had some tough decisions to make.

We are looking forward to attending the Afternoon Out in September, can we thank you in advance for arranging what will undoubtedly be a very enjoyable afternoon. A lot of work must go into the organisation, and we always enjoy the concert & the lunch

Regards

Julia & John Haynes,

London NW2

Dear Jenny

I enclose our membership cheque. What super value even if we do only get tickets for the occasional concert these days. The concerts are superb and DESPITE the BBC, the Concert Orchestra deserves to be supported, they are fantastic.

I have been meaning to write to Brian since the AGM to ask if he has recovered from his health trauma at that time also to tell him what a superb job you did at the AGM. You were so professional, looked as though you did it every day. Congratulations on a job well done.

I do hope Brian is now in good health and back to FNIMN every Friday,

Once again thank you so much for the enjoyment we share with you, Brian & the Orchestra.

Ivy & Bernard Darbon, Greenford.

(Thank you for those kind words. Yes I've chaired a few meetings in my time, but that one was fun!)

Dear Jenny & Brian,

We all appreciate the hard work you put into running the Club, especially now the BBC are not as co-operative as they used to be.

Sincerely

David J Ross, London SW13.

(You can say that again – about the BBC that is!other Ed)

Dear Jenny / Brian

Sorry we do not wish to renew our Club membership. Since Alan Boyd left the standard has gone down with the very poor batch of presenters who think they are the stars of the show. And the last straw was the time change – it made us get home very late.

Thank you & Brian, for all your hard work that you have done for the Club.

Best wishes for the future.

Ted & Mary Keep, Potters Bar.

We have also received a letter of resignation from members citing the reason as “a dislike of the content of recent FNIMN concerts”

Many members will share the view that some of the “specials” are not to everybody's taste. But that is not the fault of the Club, the Orchestra or their Management. It is the producers who dictate the theme for concerts, and those who present them.

The purpose of this Club is not to support a programme, nor a particular venue, and certainly not the presenters - but THE CONCERT ORCHESTRA, that marvellous band of musicians, whatever their repertoire, and wherever they perform.

Thank Heavens the vast majority of our members realise this and are appreciative!

THE AGM IN BRIEF.

The Club's 28th Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday March 27th at Finchley Methodist Church, at 6.30 Regrettably Chairman Brian was unwell and unable to attend, so the meeting was chaired by Jenny Thomas, who welcomed the 87 members, 4 guests and one dog attending. Apologies were accepted from 23 members and two guests.

The Minutes of the 27th AGM which had been circulated were agreed as correct.

Committee members were elected as follows; Chairman: Brian Crouch. Treasurer: Jim McLaughlan. Minutes Secretary: James Connelly. Membership, Accounts & Soirées: Jenny Thomas. Constitution: Jan Menthia. Trips & Visits: Douglas French. Webmaster: Stephen Greenhalgh and the Orchestra's representative: Marcus Broome.

The Club's new Constitution, which had been circulated to all members in the Spring edition of Soirées Musicales was ratified. A vote of thanks was extended to Jan for her work and legal expertise in drawing it up

Chairman's written report expressed disappointment that the £2,000 grant had been withdrawn by the BBC but the lack of Club table at concerts and ticket reduction had been a real blow. Many representations had been made by him and the Orchestra regarding the empty seats at concerts, but to no avail, and it was best to just accept the situation rather than risk any further ticket reductions by constant moaning.

The Treasurer explained that the need to change the Club's name had resulted in the closure of the Building Society account, with all monies transferred to the bank. The major expense of 2009 had been £7,500 for the CD. The current balance at 31.12.2009 was £19,316:75 The Statement of Account had been circulated to members and was accepted as a true reflection of the Clubs' finances.

The membership at 31.12.2009 was 94 single & 269 joint members a total of 632 and, as always, was calculated on the number of people who had paid their subscription during the Financial Year, not a head count. A loss of 21

single & 86 joint (28 died, 10 moved & some long term hospitalised) had been offset by 10 single & 16 joint new members.

The Webmaster reported that our website now 6 months old, was attracting worldwide attention, and was regularly updated, but more contributions from members would be appreciated.

Marcus Broome reported morale in the Orchestra was good, with a demanding programme of concerts for Radios 2&3, and three Promenade Concerts including a family Prom on 30th August. Also film & TV work. Two overseas trips were planned, a concert in Abu Dhabi in May and Keith Lockhart of the Boston Pops conducting 15 concerts in the USA in the autumn. It was likely that Keith would be appointed the Orchestra's Guest Conductor. Anthony Cherry was the new executive producer of Friday Night and 10 themed concerts. FNIMN would be changed to 8-10pm slot from April.

Marcus reiterated the Orchestra's appreciation of the Club and the support of its loyal members.

Jenny thanked Marcus for his report and for his unfailing support of the Club.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.17pm

After a short refreshment interval the guest of the evening RODERICK DUNK took the stage. Rod reminded the audience that he and Helen Cooper had set up the Club some 25 years ago. They had seen the need for a members Club to support the Orchestra and he was delighted with the success the Club had achieved.

Rod had been a member of the Orchestra for over seven years before leaving to become a Visiting Conductor. He had learned many conducting skills from Harold Gray in Birmingham, in particular the art of steering an orchestra through awkward passages in a piece. Explaining his relationship with the orchestra he said when conducting he was in charge and bore responsibility, but at the end of a concert he felt he was part of the orchestra again.

When asked if he had any say in the programme of concerts he conducted, he explained that on some occasions he was given a free hand but on others the theme for the concert had already been set by the producer. And of his favourite pieces Rod said that that largely depended on his mood at the time but Mozart's "Requiem" and the music of Richard Strauss were always high on his list.

Rod went on to explain the range of work he was presently engaged in both in arranging works and in conducting. This ranged from working with the Halle, London Symphony Northern Ballet and orchestras abroad. He had recently completed arrangements for Annie Lennox and in addition to this he had been guest conductor for the RTE Orchestra in Dublin which he enjoyed immensely.

As a closing insight Rod explained that he found rehearsals more exciting than the actual performance. It was in rehearsals that the formulation of the final presentation took place and the players tended to be more relaxed and enthusiastic.

Jenny thanked Rod for his most interesting talk and presented him with a suitable token of appreciation.

Following this, Marcus Broom (violin) Nigel Goodwin (viola) & Nigel Pinkett (cello) gave a short recital of works by Hoffmeister, Mozart and Schubert, which was enthusiastically enjoyed by the audience

Rod kindly autographed and sold 22 copies of the "Smile" CD, and the retiring collection, also in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, raised £82.50 Thanks to all who contributed. Another very successful Club evening!

FRIDAY NIGHT FLASHBACKS.

*Chairman Brian delves into his collection of programmes
to reflect on the concerts broadcast during 1990
and hasn't it changed in 20 years!!*

Many well known singers appeared with the Orchestra in 1990 including Stephen Hill, Alan Opie, Anthony Michaels-Moore, Nick Curtis, Lindsey Benson, Peter Morrison & Rosemary Ashe.

Conductors were many & various Stanley Black, Robin Stapleton, Kenneth Alwyn, Bramwell Tovey, & Barry Wordsworth.

Choirs were a regular feature too namely The Nigel Brooks Singers, John Alldis Choir, BBC Singers, & The John McCarthy Singers.

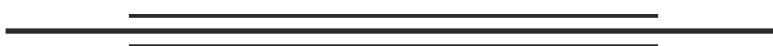
The Central Band of The Royal Air Force put in no less than three appearances, and the Hendon Band and the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain also appeared .

Robin Boyle was the resident presenter although he did have a week off and his replacement was John Marsh.

Musical items which regrettably we seldom hear these days included the overtures “Zampa” & “Pique Dame” and waltzes “Over The Waves” & “Dolores” and plenty of ballet music.

It was also the year that The Hippodrome at Golders Green was being refurbished. Happy days!

BAC



CLUB OUTINGS

Afternoon Out

We resumed our popular Lunch, Recital, Tea afternoons in Letchworth on May 10th when on yet another glorious sunny Monday 31 members and 1 guide dog (ret'd) gathered at the Broadway Hotel for a Carvery lunch served by Doru and enjoyed by all. The balloon decorated car procession arrived in good time for members to enjoy the extensive gardens of Benslow, before settling down for the afternoon recital which featured New Zealand harpist Robin Ward.

Robin is one of only a handful of harpists worldwide who builds and plays the Triple Harp. This instrument, although similar in shape to a conventional harp, has triple lines of strings, and no pedals. The sound is also rather different – more like a harpsichord.

Robin's repertoire included works by Giovanni Maria Trabaci, Sophia Giustina Corri, & Francesco Tarrega, as well as the more familiar names Parry, Jones & Glinka. His informative and interesting introduction to the instrument and music enthralled the audience.

It was strawberry cream scones for tea to round off yet another successful “Afternoon Out”

Anyone wishing to learn more about Robin & hear the harp can visit his website www.earlyharps.com.

Our latest Afternoon Out on September 13th attracted 29 members, but for the first time the weather let us down, being rather dull & decidedly chilly. However the excellent Carvery lunch, served by Ralph and our waiter Mark, cheered everyone up.



The balloon cavalcade to Benslow was for once really necessary, as we had to make a detour down the notorious “switchback” to avoid roadworks. Only one balloon got lost – ours! We resorted to the spare, hand held aloft and waving furiously in the wind, and we all got there!

The recital was billed as the Cambridge Ensemble, but it was just two of the group, Stephen Foster viola & Hisayo Shimizu piano, who entertained us with music by Schumann, Schubert, Seiber, Tchaikovsky, Faure & Mussorgsky. It was refreshing to hear the more resonant viola, as most recitals feature the violin with piano accompaniment.



The Benslow ladies excelled themselves again with fresh strawberry cream scones and iced fairy cakes for tea. Everyone agreed it was another successful event.

We hope to be organising further “Afternoons out” in the Spring. Dates & details will be available nearer the time.

CD REVIEWS.

By Dave Daniels.



Before coming to the new issues can I recap on a couple of discs mentioned in the spring issue of "Soirées Musicales".

The John Wilson recording of rare English music with the Concert Orchestra on Dutton CDLX7237 featuring the remarkable first recording of RV-W's "Heroic Elegy & Triumphal Epilogue" has at last been reviewed in "Gramophone" magazine where it is described as "*a treasure chest of lost gems*" and

the playing as "*performed with exemplary dedication*" This really is a recording not to be missed.

As indeed is the one Roderick Dunk wrote about. "SMILE" featuring the trombone playing of Carol Jarvis could be described as easy listening but that would not do justice to the quality of the performances or arrangements. Familiar names appear in the Orchestra line up and I can think of no better gift for any kind of music lover, or indeed a more worthy cause. As Rod has said by ordering direct from the label Divine Art tel: 01609 882062, the maximum revenue will go to Macmillan Cancer Care.

I have three new releases to report from Dutton featuring our Orchestra. Those at Watford on Wednesday afternoon 29th October 2008 enjoyed a concert of English Light Music conducted by Gavin Sutherland and broadcast live on Radio3. One of the main works was the Violin Concerto of Haydn Wood performed by Tasmin Little, - a piece most of us present were hearing for the first time and described by "Gramophone" as "*a work whose time has surely come to enter the mainstream*" On Dutton CDLX7245 Gavin & the CO are joined by soloist Lorraine McAslan to form what the reviewer describes as "*a dream team!*" The other work on this disc is the Violin Concerto by Lionel Sainsbury which though much later than the Wood (1989) is nonetheless very approachable and rewarding – though I would imagine fiendishly difficult to play for both soloist & orchestra! For this work the "*dream team*" expands to include our old friend Barry Wordsworth who takes up the baton.

As a lifelong lover of the music of Elgar I approached Dutton CDLX7243 with some trepidation, for the main work “Sea Pictures” appears not in the familiar version for Contralto or Mezzo, but with a Baritone soloist, in this case the excellent Roderick Williams. I am well acquainted with the celebrated version with the great Janet Baker and LSO/Barbirolli but in this new version it seems almost a different work, much darker in feeling and the BBC CO under Martin Yates bring out more detail than in the old version. I had never noticed, for instance, quite how much Britten must have been influenced by this great music when writing “Peter Grimes” especially “Moonlight” from the sea interludes. A fascinating version then that compliments rather than supplants the traditional one. “Pageant of Empire” was quite new to me. It is a song cycle composed by Elgar to poems by Alfred Noyes for the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in 1924, and as the parts were lost, the orchestration has had to be reconstructed by Martin Yates. This is not of course the greatest Elgar, coming as it does later in his life and after the death of his wife, but like everything else he wrote it is rewarding listening. In addition to the Elgar there are pieces by Ivor Gurney – “Lights Out” and a song cycle by Michael Hurd from 1963 “Shore Leave”. For lovers of Orchestral Songs, this disc is a revelation.

Roderick Williams also appears on Dutton CDLX 7246. This disc is a bit of a puzzle as it is called “John Ireland – Orchestral Songs & Miniatures” yet Ireland accounts for only about 20 minutes or so of the programme, the rest being short pieces by the likes of Walter Collins, Herbert Murrill, Peter Tranchell, Lionel Sainsbury & Elgar. I particularly enjoyed Murrill’s “Country Dance Suite” played by the Royal Ballet Sinfonia, who share this CD with the Concert Orchestra. A curious mixture then of disparate short pieces from 2 orchestras and no less than 4 conductors! But you could say there is something for everyone here!!

Finally, if I may, to a CD that has given me enormous pleasure this year though it does not for once feature the Concert Orchestra (*Dave you are living dangerously here!.... other Ed*) The good folk of Guildford should be so proud to support such a fine ensemble as the Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra who belong to that small group who can play light music as it should be played – so often a world class Symphony Orchestra sounds ill at ease in this repertoire and it lacks that sparkle. Not so with these players who under Tom Higgins bring to life John Ansell's Overtures “Plymouth Ho” and the less known but equally good “The Windjammer” together with music by

Haydn Wood – “A Manx Overture” and “Elizabeth of England”. Elgar again makes an appearance in the shape of his song cycle “Fringes of the Fleet” from 1917 featuring – guess who? – yes, Roderick Williams again! He also appears in songs by Ireland & Edward German. All in all a cracking CD from Somm Recordings, SOMMCD243, not to be missed.

© 2010 David Daniels

Our thanks are extended to Dave for his regular and informative contribution to this Magazine. Many members have expressed their appreciation.

This is a good place to remind members that Christmas is coming and we still have some copies of the Club's 25th Anniversary CD left. At just £5 including p&p it is an ideal gift for friends & neighbours or even as a spare for yourself to put in the car. There's nothing quite like "Crown Imperial" to fend off the traffic-jam blues or the calming "Les Petites Valses Parisiennes" whilst waiting for spouse to emerge from the Supermarket!!

Another CD?

Following the success of last year's Club CD it is hoped to follow up with another next year.

Some of the suggested musical items left over from last time might be featured but there could be room for two or three suggestions of orchestral compositions from Club members. If you have a suggestion, then put it in writing & send to Brian at PO Box 213, Baldock, SG7 6ZP by 31/10/2010. We cannot guarantee to include your request and indeed the whole project is not yet certain. But keep your fingers crossed!

More CDs from Roderick Elms & his wife Joanna.

Roderick has notified me of two new recordings which may be of interest to Club members;

The first "The Bliss of Solitude" has Joanna playing the piano featuring songs and piano music by Vaughan Williams, Quilter and Andrew Wright (Master of Music at Brentwood Cathedral) - all lovely stuff. This is currently in the shops.

The second "The Gentle Art of Percy Whitlock" will appeal to all organ music enthusiasts as it involves Roderick playing some lovely organ tunes by Percy Whitlock - one of the great writers of organ "light music" last century.

The Whitlock CD is out in the autumn but both CDs are available NOW from Rod's website www.masterkeyboards.co.uk or email Roderick.elms@masterkeyboards.co.uk

Don't forget to mention you are Club members!

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 Honorary Secretary:

Sylvia Ritchie, 5 Osborne Terrace, Crail, Fife
KY10 3RR Telephone 0133 345 0941

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.

PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE

With outside concerts coming from Croydon, Birmingham, & Chichester and the Orchestras' lengthy USA Tour in November, it seems inevitable that there will be fewer London concerts than usual in the near future. But as many of you will know, the winter months are usually quite productive - so bide your time and hope for the best!

And for our West Herts members the good news is the Orchestra hope to return to the newly refurbished Colosseum in the spring.

PIANO IN A SKIFFLE GROUP?

Member Brian Austin reflects on his early days on the music scene.

An odd combination, yes, but that's how I moved on from solo piano to join other musicians at secondary school, during the 1950s. We had a tea chest, bass, guitar, banjo, washboard and a few relics from an old drumkit – wood blocks, cowbell etc. Perhaps our greatest achievement was to play the interval at the local cinema on a Sunday evening, where occasional evasive action was needed to dodge airborne Maltesers.



The photo was taken at Imperial College, London in 1964.

With the revival of traditional jazz, other musicians joined us and I was soon swept along with the jazz scene. This was a great time to be playing jazz, swing and vintage music of all kinds. Much of my spare time over the next 20 years was lovingly devoted to music, many friendships being formed along the way. The bass player, John Arthy, later went on to form and lead The Pasadena Roof Orchestra – still very popular today and sharing the stage with The Concert Orchestra at Watford, before its closure for refurbishment earlier this year.

I still enjoy most music – classics, jazz, standards etc. but admit to being stuck in a “vintage” time warp! Listening to The BBC Concert Orchestra, I always feel inspired by their outstanding ability and a little sad at the decline in my own stamina. However, I still play for my own amusement and, occasionally, entertain the residents at a retirement home, where my “quaint” style seems to fit the bill. Scott Joplin goes down a treat.

© 2010 Brian Austin

There are a lot of members out there, some of you must have interesting tales to share with us, so let's hear from you!!

THE CONCERT GOERS.

As advertised in the Spring Soirées there were a full range of concerts featuring Quartet Camerata & Symphonia Academica with Leader Peter Bussereau.

Sunday 14th March at the University of Bedford “Classics for Mothering Sunday” With David Beaman conducting, Symphonia Academica performed Richard Strauss' “Capriccio”, and a chamber version of “Till Eulenspiegel” Copeland's “Appalachian Spring”. Finally a dance arrangement by Richard Sisson, of Kurt Weill's popular songs featured dancers from Luton 6th Form & Bedfordshire Colleges.

Saturday 5th June Rufus Centre, Flitwick, “Summer Serenade”

David again conducted Symphonia Academica with a guest appearance by oboist John Crossman, for a programme of Barber's “Adagio For Strings”, Bach's “Concerto for Oboe & violin” - a brilliant performance by Peter & John. Britten's “Simple Symphony”, Elgar's “Serenade for Strings”, Marcello's “Concerto for Oboe & Strings” & finally Three Tangos by Piazzolla.

Monday 14th June – Benslow. Susan Clark (piano) & Elizabeth Tuson (flute). It was in November 2005 that this duo entertained us on our “Afternoon Out”, and such was their reception they were invited back for another concert at Benslow. On this occasion playing an eclectic mix of music by American, Irish & French composers, including classical, modern, tango & jazz styles to an appreciative audience, and ending with a flute duet which was received with great enthusiasm.

(Brian & I rarely miss Benslow Concerts so it was a shame that it had to be this one, as it featured members Eric & Pat Clark's daughter. We were in Devon attending a funeral on the day)

Saturday 19th June St Nicholas Church, Barton Le Clay, “Country Classics” Peter Bussereau, Julia Kauffmann (violins) Paul Bennett (viola) & Peter Randall (cello) gave a superb concert of Rautavaara's String Quartet No 1, Smetana's String Quartet No 1 from “My Life” & Mozart's Quartet in C “The Dissonance”.

It's good to see Club members supporting these concerts. To find out more about Symphonia Academica & Camerata Quartet or to join their mailing list, call 01582 882 159

Saturday 17th July to celebrate the 900th Anniversary of the village of Redbourn David Beaman conducted Symphonia Academica in a fine performance of Handel's "Messiah" in the Church of St Mary founded in 1100 for the local community, consisting then of just 27 people.



© Cocoon Imaging Photography

Featuring: Soprano Louise Hemmings, Alto Cherith Millburn-Fryer, Tenor Robert Johnston (of BBC Singers), and Bass Roderick McPhee, and over 80 members of the Redbourn Festival Chorus.

There were also several familiar faces from the CO, Peter & Marcus (violins), Stacey (double bass), Kate (trumpet), Stephen (percussion) and would you believe Nigel Edwards, recently retired from the 2nd violins, playing the harpsichord.

BARNET SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

March 28th and the first concert of the year at St John's featured the renowned cellist Natalie Clein winner of the Young Musician of the Year 1994 who played to an enthralled capacity audience.



The programme of Mussorgsky's "Night on Bare Mountain", Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake" & Prokofiev's "Symphony Concerto", was an outstanding concert that taxed the enthusiastic members of this orchestra to their limits and they passed with flying colours

On the 27th June, their concert featured Faure's "Masques & Bergamasques", Dvorak's "Czech Suite" & Beethoven's Symphony No 8.

In addition to the regular former CO members – Conductor Martin Loveday & Leader Philip Gibson - it was good to see former CO oboeist Michael Jeans join the ranks for the Czech Suite, amazingly its 20 years since he left!

Their next concert which will feature Waldteufel's "Skaters Waltz", Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" & Brahms' Symphony No 4, is on **SUNDAY DECEMBER 5th AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH, FRIERN BARNET, LONDON N11**

Don't forget Club members can claim a £2 reduction on the ticket price on production of membership cards.

OUT & ABOUT WITH THE ORCHESTRA.

We all know that concerts have been a little thin on the ground recently, as the Orchestra have been away in Abu Dhabi, and will be off to the States for three weeks in November. Here they share their trips with Club members.

Loch Shiel Spring Festival, May 2010 - Charles Mutter writes:

Being artistic director of a music festival in one of the most beautiful parts of the Scottish Highlands must be pretty high up many people's lists of enviable jobs (although Hege Hernaeus, our Chairwoman, is even luckier as she's a professional translator which means that all her work arrives by internet so she can actually live up there!)

I took over the Festival in 2005 while I was still living in Glasgow, and have managed to keep it going since my move south by a combination of modern e-communication and good old-fashioned Sleeper trains (twelve and a half hours, Euston to Fort William!)

This year, the Festival's 14th, was our most ambitious yet by a long chalk. We started the week down on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula, with a Family Music Day at the spectacular Glenborrodale Castle. Brilliant sunshine all day with three hours solid music, (brass ensembles, jazz, voice & harp, accordion), and some very happy families. That was Sunday 9th; Monday had a concert featuring the Edinburgh Quartet (my previous "gig") and clarinettist Maximiliano Martin in Acharacle, Tuesday a mixed chamber programme in Glenfinnan, and Wednesday a lunchtime recital in Strontian.

By this stage, as if playing concerts wasn't enough exertion, preparations had started in earnest for the piece de resistance of our Festival week, Britten's "Noye's Fludde" in Glenfinnan Church. Children from 26 local schools (local in Highlands terms that is, some as much as 2 hours' drive away) had been preparing choir, orchestral and solo parts since before Christmas, and they were joined by a small professional ensemble led by myself, conducted by the wonderful Richard Balcombe and featuring the lovely Mary Carewe as Mrs Noye, Richard Strivens as Noye and James Naughtie (from the "Today" programme on Radio 4) as the Voice of God.

We gave three performances, two on the Friday evening and a Saturday matinee, and the first two were filmed by BBC2 - we featured in their "Culture Show" the following Sunday, in an article written and presented by Sue Perkins and nestling nicely between the Brighton Festival and the Cannes Film Festival!

The standards achieved by the whole company (to say nothing of the staging & lighting, all done by local enthusiasts) were dizzyingly high. We also managed to raise over £1,000 for WaterAid in the process - all the animal head-dresses had been made & donated by artists all over the world (from Finland to Tasmania) and these were auctioned off after the Festival had finished. You can see them on our Festival website, www.shielfestival.com, and there will probably be some photos and video clips of the shows going on there very soon.

How on earth are we going to follow that next year? Well...
© 2010 Charles Mutter.

It never ceases to amaze me what the various members of the Orchestra get up to in their "spare" time! I will ensure the Spring edition of Soirées carries information about next years' Festival. Sounds like an ideal weekend break!

The Orchestra goes to ABU DHABI

Members are so used to seeing the Orchestra stroll on stage, take up their positions and deliver a faultless performance whilst appearing to be totally relaxed, they may be forgiven for believing a five day trip to Abu Dhabi to perform one concert was an extension of their summer holidays!!

Nothing could be further from the truth! This is a rare opportunity to see what a hectic schedule the Orchestra really have, to rehearse and perform just one concert.

Thursday May 13th

Check in at Heathrow 06.10 for departure 09.10. 7 hrs 5 minutes later arrive in Abu Dhabi, local time 19.15. Drive to hotel, arrival 21.00.

Friday 14th

09.30. Pickup. Transfer to Emirates Palace. Rehearsals 10.30 – 13.30 & 15.00 – 18.00.

Saturday 15th

13.00. Pickup. Transfer to Emirates Palace. Rehearsal 14.00 – 17.00
Concert 20.00 – 22.00. Return to hotel arriving 23.00

Sunday 16th

10.30 pickup. Transfer to airport. 11.30 check in for departure 13.30.
Arrive Heathrow 18.15.

Phew!

But if you think this was hectic, their next Concert Tour to the USA in November takes in 15 concerts at 15 different venues in 10 different States in just 18 days!

Abu Dhabi – May 2010.

(1) *The General Manager's perspective*

I'd been to Aberdare – “jewel of the South Wales valleys”, but Abu Dhabi (of which the tourist website promised - “let the wind take you places your imagination has not yet been”) was a new destination for me and virtually all of our 93 strong tour party.

Planning for the concert on May 15th 2010 started over a year earlier following an invitation from the German based management company responsible for the prestigious “Abu Dhabi Classics” season. With orchestras such as the Vienna and New York Philharmonics and London's Philharmonia already having performed there, the quality of the enterprise was obvious.

Our hosts asked us to bring a “Last Night of the Proms” programme which necessitated a call to Roger Wright (Director of the Proms) to agree how exactly the BBC proms brand could be used and what repertoire would be appropriate. However, a dozen or more drafts of the programme had to be made by our conductor Keith Lockhart and myself before the combination

of “Broadway/Hollywood glitz and glamour meets Best of British/Last Night of the Proms” was arrived at and agreed by the promoters.

In truth, without a good, traditional chorus available to us it was difficult to undertake the Last Night favourites and having to omit “Jerusalem” on political grounds did rather complicate matters! However a local choir of adults and children helped us with Land of Hope and Glory and Auld Land Syne and the sensational American singer Lisa Vroman came on board to inject some genuine US pizzazz in her selection of numbers.



There was a huge amount of work to be done by the office (in particular Carolyn Hendry) to make all the arrangements. Travelling to an unknown country with an agent we did not know meant A LOT of questions. In fact I think we must have set some sort of Concert Orchestra record for the amount of emails, paperwork and staff hours for this single concert! We grappled with everything from obtaining our own UAE Dirhams to take for the subsistence payments, seeing who has Israeli stamps in their passports (not allowed), what were the critical local customs to observe (jail seemed to be the possible result of many misdemeanours), would the instruments melt at Abu Dhabi airport etc etc. In reality Abu Dhabi Classics' team were terrific and the logistics side of the endeavour proved to be excellent.





Gold Bullion Machine

Buried inside we found a 1,200 seater hall complete with specially designed acoustic enhancement system. Our access was via a long underground service tunnel where the ever present air conditioning was for once not reaching. With temperatures of 100F reached outside during our visit, we were glad there were no power cuts!

With Keith Lockhart flying from Boston, Lisa Vroman from Los Angeles and meeting our local choir, the rehearsal day in the venue was busy, but also felt quite special. Saturday evening saw the mainly expat audience arrive for the concert to the sounds of the Abu Dhabi Police band conducted by Andy Berryman – a trombonist known to some of us and we were also visited by Andy Cuff, a former trumpet player in the BBC National Orchestra of Wales who now has his own radio show on Abu Dhabi's version of Classic FM. Andy had broadcast a Concert Orchestra special the day before our concert which I heard some of quite by accident in my hotel

Thursday May 13th saw a tired but good spirited Concert Orchestra entering HeathrowT4 for our 06.10 (morning!) check in for the 7 hour flight on Abu Dhabi's superb national airline, Eithiad (a name familiar from the Manchester City football shirt worn on occasion by Dan Mullin). Equally superb was our billet, the 5 star Intercontinental Hotel with its leisure facilities and range of “concept” restaurants.

None of this however prepared us for the opulence of the concert venue – the seven star Emirates Palace Hotel. Most expensive hotel in the world to build, home to the Sheikh himself and complete with a gold bullion vending machine in the cavernous lobby. You could get fish and chips and a cup of tea there for around £30 pounds though.

room. Andy's "local knowledge" was a great help to us in finding the more sensibly priced places to take sustenance!

The hall was packed for the concert, 95% expats with many national flags on display. Lisa Vroman's performance of "Glitter and be Gay" was particularly memorable (the glittering jewels emerging from the front of her dress.....!) and the orchestra were terrific throughout. I thought Nimrod from Elgar's Enigma variations was particularly well received by the audience and I loved the boisterous fun of 42nd Street, our encore. Keith Lockhart proved his skill at communicating with the eclectic audience alongside directing proceedings.

So, all in all a great success, with an invitation to return on May 7th 2011 and I thoroughly recommend Abu Dhabi as a place to visit – with or without the Concert Orchestra providing the entertainment. Many of us found it difficult to believe that in our lifetime this city has developed from a small port to the allegedly richest city in the world.

©Andrew Connolly

(2)The Orchestra's perspective

Abu Dhabi- Our 'first' Last night of the Proms this year!

The trip to Abu Dhabi in May this year was eagerly anticipated by many of us in the Concert Orchestra as most of us had not performed in that part of the world before. We had heard from colleagues in other performing groups about the excellent conditions that had been experienced in the United Arab Emirates, and we were keen to see if it lived up to our expectations.

The flight there on the 13th May was very comfortable- the airline 'Etihad', looked after us very well. There was a large selection of films to watch on your own screen and the 7 hour journey seemed to pass relatively quickly- well it did for me at least! When we arrived in the early evening, there was only a short coach transfer to our hotel and we were free to enjoy the delights of the local restaurants and hotel bar. The difference in temperature from a cool May day in London and the all enveloping heat of the Middle East couldn't have been more apparent. It was bliss to be able to walk around in a t-shirt at 10pm without the hint of a shiver!

The next day saw us rehearsing at the incredible Emirates Palace Concert Hall. Luckily the air conditioning made working very pleasant indeed as I don't think many of us would have been happy to play in 40 degree Celsius temperatures. The concert hall was a pleasure to play in, both for its acoustics and its spacious and beautiful backstage facilities. Having tea



breaks by wandering out into the exquisitely decorated hallway adjacent to the concert hall, with its tall indoor palm trees and its views over fountains and gardens, all added to the special experience of performing in this amazing venue-and yes it is one of the few places in the world to have an ATM which issues gold tokens!

On returning to our hotel at 5.30pm, we were able to enjoy the delights of a beautiful outdoor swimming pool complete with built in bar and also a nearby private beach. After that, it was only a short taxi ride into town, and I joined a group heading to the 'Lebanese Flower Restaurant'. The food was great, not expensive and plentiful; however, this being a Muslim country, there was no alcohol to be had. The solution was to head back to the hotel where 'tourists' were able to enjoy a very pricey nightcap!



The Concert

The next morning a few intrepid runners (me included) decided to brave the searing heat for a jog to 'blow away the cobwebs'. We set off at 7am when the temperature was a mere 30 degrees and after half an hour, we'd had quite enough and it was time to retreat back to the air con. I think I prefer running in London- the palm trees don't provide enough shade in Abu Dhabi.

As for the concert, it seemed to go very well. The 'Last night of the Proms' theme always goes down well and, performing alongside a very enthusiastic choir of ex-pats and local residents, the varied programme gave everyone the chance to shine, under the baton of our new principal conductor, Keith Lockhart. I think most of us are looking forward to going back again next year, despite the tiring journeys, a busy rehearsal schedule and the staggeringly high temperatures.

While we were there we learnt quite a lot about the cultural differences in that part of the world. For example I never knew that the people of neighbouring Dubai don't enjoy the cartoon 'The Flintstones', however the people of Abu Dhabi do!!!!

If only there was a hotel in London with such a sumptuous concert hall that could house the Concert Orchestra!

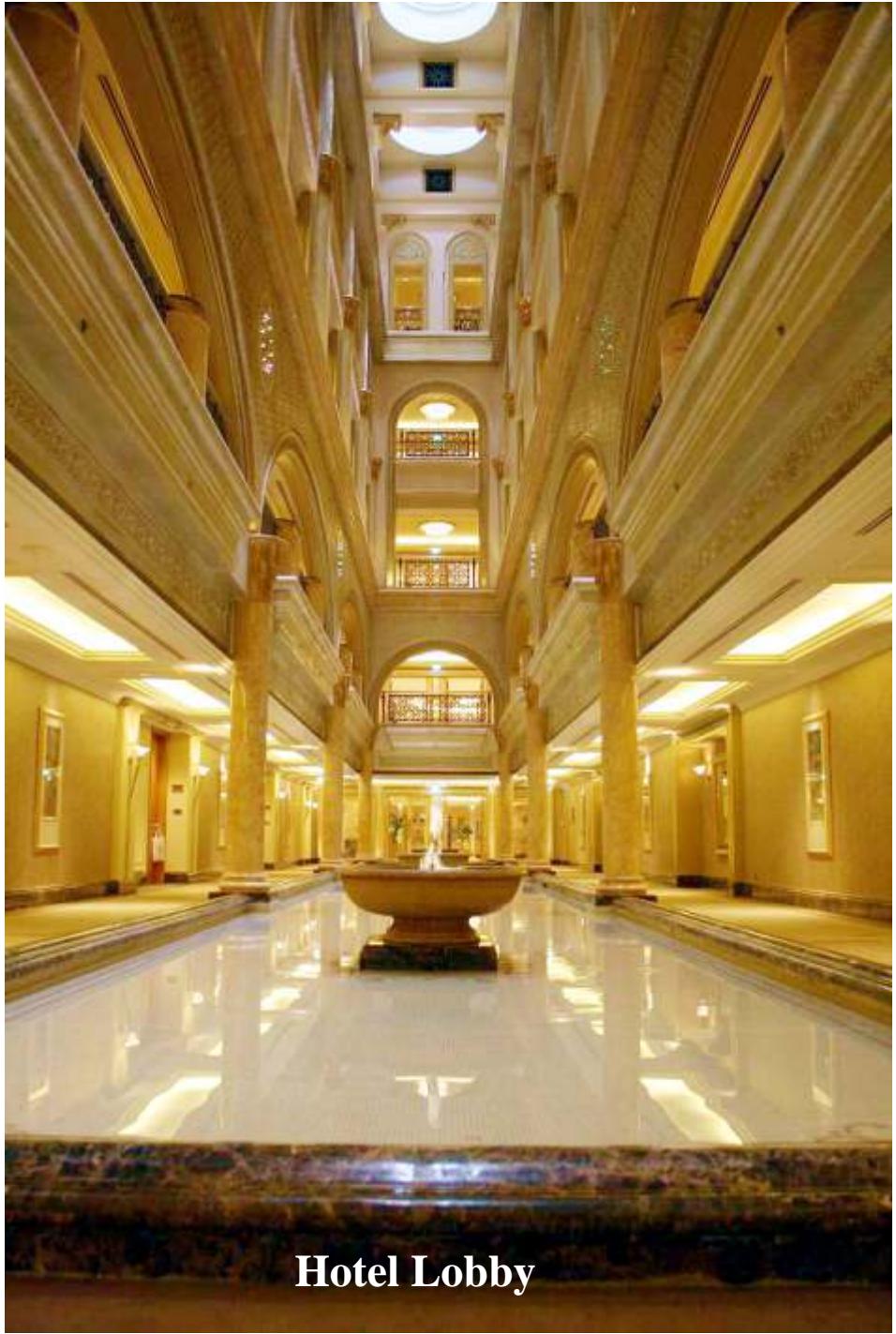
© Marcus Broome & Peter Bussereau

Concert Programme

Walton: "Spitfire & Fugue". Rozsa: "Ben Hur Prelude". Hupfield: "As Time Goes By". Steiner: "Tara's Theme". Lloyd-Webber: Phantom: "Overture", "Music of The Night" & "Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again". Bernstein: "Glitter & Be Gay". Elgar: Enigma Variations No 9 ("Nimrod") & 14 ("Finale").

Loewe: "My Fair Lady" Overture. Porter: "So in Love". Carmichael: "Blue Skies". Coates: "Knightsbridge March." Wood arrangement: "Fantasia on British Sea Songs". Arne: "Rule Britannia" & Elgar: "Pomp & Circumstance No1"

Encores: Warren: "42nd Street" & the traditional "Auld Lang Syne"



Hotel Lobby

DAN ON TH RUN

We don't know whether it is all the hours of sitting still at concerts or just itchy feet, but in his spare time Dan Mullin of the 2nd violins dons his running shoes and competes in marathons for charity.

Since running his first 10km in Jan 2008 Dan has now completed over 80 road races. From 5km to 50 mile Ultra-Marathons. The main events for 2010 have been three Ultra Marathons including the inaugural London 50km, with Scott Jones (*BBCCO transport*) on Feb 13th which involved a multi-terrain course from Streatham Common to Wembley Stadium with three brutal climbs up Horsenden Hill, Harrow Hill and Barn Hill in the final 10km. Completed in 6 hours 38 minutes with a well-earned Big Mac and fries at Wembley Mac Donalds to complete a memorable day!

Dan ran Chester Marathon on May 31 2010 and smashed his previous best, finishing in 4 hours 55 minutes and taking a whole hour off his 2008 London Marathon debut! The race was the first time Dan had run in two different countries in the same race starting in England and entering Wales at the 12 mile point before entering England again at 19 miles.



Dan now plans to raise money for BBC Children in Need 2010.

“Having raised £1,000 last year by doing a 48 mile Grand Union Canal run with Scott, I thought that to raise money this year I would have to raise the bar in the challenge I set myself for this year's C.I.N. The BBCCO are on tour in the USA from Nov 2nd to 22nd I have decided to attempt to run a 5km for 20 consecutive days that we are on tour which would give a combined tour total of 100km. I'll run them either on hotel gym treadmills or outdoors with my Garmin GPS watch to measure the distance. The distance itself won't be too problematic. The difficulty will be finding time to do it daily as there are some days when we will be on the road for 7 or 8 hours and other days when rehearsals and concerts with travel will leave very little time in the day. It's that difficulty and discipline which I hope to thrive on and if it keeps me focused and helps me through bouts of homesickness then it's no bad thing!” © 2010 Dan Mullen

If you wish to sponsor Dan for the "USA 100km" please contact him on 07973 178549 or email de-mullin@hotmail.co.uk

The CO Prom

Sunday 5th September.

If you were not lucky enough to be there and missed it on TV too, it was a tremendous event, an exact re-creation of a Henry Wood concert of 1910.

We were asked to imagine it as it was 100 years ago with carriages pulling up at the door, everyone dressed in their finery for the finest classical concert of the year.

One of the notable features of the day was the length of the concert – nearly three & a half hours, which probably made our Orchestra very grateful they weren't around in those days!

Many composers were represented including Wagner, Beethoven, Paganini, Musorgsky, Bizet, Dvorak, Beethoven & German, a couple of Henry Wood's own arrangements, and it wouldn't be a Prom without Elgar!

The Promenaders had a field day with Wood's "Fantasia on British Sea

Songs" passing around yards of handkerchiefs and wailing in appropriate places!! Flags of many countries were enthusiastically waved all around the Hall



With baritone Sergei Leiferkus, mezzo-soprano Jennifer Larmore & guest cellist Steven Isserlis, and the Orchestra in tip top form, we are sure Henry Wood would have been overjoyed at this interpretation of his Prom. But it is unlikely the musicians a century ago were anywhere near as talented as the brilliant Concert Orchestra.

RAIN STOPS PLAY !

It should have been the sporting event of the year, but for only the third time rain stopped the Orchestra playing, the other occasions being when Maida Vale and The Hippodrome studios were flooded.

A Club sponsored cricket match planned for the 27th August (*should have known better, a Bank Holiday weekend!*) between The Concert Orchestra XI versus (Andrew) Connolly's Chums Lads & Dads XI at the prestigious Beaconsfield Cricket Club, had to be called off at the last minute, due to the incessant rain on the preceding two days.

Even our multi-talented Orchestra would have found it rather difficult to play cricket in Wellies whilst holding an umbrella, never mind wrecking the pitch!

“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.

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

ORCHESTRA MEMBERS FORTHCOMING CONCERTS.

Peter Bussereau has notified the following concerts, which members might like to attend:-

Wednesday 13th October 7.45 pm,

Letchworth Music Club, Howgills, 42 South View, Letchworth, Herts.

Quartet Camerata performs a programme of folk inspired music, with Finnish composer Einojuhani Rautavaara's first quartet, the Czech composer Bedrich Smetana's autobiographical "From My Life", Vaughan-Williams stunning first quartet and the hot rhythms of Astor Piazzolla's "Libertango".

Sunday 28th November 7.30pm

University of Bedfordshire Theatre, Polhill Avenue, Bedford, MK41 9EA

Symphonia Academica are joined by dancers from the University of Bedfordshire in an intriguing mix of music to include the world premiere of a new piece by the orchestras composer-in-association, Richard Sisson.

For further details of either concert please phone 01582 882159

We all enjoyed Benjamin Hughes' solo spot on Friday 3/9 at the Kiri Prize Final, when he played "*Sous Le Tilleuls*" by Massenet. Now there is an opportunity to hear more of his brilliant playing on:

Sunday 24 Oct 2010 6:30 PM.

Conway Hall. 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL

A concert for violin, cello & piano:

Mozart: Trio in G K 564

Beethoven: Trio in C minor op.1 no.3

Schubert: Trio in B flat D898

(Nearest tube Holborn, or Buses No, 8, 25, 55, 59, 68, 91, 98, 188, 243 & 521 pass the Square.)

Further information visit www.conwayhall.org.uk or phone 020 7242 8032,

SEE YOU THERE!



The “Brewery Tappers” in action at the Family Prom 30th August

