

SOIRÉES MUSICALES

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USA TOUR EDITION

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

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

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Cover Picture

The BBC Concert Orchestra in rehearsals at Mechanics Hall.

ED LINES.

Chairman Brian says.....



I wonder if the members of our favourite orchestra realise how talented they are? Probably some do but possibly some don't. Maybe for some it is just a job, but I hope the majority realise that they are in a league of their own when it comes to versatility, performance and entertainment.

I well remember a former controller of Radio2 saying that "*the Orchestra is the jewel in the crown as far as Radio2 is concerned*" which makes it surprisingly

disappointing to see and hear how little the station uses them nowadays.

Several programmes in which the orchestra took part still come to mind – such as Saturday evening “Gala Concerts”, “Marching and Waltzing”, a request programme called “As you Like It”, “The BBC Concert Orchestra Showcase”, occasional concert versions of “Melodies For You” and several others. All seem to have been lost over the years, thus giving the so-called younger listener little or no chance to hear the delights of many composers and orchestral masterpieces. Several Club members have remarked recently that this magnificent 60 piece ensemble is sometimes little more than a backing group.

No doubt many of the powers-that-be are too young to remember most of the aforementioned programmes, but should loyal listeners of the last half century be tossed aside? Many are hoping to be around for several years yet – people are living longer these days!

I would point out that when Radios 1,2,3&4 were set up the following was announced:- Radio 1 should be for modern and popular (pop) music, Radio 2 for light music and comedy shows, Radio 3 for classical music, discussions and opera and Radio 4 for news, plays and panel games.

It sounds to me that Radios 1,3&4 have adhered to the original concept - but as for Radio 2??????????????????

CHANGES IN THE ORCHESTRA & OTHER NEWS.

Welcome to:-

Matthew Elston the recently appointed Principal Violin II, Anna Ritchie who joined Tutti Violin II in December, and Sophie Johnson the new Principal Piccolo.

Get Well Wishes:- To the “walking wounded”

Although Jane Sibley (bassoons) has recently returned following a finger injury, Nigel Pinkett (cello) discovered that knives are dangerous in December when he got his fingers in the way of the blade. Hopefully he will be returning very soon. Observant members will have noticed Charles Mutter limping just before Christmas after he tripped and broke his toe...
What you could call a digital calamity!

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.

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

In December 2007 David Beaman became a Father, since which time virtually all eligible members of the violin sections have become parents. Now it seems David started the second cycle in February 2010.....



Following on from Marcus in September, Lucy Hartley gave birth to Dexter Christian at 8.05pm on 22nd October. Dexter weighed in at a staggering 9lb 4ozs, beating his brother Reuben by 15ozs.



But it didn't stop there as Dan Mullin (2nd violins) will become a Father again in March, just too late to catch this edition, sorry Dan.

And Chereene Allen (1st violins) will follow with her second and third child in June. Yes **TWINS!** *And possibly identical too!!!* That will take some beating! We wish Chereen all the best in the coming months.

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

NEWS & UPDATES

From the Orchestra's Manager Andrew Connolly.

Watford

The Colosseum will re-open in the late Summer and the CO will return there for 90 days of the year from October. HQ Theatres will be managing the venue on behalf of Watford Council and you can keep up to date with developments here <http://www.watfordcolosseum.co.uk/>

The CO plans to perform around 8 evening and 4 afternoon events each year of FNIMNs, Radio 3 concerts and community projects. We are also looking into Watford becoming the players and administrative staff's official base.

Festival of Light Music

Fans of Brian Kay's old Thursday afternoon programme of light music should enjoy R3's summer treat. BBC Radio 3 and the BBC Performing Groups, in partnership with Southbank Centre and John Wilson as Artistic Advisor, present Light Fantastic – a nationwide festival of light music, beautifully crafted musical gems by a host of British composers and arrangers.

The BBC's nationwide events culminate in a weekend as part of Southbank Centre's Festival of Britain celebrations, from 24-27th June. Light music, with its evocation of the British landscape, seaside holidays and tea dances, is an important part of our national musical history and culture and will be performed across the country in June through a series of specially-staged live concerts featuring the BBC Performing Groups.

The CO will be at RFH on Friday June 24 in a R2/R3 simulcast of FNIMN, then moving down to Plymouth Pavillions for a show on Sunday 26th evening. Both conducted by Gavin Sutherland.

Learn more at, <http://www.bbc.uk/pressoffice/pressrelease/stories/201101january/19/radio3.shtml>

Prom Dates

The CO will feature in 3 programmes at the RAH and PITP. All details embargoed until April, but I suggest keeping Friday August 12th marked in your diaries.

Out of London concerts - details as we have them at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/orchestras/concertorchestra/events/>

Good Friday April 22 - King's College, Cambridge. (Cleobury - R3)

Friday April 29 - Cheltenham, Town Hall, (Barker - R2)

Wednesday May 4 - Fairfield Hall, Croydon (Wildner - R3)

Saturday May 7 - Emirates Palace Auditorium, Abu Dhabi. (Lockhart)

Sunday June 26 - Plymouth Pavillions (Sutherland - R3)

Andrew Connolly

RM 220A, Drama Building, TV Centre, Wood Lane, W12 7RJ

Matthew Elston Introduces Himself



Matthew Elston began playing the violin at the age of 6 having lessons at primary school with Jean Alington with whom he remained friends until she died in 2008. He grew up in Gloucestershire progressing through the county youth orchestras & started to attend the Royal Academy of Music on Saturdays. During this time he also recruited musicians for week-long courses run with the Cotswold Symphony Orchestra (now sadly defunct). After leaving school

he studied at the Royal College of Music under professor Rodney Friend until 2000.

He then worked as a freelance violinist and worked with several of the London orchestras. He became a member of the English Chamber Orchestra, an opportunity which saw him travelling worldwide & performing with some of the greatest names in the classical world, including Radu Lupu, Mitsuko Uchida, Colin Davis, Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman, Maxim Vengerov, Joshua Bell, Hilary Hahn, Mischa Maisky, Steven Isserlis, Vladimir Ashkenazy, & Sarah Chang. Matthew continues to play with the ECO when his BBC schedule allows, upcoming tours include Egypt in March (though probably not given recent events!) and the Far East in April.

In 2006 Matthew set up a web business specialising in providing professional musicians for functions across the UK. Since then www.stringquartet.co.uk has employed over 500 musicians and is currently undergoing remodelling which aims to allow the company to grow rapidly.

Matthew joined the BBC Concert Orchestra in December 2010 & is the orchestra's Principal 2nd violin, sitting next to Mike Gray the Section Principal.

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POSTBAG

A selection of letters received.

Dear Brian & Jenny,

I have in front of me the Autumn edition of “Soirées Musicales” and I must tell you how much I appreciate it. You two have done wonders in keeping the Club going and keeping everyone in touch with what's going on. For me the magazine is a reminder of many happy occasions when I have worked with the Orchestra. Those days are now past but it's a consolation to continue the connection as President of the BBC Concert Orchestra's Supporters Club.

I send cordial best wishes to all members and above all to you two, without whom the whole affair would have collapsed long ago.

With love from your OLD friend
Richard Baker
October 2010.

Dear Richard

We are proud & privileged to have you as our President, and I am sure all the members will agree with me when I say how much we miss your dulcet tones and professionalism when presenting FNIMN and indeed all other programmes A big hug from all of us!.....Other Ed

Dear Brian

On Friday 7th January I listened to FNIMN – A review of the previous year's programmes.

What a disappointment!! Only two items were purely instrumental, a waltz from “The Nutcracker” and “633 Squadron” which also featured the Central Band of the Royal Air Force”. These came at the beginning and end of the two hours.

Although there were a few light opera items, the rest was mostly “pop” music. They even had something from the film “Slumdog Millionaire”.

In two hours you'd think they could include a bit of quality music.

Yours Sincerely

Susan Ruckes

Ilford

(*Oh yes indeed, Radio2 the "Home of Light Music" ????????)*

Dear Brian

We have greatly enjoyed the Autumn 2010 edition of Soirées Musicales, as lively, colourful and interesting as ever. We are pleased to hear about the possibility of another Club CD and we would like to suggest that it might include The Benedictus from Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man, surely one of the most beautiful pieces in the modern music canon; an adaptation for cello and orchestra would be a marvellous item in the CD.

We were sorry to read that some members had not wished to renew their membership of the Club because of disappointment over the nature and content of some of the Friday Night concerts. We understand these reservations, and we can clearly discern a change of policy by the producers, by comparison with the lovely programmes back in the days of say, Richard Baker.

However we still find ourselves enjoying many of the pieces in the current programmes, whether in the live audience or sitting at home. The Concert Orchestra is a group of wonderfully talented and superbly versatile musicians who fully deserve their Supporters Club. They will always be "our" Orchestral!

Good wishes and thanks to you and Jenny.

John & Audrey Day

Winchester.

Alas, we must move with the times as the Orchestra needs to perform to a wider audience to survive. It's good that many members appreciate this, and an opportunity too good to miss to remind everyone that our Club exists to support this fantastic band of musicians, whatever and wherever they are playing.



Dear Brian & Jenny

Thank you for organising the splendid Finchley evening. As “first timers” we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Best wishes Frances & Ted Atkins

Swanley. Kent

Then we can expect to see you at the AGM and other Club specials, where you will be most welcome!

Dear Brian

Just wanted to say how much I enjoyed the Finchley event, it was delightful – and not a microphone in sight! We are so lucky to be able to enjoy music as it should be played, many thanks indeed.

Sincerely

Jeanette Kincart, Forest Hill

Dear Jenny - Brian

We would like to thank you both very much for the lovely evening 22nd January, we enjoyed it immensely. So good to see & hear Marilyn Hill Smith again, just like the good old days at Golders Green, especially the Ivor Novello, wonderful!

A very good programme, altogether an excellent evenings entertainment

Many thanks

Betty & John Evans, Heston

Dear Brian

What a joy to see and hear Marilyn Hill-Smith at Finchley. We have not seen her in Friday Night Is Music Night for a long while now and do so miss her. She looked as lovely as ever and her voice is still clear and beautiful, so why has she been replaced by those scruffy “pop” people who can't sing, or even look smart?

We do hope that you can arrange for her to come back, if not on FN then another wonderful evening at Finchley.

With sincere wishes to you and Jenny for all you do.

G & E Green, Harrow

Marilyn appeared in over 100 Friday Nights and was immensely popular with the audience and listeners alike. It seems the current producers of the programme have mislaid her address!

Dear Brian

Just wish to thank you for organising the tour round the Houses of Parliament (on 29/9)

We had an excellent guide and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Again many thanks

Ron & Alicia Francis, Sidcup

Douglas French is our trips & tours organiser and he certainly deserves a pat on the back for that one. Well done Doug!

Dear Brian

It is with deep regret that June & I have to relinquish our membership of the Club Unfortunately my health has deteriorated, I am unable to travel by public transport and have great difficulty with climbing stairs.

May I take this opportunity to thank you, your team and the wonderful Orchestra for some marvellous Friday Nights

Very best wishes to all

June & John Shelton, Clayhall, Ilford

Dear Jenny & Brian,

Unfortunately we will not be renewing our membership. This past eighteen months we have not been able to attend concerts due to my husband's illness.

We do realise the effort the Committee puts into the organisation of the Club and regret our decision. However we have thoroughly enjoyed past visits to various concerts.

Many thanks to you both and we wish both the Orchestra and the Club every success in the future. May they go from strength to strength.

Sincerely

Joan & Paul Geraerts, Woodside Park.

We always hate losing members, but none of us is getting any younger and unfortunately failing health is synonymous with advancing age.

But there's more to Club membership than attending concerts. Two magazines a year to keep in touch with the Orchestra and of course free Club CDs!

FRIDAY NIGHT FLASHBACKS.

Brian has delved almost to the bottom of his collection of programmes and dug out 1971. 40 years ago!

This was the era when FNIMN came from the Camden Theatre, just across the road from Mornington Crescent tube station, with Jimmy Kingsbury presenting, David Rayvern Allen and Robert Bowman producing and the founder of FNIMN Sidney Torch conducting.

Here are some names from that year to test your memory ; singers Helen McArthur, Barry Kent, David Hughes, Cherry Lind, Cynthia Glover, John Lawrenson & Stephanie Voss.

This was the time that Military Bands made their appearance - the Band of the Scots Guards, Band of the Royal Artillery(Woolwich), Central Band of the Royal Air Force and the Band of H.M Royal Marines.

The programme usually ended with a community medley which sent the audience home in a happy frame of mind!

Incidentally the programme ran from 9.05 to 10.15 an even later finish than nowadays.

BAC

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

CLUB OUTINGS

Tour of Palace of Westminster – September 2010

Our first outing to the Palace of Westminster was on 29th September. Parties are restricted to 20, and each has a guide. We were very lucky to have drawn Roger King, an excellent speaker as well as being a superb and knowledgeable guide. The tour included both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, the voting chambers and the Queen's robing room. We learned of centuries old traditions, as well as the probable origins of many popular phrases, i.e. “towing the line” and “in the bag”. Members Brian & Jeff reflect on their visit.

Still reeling from outrageous tales of claims for duck houses, moat-cleaning and the like, our group of 20 assembled in jovial mood for a tour of the Palace of Westminster, a royal palace for around 1,000 years and home of the U.K. Parliament for nearly 500. Roger King, our blue – badge guide,



led us on our 90 minutes' tour and outlined the history of the Palace and parliamentary procedures (tempered with a generous helping of humour).

We started and finished in the great Westminster Hall, with its wonderful hammer beam roof dating back to 1399. Work began on the hall originally in 1097. It has survived fire, flood and bombing and is still used today for great ceremonial events (e.g. lying in state of a monarch or honoured Prime Minister such as Winston Churchill). Brass plaques on the floor commemorate many of these events. Apart from Westminster Hall, most of the Palace was destroyed in the fire of 1834 and was rebuilt in Gothic style to the design of Charles Barry and interior design of Augustus Pugin.

We ascended the Sovereign's Staircase to the Queen's Robing Room, where a stool placed before the throne provided an amusing, human touch. It was a requirement of Queen Victoria, who, being of short stature, did not wish her feet to be seen dangling in an undignified fashion. We continued to the Royal Gallery, hung with portraits of monarchs past and present and on to the richly decorated Prince's Chamber, before entering the red and gold elegance of the House of Lords, with its Royal Throne. Following the bombing of the House of Commons during World War II, the chamber was acquisitioned by the Commons for the conduct of its business and the Lords temporarily relocated in St. Stephen's Hall, site of the original chamber.

We left the Lords via the Central Lobby, familiar to us all from so many news bulletins and where we can still today lobby a Member when the Commons is sitting. Plenty of notice is recommended. The chamber of the House of Commons is one of the most recognisable interiors in the world and is home to our 600+ democratically elected MPs. We passed through one of the division lobbies, where Members register their "Ayes" or "Noes" and into St. Stephen's Hall, where brass studs on the floor indicate the site of the Speaker's Chair in the early days of Parliament.

This was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and our thanks go to Doug French for arranging the visit. We recommend the tour to our friends. If, like us, you are no longer prime athletes, the legs can feel weary after 90 minutes' shuffling along and there is little opportunity to sit down once underway but it is well worth the effort.

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AGM 2nd April
See back cover for details.

THE ORCHESTRA'S US TOUR NOVEMBER 2010

1) The Management's Perspective

Following our trips to the Far East (of England) and Abu Dhabi earlier in the year, the BBC Concert Orchestra undertook a 3 week tour along the East Coast of America in November 2010. This was slightly shorter than our last tour of the USA in 2002 (five weeks), but required no less planning and organisation – the first email I had about it was in April 2009, but I imagine there were rumblings long before that.

The tour was organised by Columbia Artists Management Inc (CAMI) in New York, who also happen to be the agents for Keith Lockhart. This would be our first tour with him at the helm as Principal Conductor, so it was extra-special to be performing on his home turf. The soloist for the tour was Ilya Yakushev, a young Russian pianist who performed Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No. 1 and Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 with us. Keith and Ilya came to London in mid-October to rehearse, and also perform some of the repertoire at a public concert at Fairfield Halls, Croydon on 23 October, so those of you who attended the concert will have had a sneak preview of the tour! We had 2 different programmes for the tour (see end of article for details), and each concert venue selected the programme they wanted in advance.

The only way the tour could be financially viable was if we performed a minimum number of concerts, resulting in a somewhat gruelling schedule – the 21 day tour consisted of 15 concert days, 4 Travel days and 2 free days. We visited several of the same venues as on the US tour eight years earlier, but travelled in the opposite direction – this time going from north to south, starting in chilly Boston and ending with 5 days based in sunny Orlando, Florida, which was much more preferable.

Once the itinerary had been decided, the next step was to apply for visas for everyone (apart from Cynthia), which is a notoriously rigorous procedure. All 58 members of the tour group had to complete a 19 page visa application form in advance and submit photographs and then attend a visa interview at the US Embassy, Grosvenor Square, London; we were able to organise

group interviews over three days, though this meant everyone had to arrive at the Embassy at 7am.

We departed London Heathrow on Tuesday 2 November and flew with British Airways to Boston, with no forgotten passports or missed departures. There had been a few player drop-outs due to illness (including one the week before the tour, one a day before and one the morning we left London) so Alex Walden and particularly Claire Barnes were busy fixing players even as we departed. Keith was able to suggest a couple of replacement players from the Boston region to cover the start of the tour, and then we booked UK replacement players who would fly out later on – more visas to sort out...

On arrival at Boston airport, we were met by the CAMI tour manager, Bernard, who would accompany us for the whole tour, and taken to the first of 12 different hotels. CAMI had provided information on each location, such as facilities at the hotel (laundry, gym, internet etc) plus local recommended restaurants and bars – very important at the end of a coach journey or concert when you don't want to have to spend hours wandering the streets trying to find suitable refreshments.

Our first day in Boston was free, which gave everyone a chance to acclimatise and explore this fascinating city. It was a beautifully clear day, chilly but sunny, and most people spent the day just wandering around the city – it was small enough to walk from one side to the other – taking in the sights such as Harvard University, Beacon Hill (an upmarket residential area), Boston Common, Quincy Hall and the North End (Italian area). The sea food in Boston is both famous and fabulous – I had clam chowder for lunch and then a whole lobster for dinner!

I don't think any of us had realised quite how well-known a personality Keith is in and around the Boston area. Everyone we spoke to, both in concert venues and non-musical places (restaurants etc), had heard of him and were very impressed we were working with him, which was a lovely start to the tour.

From Boston, we drove an hour west to a very rainy Worcester, Massachusetts for our first concert at the Mechanics Hall. The orchestra had performed here in 2002, and it was a pleasure to return – it is a beautiful hall

with superb acoustics, similar in shape and sound to Watford Colosseum. The players were very keen to be reunited with their instruments. The next day (5 November) started with a 3 hour drive to Schenectady, New York for Concert 2 at Proctor's Theatre. On 6 November we had an early start (departing the hotel at 07.00) followed by an 8 hour coach journey to the Center for the Arts at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia for Concert 3.

As you can probably start to see, a typical day would start with a coach journey, of varying lengths, followed by 1 or 2 hours rest at the new hotel. Then back on the coach to the concert venue for a short seating rehearsal, which gave players the chance to familiarise themselves with the layout and acoustics of the new venue, and also run through



any particular sections of music if desired. After the concert, it was back on the coach to the hotel for a well deserved drink or two.

One of the main worries everyone had in advance of the tour was the length of the coach journeys, however overall they were better than expected; we had two x 56 seater coaches for the whole tour and an additional coach for longer journeys which were pretty comfortable. More importantly, the coaches also came equipped with wi-fi so anyone with a laptop or iPhone could catch up with emails and news from back home, which helped to pass the time.

There was another early start on Sunday 7 November, because the concert that day was an afternoon performance, starting at 4pm, at the State Theatre, New Brunswick, New Jersey. This was the first of two concerts which were being recorded by Radio 3 for broadcast after the tour – (2pm on Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 February). Neil Varley, our Senior Producer, flew out with the Studio Manager Paul Waton to make the recordings – they used the recording facilities at each venue, but preferred to bring their own microphones.

New Brunswick is only 50 miles from New York and as the players had the evening free, a handful of them took the train there for the evening and from all accounts had a lovely time having dinner and going up the Empire State Building, and were safely back in time to depart on the coaches the next morning.

Concert 5 on 8 November was in the Alumni Hall of the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland which was one of the more unusual venues. It is a huge sports arena – imagine your local leisure centre on a whole grander scale. The place had a purpose built stage, which sat on air-cushioned feet, which could be pushed away out of the hall. And surrounding the stage was a fixed shell, which could be raised up into the roof – it was very impressive. The audience consisted entirely of Naval students/officers – every one of them dressed in Naval uniform (dark blue uniforms with white hats and white gloves). The professionalism of the staging should have given us a clue as to how important music is at this institute - just as the concert started, those of us stood backstage suddenly heard the sound of a gospel choir wafting from close by. After dashing to close the doors to stop the sound carrying, we went to investigate and found three different rehearsals taking place – a fantastic, lively gospel choir, a men's glee club and a ladies glee club! The walls were adorned with photos of past choral groups, and the place obviously had and still has a very active musical life.

On to Newport News, Virginia on 9 November for Concert 6, the second concert recorded for Radio 3. After this we said goodbye to Neil and Paul who flew home the following day.

10 November was a travel day, with two flights to take us from Newport News to Lexington. Once the tour was underway, the itinerary seemed a bit bonkers – we zig-zagged backwards and forwards across the same bit of land (we drove past Baltimore three times). The schedule was dictated by availability of the various venues, however in an ideal world we would have moved in a straight line to save on travelling time – for example the two flights on 10 November were from Norfolk-Atlanta then Atlanta-Lexington, and then a few days later, we were back in Atlanta for a concert.

Andrew Connolly (who joined the tour for four days) and Alex Walden have found a new home for the orchestra – Maryland House Service Station. We stopped there three times on our coach journeys so in relation to our

nomadic lifestyle in London, it could be classed as a regular venue for us! It can be a challenge to maintain a healthy diet on such a long tour when it is easy to fall into the trap of eating fast food at every meal time, particularly when most lunchtimes seems to be spent in a service station! An unexpected treat was that each concert venue provided a light supper for everyone between the rehearsal and concert – the standard fare was sandwiches, vegetables and cookies, which certainly helped to keep spirits up.

Another issue on tour is keeping fit – when you're sat on a coach for 4-8 hours a day, then performing in a concert in the evening, there is little opportunity for any exercise. However many of the hotels had their own gyms and/or swimming pools, and players made the most of these facilities. Dan Mullin took it one step further and set himself the challenge of running 10km every day on tour (21 consecutive days), whilst raising money for Children in Need. I don't know where he found the energy, but he managed to complete the challenge, fitting in early morning and late night runs around the tour schedule – a highly commendable achievement.



Dan on the treadmill.

Back to the schedule; Concert 7 was in the Newlin Hall at the Norton Center, Danville, Kentucky on 11 November. This was followed by the second Free Day of the tour, where people had the opportunity to explore Lexington, the “Horse Capital of the World” and its environs. Everyone used their time in different ways – from hiring cars to drive out into the surrounding countryside, visiting a Shaker village and taking a tour of local horse stables to the more mundane of catching up on laundry!

We moved on to Greenville on 13 November for Concert 8 at the McAlister Auditorium, Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina (which happened to be Keith Lockhart's alma mater, so a special place at which to perform) and then on to Athens, Georgia on 14 November for Concert 9. This concert was electric. We performed the Russian programme and it was

a breath taking performance. Sometimes things all come together at once. It was a full house with an enthusiastic audience, a wonderful acoustic and the orchestra were on fire. It was all smiles coming off stage that day and Keith told the players that he'd rarely enjoyed making music as much as he did in that performance.

Next was Atlanta and a city that many in the orchestra had remembered fondly from their last tour. It did not disappoint this time either. The hotel was the best of the trip – very luxurious and the city was vibrant; we didn't need to travel so there was time to take a well earned rest. Some went shopping, sight seeing or relaxed in the hotel. A few went to the Coca Cola Museum as Atlanta was the birthplace for Coke. The Fox Theatre was an amazing concert hall, designed to look like an outside amphitheatre complete with clouds drifting in the starry night sky – a magical place to perform, and also the last time we played the Russian programme. We woke up the next day (well most of us – some needed a gentle nudge) to a long journey out of Georgia, through Alabama and into Florida, our last state of the tour. The weather was starting to improve and now the shorts and t-shirts were making it out of the suitcase. It was a long day but we crossed a time zone which gave us a most welcome extra hour to relax in the hotel. We arrived at the Panama City venue to signs welcoming the BBC Chamber Orchestra. Was there an imposter in town? The mistake was soon rectified. We performed the Mendelssohn Piano Concerto programme that night and for the remainder of the tour.

Our next day brought a long travel day but thankfully no concert. We made it to Orlando in Central Florida and checked into an 'interesting' theme of hotel. It was the Sheraton Safari and décor reflected that – zebra patterns, drinks served in coconuts and baby alligators in the lobby. As we had a free evening the orchestra made the best of it. With Orlando being a tourist city there was a range of restaurants – all serving good Long Island Iced Teas and Margaritas.

Now we were based at one hotel for five nights we could unpack! It also meant that most of the daytimes could be used for leisure. Some went to Universal Studios, some to Disneyworld and others just soaked up the sun by the hotel swimming pool. We set off to Vero Beach on the 18 November for Concert 12. It was a modern church with a stage shaped like a triangle. As usual Brian Grogan and Mike Cousins still managed to fit us all in so

everyone was comfortable and could play. They kept problems to a minimum for the whole tour – sorting everything out long before the orchestra made it onto the stage. Unfortunately on this day one of the bus drivers wasn't as diligent. He ended up driving in the wrong direction for half an hour with the leader and Orchestra Manager on board. An hour was lost by that diversion but we delayed the rehearsal and still performed well to a packed house (or should I say Church).

The 19 November concert was also good in yet another immaculate Florida venue, this time in Longwood. We were joined by some Floridian school children backstage in the interval, who collected autographs, photos and some even had a go on a couple of instruments!; the flute and trombone being memorably utilised thanks to Ileana Ruhemann and Jim Casey! The players enjoyed seeing the keen young musicians.

The 20 November turned out to be a real adventure. Two thirds of the tour party got up early to catch the bus out to the Atlantic coast. 32 spent the day at the Kennedy Space Centre for a very close, red carpet tour of the launch facility. Not only was the Space Shuttle Discovery still on the platform ready to go, the tour included many alligators and dolphins. The rest of the early morning party spent the day on Daytona Beach before our concert at the Peabody Auditorium next door to where Elton John was performing.





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FULL ORCHESTRA AND TRUCK USA TOUR NOVEMBER 2010

Our last concert was again on a university campus – this time the University of Florida at Gainesville. We had another spell binding performance from our soloist Ilya Yakushev. His encore was so amazing that his standing ovation was started by members of the orchestra before the audience joined in.

All finished we joyfully headed back to the hotel for dinner and a last night party. Keith Lockhart and Ilya generously put some money behind the bar for Long Island Iced Teas for everyone. We were ready to come home though slightly sad that such a good tour was coming to an end. Keith was off early the next morning so we said our goodbyes at the party. We had a lazy day before travelling to the airport in the late afternoon, where we said a fond farewell to Bernard our tour manager, Joey and Kent our bus drivers and soloist Ilya before embarking on our overnight flight home to Gatwick.

It was good to spend an extended amount of time with Keith – who shunned the offer of a private car, preferring instead to travel between locations on the coaches with the players. And the soloist, Ilya Yakushev, was a firm favourite with both the orchestra and audiences alike; his playing was outstanding, and his enjoyment of playing was evident. Every evening he played a different encore – from the virtuosically brilliant, to the lyrically beautiful. But not only was he a joy to see performing, he is also a very relaxed and easy-going chap, making him the perfect choice to take on tour.

All in all, the tour was a great success from our point of view, and thoroughly enjoyable. The reception from the American audiences was overwhelming – we had standing ovations at all but a handful of concerts, which was much appreciated when performing the same programme night after night. So we're looking forward to returning - there is talk of a return trip to America with Keith, this time to visit the West Coast in 2013. Let the planning commence!

©Carolyn Hendry, Concerts & Planning Administrator

©Alex Walden, Orchestra Manager



Tour repertoire

Conductor: Keith Lockhart
Pianist: Ilya Yakushev

Programme A:

Mozart The Marriage of Figaro: Overture
Mendelssohn A Midsummer Night's Dream
(Scherzo/Nocturne/Wedding March)
Mendelssohn Piano Concerto No.1 in G minor, Op. 25

INTERVAL

Vaughan Williams Symphony No.5 in D major

Encores:

Arr Peter Hope "Black is the Color of My True Love's Hair"
Britten Irish Reel (Around the Village Green)

Programme B

Balakirev Overture on Three Russian Folk Songs
Prokofiev Classical Symphony No. 1 in D major, Op. 25
Stravinsky The Firebird Suite (1919 version)

INTERVAL

Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, op. 18

Encores:

Khachaturian "Lezghinka" from Gayane Ballet
(last mvmt of Suite 1)

© BBC

2) The Orchestras' perspective:

"Welcome to the other side of the pond!"

With Maestro Keith Lockhart's opening words ringing in our ears, we began our East Coast Tour of the US. Boston was the first stop, a day of acclimatising and rest after a long flight. It was a wonderful clear, crisp autumn day for walking around the city. Much of the orchestra decamped to Christie's diner for a calorific breakfast, followed by Clam Chowder at the Faneuil Market, concluding the day with plenty of Sam Adams' local brew in the hotel bar. Food; the size and quality thereof, was to become a major theme of the tour!

Worcester's Mechanics Hall was the first concert stop of our tour, featuring the wildly talented Ilya Yakushev on piano. His performances wherever we went, were met with great enthusiasm and standing ovations. Our coach journeys each day included the spectacular sights of New England in the 'Fall', and the distantly gleaming Washington. Everywhere we went, we were warmed by the American welcome, and their ubiquitous phrases - 'Have a nice day', and 'You're all set'.

There followed a series of very well received concerts, including a live performance from New Brunswick on Radio 3. New Brunswick, and its close proximity to New York, afforded a few intrepid members of the orchestra with an opportunity to take a train into Penn Station to sample Manhattan's attractions of an evening. From the violins: Sarah, Gwyneth, Jo, Hayley, Helen, Peter, and myself (and Steve from percussion) took a whirlwind trip up the Empire State Building by night, Times Square, and finally a hearty Italian meal at 'Tony's'.

In Annapolis, many members enjoyed walking around the charmingly historic 'First State Capitol', and then we performed to a full audience of the immaculately dressed and uniformed Naval Academy, who seemed politely impressed.

Then we found ourselves (after two internal flights) in Lexington KY, for a well deserved day off. Much needed rest was had, laundry duties were undertaken, and we basked in balmy 22° weather. Time to break out the T-shirts and shorts! We sampled many of the delights of 'Horse Country', including the leafy Historic district, and meeting the friendly locals in Wildcats Bar (and perhaps one too many Bourbons!). After a memorable night of Southern Hospitality we recovered with some spicy Cajun food. Then it was back on the bus to Greenville.

In Atlanta, a few of us were lucky enough to visit the Martin Luther King Memorial, and spent a fascinating morning learning about his inspiring life and work. We saw his birth home, his tomb, and an extremely moving film and exhibition. On the way to Florida the chants at the back of the bus moved from "Where's Boss Hogg?" to "Where's Mike Gray?" (For a translation, see your appointed orchestra representative).

In Panama City, after a long haul on the coach, the trumpet lads John, Dan

and I jumped in a cab to the beach for a swim. A unique first experience for all of us - swimming in the pounding surf of the Gulf Coast which was remarkably clean, considering the recent spill. It was certainly a most welcome and refreshing dip after many hours on the bus! And then to Orlando, and the immensely character full Sheraton Safari - proud owner of the World's Largest Python Waterslide TM. Many orchestra members enjoyed a chance to sunbathe and a swim in the outdoor pool, including many fun games of water polo. (Especially sweet considering reports of the cold weather at home!)

The curse of the tour cold struck again in Vero Beach, even Ilya our soloist came down with it! Full marks to him for battling through it and performing with his typical panache. One last highlight for the tour (and special thanks to Alex W for organising) was a trip to the Kennedy Space Centre, to see the shuttle Discovery on its launch pad ready to go on 3rd Dec, and to experience the many other attractions there, including up close with a Saturn V moon rocket. Many of us spent a fascinating day here, and even stocked up on NASA themed presents in the gift shop.

Special mention must go to Dan Mullin on successfully completing twenty-one 10K runs in 21 days for Children in Need. Goodness knows where he found the energy!

Many thanks must go to all the BBC management for all their tireless work for the tour, and to Keith and Ilya for their constant inspiration. Roll on the next tour - Abu Dhabi next year!

© 2010 Rustom Pomeroy

Big Ed & Other Ed would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our three authors for this excellent contribution. When you think of the difficulties we experience travelling in, out and around London, it must be hailed as a minor miracle to have had all the orchestra in the same place as their instruments for 15 concerts, over such a huge area! Many congratulations to all concerned.

DAN, DAN THE MARATHON MAN.

When the BBCCO went to USA, I had originally planned on running 21 consecutive 5km's for Children In Need. I then began to worry that it was a challenge a little bit flimsy in difficulty. I felt the bar needed raising somewhat. The end product was to run 21 10Km's (6.20 miles in the old money) for 21 consecutive days from Nov 1st to Nov 21st while in USA. The challenge of running 6 miles a day is relatively comfortable. What made this so difficult was fitting the runs into an ever-changing schedule, sometimes with 8 hour coach journeys and rehearsals and concerts to do. There were a few unexpected problems to overcome like trying to find suitable routes and not getting lost. In the end, I resorted to doing most of the 21 runs on the treadmills in the hotel gyms just to keep things simple and avoid trying to cross 6 lane freeways in the process. Trying to overcome fatigue with no recovery days had become problematic enough without trying to negotiate the streets of assorted strange towns and cities!

I recorded a tour blog with a day by day account of the whole experience which can be located on the BBCCO website under "Dan Mullin's Tour Challenge". I was very proud to complete all 21 without a single day off and delighted to raise £804 pounds for Children In Need. Thank you to everyone who gave their spare dollars and sterling. I must confess it was infinitely more challenging than any of the 4 marathons or 5 ultra-marathons I have done, not to mention the 80+ 10km's, 10 mile, half-marathons, etc. It was something I won't be attempting again but will never forget either!

In closing, I should also like to thank my fitness guru and Ultra-marathon partner Mr. Scott Jones. Not only did we complete the Ultra from Tring to Northampton (47 miles along the Grand Union Canal) 45 minutes faster than the same event last year in a time of 10 hours 55 mins but Scott did it with a pair of trainers that had already been condemned to the bin with holes in his soles! He had bought a new pair, but wrote them off before using them in battle with an unfortunate pre-race accident with an angle-grinder. Don't ask. Just let me assure you he's made of iron to finish a race in freezing conditions, sleet and pitch black with blisters the size of golf-balls. I had the luxury of new trainers. Thank you Scott for gritting through the pain barrier and carrying on from the 38 miles checkpoint in agony.

We arrived in Central Northampton just before 7pm having arrived at the start in Tring at 7am. As I crossed the line, hallucinating with fatigue having really pushed to better last year's time, Rory Coleman who organises the event and is one of UK's top Ultra runners (700+ marathons and 300+



turned to us and said "well done boys, big improvement on last year but next year I want a sub 10 hour from you.

Something inside me at that very moment said to myself "you're on!"

CD REVIEWS

By Dave Daniels.

In 1997 at the time many of us were becoming increasingly concerned at the reduction of light music on BBC Radio, the Concert Orchestra assembled at Blackheath Concert Halls to record a CD of the very best of light music. Here were all the old favourites – “Coronation Scott”, “Horse Guards”, “Westminster Waltz”, “Nights of Gladness” etc, in all 20 pieces including music by Eric Coates, Ernest Tomlinson, Peter Hope and many others, all in sparkling performances under the late great Vernon



Handley. The glorious irony was that the recording was not for the BBC, but Classic FM!!!! You couldn't make it up! Well now this outstanding CD is available again at a bargain price of £5.99, and would make a great present or family and friends. Yet again it would appear that record companies recognise the increasing demand for this material – something the Corporation seems to be largely in denial of!

“Best of British Light Music” on SONY CLASSICAL 88697707372

The name John Foulds will be familiar to many through his popular work "A Keltic Lament", which forms the second part of his Keltic Suite, but he wrote much more besides. It was a source of irritation to him that it was his attractive light music that was played, particularly in the inter war years on the BBC, at the expense of more serious works. Some of this is now being revisited. Indeed Barry Wordsworth and the BBC CO played his 3 Mantras at the Proms some years ago, these like much of his serious music being greatly influenced by the music of India. However Dutton have now released two volumes of his lighter music including the "Keltic Suite". Vol 1 CDLX 7252 also contains a "Keltic Overture" which is great fun, and music inspired by his travels such as "4 Holiday Sketches", "A Sicilian Aubade", and "Isles of Greece". This music was all new to me but believe me it is of the very highest order. "Gramophone" magazine remarks "*it is good that Foulds is at last receiving the recognition he deserves, and the playing under Ronald Corp is excellent, The BBC Concert Orchestra being one of the finest ensembles for this repertory*" Soloists appearing on this disc are Cynthia Fleming, Katherine Wood, and in the imposing 3rd movement of his "Suite Fantastique", organist Roderick Elms.

Following hard on the heels of this issue comes Vol 2 Dutton CDLX 7260, which at time of writing has not been reviewed in the musical press, but I cannot see the critics being any less enthusiastic over this than Vol 1, such are the treasures here. Take "An Indian Suite" for example featuring much oriental percussion and solos from Michael Pearce (clarinet) and Victoria Wimpole (cor anglais). It is hard to believe this attractive music was never played in Foulds' lifetime. Amongst other delightful works is a suite compiled from music composed for Lewis Casson's 1926 production of Shakespeare's "Henry VIII" and dedicated to Sybil Thorndike. Cynthia and Katherine make another appearance in a charming idyll from 1916 entitled "Darby and Joan" After enjoying the music of John Foulds Vol 1 you will surely want this disc. Needless to say Ronald Corp draws playing of the highest order from the Orchestra.



Vol 8 of "The Carl Davis Collection" (Threefold Records CDC008) features the BBC CO in a thoroughly enjoyable collection of songs and music from World War 2 entitled "Give Me A Smile" with Carl Davis conducting and singers Mary Carewe, Claire Sweeney, Richard Stuart, Sarah Eyden and the Brighton Festival Chorus. All the old songs are here in

splendid arrangements (though I could have done without the Gracie Fields impression in “Wish Me Luck”). As you might expect “The Dam Busters” puts in an appearance as does “Colonel Bogey”, and pianist Melvyn Tan performs what I felt was a slightly lack lustre performance of “The Warsaw Concerto” but makes up for it in a sparkling rendition of the famous Litolff Scherzo from his “Concerto Symphonique”. This piece once heard so often in the 40s & 50s particularly in record request programmes is sadly rarely heard these days, though as a matter of interest the CO appeared with Dame Moura Lympany playing this on a CD issued in 1966 by Carlton Classics from a series called BBC Radio Classics. It was a live concert from the Festival Hall when the great Arthur Fielder came across for a series of concerts with the Orchestra and also features music by Tchaikovsky, Offenbach and Liszt ending with music by Lennon and McCartney! No longer available it is worth looking out for in dealer's second hand lists or on the Internet.

On a slightly more sombre note you will remember the name of Daniel Pearl, the Wall Street journalist murdered by Jihadi extremists in 2002. He was not only a fine writer but also an accomplished violinist and at the request of Pearl's family, composer Dave Heath (whose work has been performed by the CO on several occasions) was asked to write a piece in Daniel's honour. This appears on a CD entitled “A Song for Daniel Pearl” Quartz Records QTZ2058. Our Orchestra appears in two items – Heath's “Moroccan Fantasy” and part of his Piano Concerto. The rest of the record contains a variety of his work in different styles from various combinations and whilst not perhaps for the more conservative listener will be very rewarding for the more adventurous musical spirit! The disc commemorates the Daniel Pearl Foundation set up by his parents.



In conclusion it cannot have failed to escape your notice the influence one John Wilson is having at BBC Television. The MGM Prom in 2009 received rave notices, and the BBC had to bow to public demand to issue a DVD. We hope the same occurs for the Rogers and Hammerstein Prom last year which was undoubtedly one of the season's highlights, and now during last Christmas his concert “A Swinging Christmas” was shown not once but twice within a week. We can but hope some of the enlightenment shown by

BBC2 and BBC4 rubs off on those at Radio2 where this material once had a natural home!!

© 2011 Dave Daniels

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

Another CD?

As mentioned in the previous magazine, the Club is hoping to have another CD recorded. We asked members to submit musical items for possible inclusion, and a good many of you did. Not surprisingly some pieces seemed particularly popular with you. We have drawn up a list and given it to Neil Varley, who produced the first one for us, and Andrew Connolly the Orchestras General Manager. We are now waiting to learn when the required 2 days to record it can be fitted into the Orchestras hectic schedule.

Calling all BIG BAND fans.

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

For full details contact the Honary Secretary:
Sylvia Ritchie, 5 Osborne Terrace, Crail, Fife KY10 3RR
Telephone 0133 345 0941

THE QUEUE

At all the wonderful Friday Night is Music Night concerts there is an element that is largely overlooked but vitally important to the continuity of the show. It can be observed at least two hours prior to entry and in all weather. It is the “queue” and is almost as important as the performances.

Over many years audience members gather outside the venue and vie for places at the front in order to procure their desired seat. Much hilarity is observed and friendships formed. Members exchange magazines, books, sweets, funny stories from the internet and the latest “inside” information on the orchestra and its members, plus the odd spare ticket.

The last show before Christmas brings all kinds of catering from mince pies to smoked salmon nibbles and drinks to match, plus extra special chocolates. By the time we get through the doors we are much, much more mellow. Cards and presents are exchanged too.

During the summer break visits are paid to members homes to cement the friendships that are made during the year. In January folk can get pretty cold standing for two hours or more and so a visit along the queue to chat to friends helps to keep us warm and pass the time, but we would never give this up.

How lucky are we to have this fun and friendship along with the wonderful performances from the best orchestra in the world.....BBC Concert Orchestra?

*Avid queue fan
Monica Gardner*

There is nothing new about this. Indeed back in the 60's at Camden Theatre where there was no stage door, conductors, artistes and Orchestra members used to come out and chat to the queue. At Golders Green Hippodrome the same happened and the queue was even entertained by an accordionist! This close relationship that existed between members of the audience, and between them and the Orchestra, was one of the reasons for the Club being formed in the first place.

CLUB EVENINGS.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 27TH. FINCHLEY

Over 60 members from Loughborough to Eastbourne, Northampton to Dover (*and one from over the road!*) braved freezing conditions to attend:-

“AN EVENING WITH KENNETH ALWYN”

Host Nigel Blomiley (minus cello) welcomed everyone with a recording of the Concert Orchestra playing appropriately “That's Entertainment”, before introducing Kenneth Alwyn, who had travelled up from his home in West Sussex, for an evening of “Music & Chat”.

The association between Nigel & Kenneth had started some 30 years earlier at (*even more appropriately*) Chatham, when Kenneth was conducting at Nigel's first concert. There followed a recording of Nigel playing the first part of the “William Tell” Overture.



Neither had come from musical families. Indeed Kenneth confided

he had never seen or heard an orchestra, despite being a choirboy at Croydon. In contrast to the angelic voice he was selling manure at “tuppence a bucket”! His introduction to “proper music” came about when his father sold a bicycle to buy a wind up gramophone and from then he didn't look back.

His conducting encompassed a diversity of performances ranging from “Half A Sixpence” with Tommy Steele to Moira Shearer at the Royal Ballet. This was illustrated with a recording of “Flash, Bang, Wallop” from “Half A Sixpence”.

One of the highlights of Kenneth's career was being asked at very short notice to conduct the 1,000th Friday Night Is Music Night at the Royal Festival Hall on 17th November 1972 (at 8pm!) This was followed by numerous FN's at various venues, but none quite so splendid!

The first half concluded with a recording of Kenneth conducting the CO in “Italian Caprice”, which both agreed showed the Orchestra in their best form.

After the interval Nigel recounted the US tour celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain which involved the CO, Band of the RAF, BBC Singers and various artistes. One of the 20 odd concerts was performed at 2 o'clock for live transmission at 7.30 pm in the UK. The papers reported that Kenneth had “conducted with a broken leg” which must have been quite a sight! Kenneth's “March” was written for this tour and is still played today.



The evening finished at 9pm when Kenneth's carriage arrived at the door. Brian thanked Nigel & Kenneth for an excellent evening and both were presented with suitable tokens of appreciation.

Jenny

SATURDAY SPECTACULAR

JANUARY 22nd AT FINCHLEY.



If the US Tour was the highlight of the Orchestra's year, then the Saturday Spectacular was certainly the highlight of the Clubs! Over 140 members congregated at Finchley for a magical evening of music and songs.

Marilyn Hill-Smith – on a short break from her role as the Mother Abbess in the “Sound Of Music” (*currently on tour round the UK watch out for it in your area*) enchanted everyone with her

singing of songs by Novello – for which she is renowned – and other operetta highlights.

Robin Stapleton flew in from Italy to accompany Marilyn on the piano, as well as delivering several amusing anecdotes.

Nigel Blomiley (former CO Principal cello) played 3 pieces by Fritz Kreisler amongst others, whilst David Cropper (former CO French horns) demonstrated the workings of the French Horn with rubber tubing and funnel – reminiscent of hospital enema equipment – as well as performing movements from Mozart's Horn Concerto.



Nigel



David

During the interval Marilyn autographed and sold copies of her CD “Ivor Novello Songs” (*Chandos CHAN6677*)

For a finale with horn, cello and piano accompaniment, Robin and Marilyn sang the Brindisi duet from “La Traviata” – as never performed before, or likely to be again!

Marilyn was presented with a bouquet and everyone received a suitable bottle bag.



It was a great disappointment Richard Baker, suffering a migraine, was unable to attend, but full marks to the others for putting on a brilliant show. The Club is greatly indebted to Nigel for arranging all the entertainment, and the Church for the use of the premises free of charge. The retiring collection for Church funds amounted to £260, thanks to all who contributed.

Jenny.

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

THE CONCERT GOERS.

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

The first was held at the rather quaint Friends Meeting House at Sollershott in Letchworth on 13th October, when Camerata Quartet – Peter Bussereau (Leader), Juliet Kauffmann (violin) Paul Bennett (viola) and Peter Randall (cello) - performed in the splendid galleried recital room,



Their excellent selection of music, Rautavaara's String Quartet No1, Smetana's String Quartet No1 from "My Life" and Ralph Vaughan-Williams' String Quartet in G minor, delivered with their usual professionalism was well received by the packed audience of Letchworth Music Club patrons.

Due to a prior engagement we were unable to attend the Symphonia Academica concert at Bedford University on 27th November, which was a shame as it featured dance sequences arranged by their composer in association Richard Sisson (*of Kit & Widow fame – or is that notoriety?*)

FIBONACCI SEQUENCE

Sunday October 24th Conway Hall

There were not many people around Holborn at 6pm on a Sunday Evening, but everyone who was seemed to be heading in the same direction, and following them we found the Conway Hall, a new venue for us. We were there as the concert was being performed by Fibonacci Sequence – a name familiar to members as previous concerts have been reported in Soirées Musicales – and featured the CO Principal cellist Benjamin Hughes, with Zo? Beyers (violin) and the founder member and artistic director of Fibonacci, Kathron Sturrock (piano).

The programme for this concert was Trio in G (Mozart) Trio in C minor (Beethoven) and Trio in B flat (Schubert). The Hall was packed to capacity with an appreciative audience for what was an outstanding performance by three exceptional musicians.



Conway Hall Sunday Concerts are held weekly at 6.30pm and local Restaurants offer a 20% discount on food orders to concert-goers on production of the programme.

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

BARNET SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 5th

St JOHN'S CHURCH, FRIERN BARNET,

The last concert of the year held at St John's on a freezing cold Sunday evening featured appropriately Coleridge-Taylor's "Christmas Overture" Waldteufel's "Skaters Waltz", Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" & Brahms' Symphony No 4. But despite the weather the church was packed and everyone enjoyed the programme, which was performed to the high standard this talented group invariably achieves.

As usual the orchestra had a smattering of familiar former and current CO faces:- Martin Loveday conducting, Philip Gibson Leader, Jayne Ross 2nd violins, husband Andy trombones, Michael Jeans oboe and Peter Beament percussion.

Their next concert will be on SUNDAY MARCH 27th at 7.30pm at St Johns Church Friern Barnet, London N11 3EQ, and the programme Berlioz: Nuits d'Ete and Mahler's Symphony No4.



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

The Next "Afternoon Out" will be on Monday June 13th.
Further details from Brian on 01462 892670



Royal Albert Hall,
Monday 14 March, 7.30pm

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ORCHESTRA MEMBERS FORTHCOMING CONCERTS.

MIGHTY MAHLER

Symphonia Academica, conducted by David Beaman, perform a chamber version of Mahler's Symphony No.4 with Richard Sisson's African inspired "The Mukamba Tree". The ensemble is joined by the soprano Christine Bunning and Petroc Trelawny as narrator.

Monday 14 March 7.45pm

Luton Library Theatre, Central Library, St George's Square, Luton, LU1 2NG

Ticket information: 01582 547474 or www.lutonlibrarytheatre.co.uk

BRUCH'S VIOLIN CONCERTO No1

The Finchley Chamber Orchestra, conducted by David Lardi and soloist Peter Bussereau, performs Bruch's Violin Concerto No1 in g minor, Beethoven's Fidelio overture and Schubert's Symphony No9.

Saturday 12 March 7.30pm

Trinity Church, North Finchley, London, N12 7NN

tickets: 020 8440 1899 or tickets@finchleychamberorchestra.org

COOL CLASSICS

Peter Bussereau and Wing Yun Wu perform music for violin and piano, including Saint-Saens' own arrangement of his "Danse Macabre" an arrangement of Prokofiev's Flute Sonata, Beethoven's Sonata Op30 No.3 and Wieniaski's dazzling Polonaise in D.

Saturday 28 May 7.45pm

St Luke's Church, Langley Way, Watford, WD17 3EG

Tickets: FREE to BBC CO Club members by phoning 01582 882159

COUNTRY CLASSICS

Quartet Camerata perform Philip Glass' short "Companion" quartet, Shostakovich's sixth quartet and Britten's "Divertimenti". Also included is a mystery work. Who is it that writes so beautifully that it could be Brahms or Dvorak? The composer's name will be disclosed only after the audience has had a guess!

Saturday 11 June 8pm

St Nicholas' Church Hall, Church Road, Barton-le-Clay, MK45 4LA

**Tickets: For details of BBC CO Club member discounts
phone 01582 882159**

REGAL CLASSICS

To mark this year's Royal Weddings and Prince Philip's 90th birthday Symphonia Academica performs a programme of music with royal connections. Included will be Strauss' "Emperor Waltz", a new composition based on "Rule Britannia" and songs by Kurt Weill sung by the soprano Christine Bunning.

Saturday 30 July 7.30pm

The Rufus Centre, Steppingley Road, Flitwick, MK45 1AH

Tickets: For further details phone 01582 882159

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for concert March 8th;
April 1st for concert May 3rd

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Dvorák and Mozart

Tuesday May 3rd 2011 7.30pm

music for piano and wind

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The 29th
Annual General Meeting of this Club
will be held on

SATURDAY APRIL 2nd 2011

at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards Lane, Finchley N3
commencing at 7.00pm. Doors open 6.30pm
Please be seated by 6.45pm.

It is important that all Club members attend. This is your Club so come along and have your say. Find out more about the aims & functions of the Club and our future plans for members entertainment. We usually have an audience of around 100 and we hope to see even more of you this year.

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

Who will it be this year?

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