

## **Mahler 2**

Congratulations to everyone for a tremendous performance of Mahler 2. I think it really was an unforgettable experience for everyone who took part, choir and orchestra - we really did ourselves proud. As Matt said afterwards it was a real performance not just a play-through.

Apart from the EDP review, we have been inundated with tributes from concert-goers thrilled by the performance. Chairman Caroline Jarrold was accosted by a stranger on the London train raving about the concert, and Keith Hobday tells me he has had "so many people come in to the shop to congratulate the Society on staging the occasion, including three men I've never seen before shaking me by the hand across the counter. One gentleman had seen Mahler 2 with Klemperer in the 1960's ('past his best') and at the opening of Symphony Hall in Birmingham with Rattle ('pretty stunning'). He went on to say he enjoyed our Mahler more than those!!!!"

Here are some of the comments from the survey forms which were completed on the night: 'Fantastic'; 'Good playing excellent Mahler'; 'Passion'; 'Impressive co-ordinated playing & performance'; 'Having only heard this symphony on CD/Radio it was thrilling to hear it live'; 'Ambitious'; 'so exciting!'; 'Professional'; 'V. good performance'; 'Generally well played with good dynamics'; 'An excellent performance by all participants!'; 'A tremendous work, brilliantly performed'; 'Blending together of all the force.'; 'Magnificent sound.' And one respondent did not fill in any of the questions at all but wrote in very large letters across the whole sheet: "BLOODY MARVELLOUS! MORE PLEASE!"

So there you have it – a real triumph. Question is what next?!

**Mike Nutt**

## **New Principal Conductor**

Following his stunning debut conducting Mahler 2, we are delighted to announce the appointment of **Matthew Andrews** as the orchestra's new Principal Conductor. His initial contract will run until March 2013, renewable thereafter.

Matt says: "It was a rare privilege to conduct Mahler's '*Resurrection*' Symphony and a real pleasure to do

so with performers as talented and enthusiastic as the Norwich Phil.

I am honoured and delighted to be appointed as the orchestra's new Principal Conductor. We are looking forward to collaborating on some exciting programmes in coming seasons that will rival the quality (and perhaps the spectacle!) of the Mahler, and continuing the Phil's 170-year contribution to the musical life of the city."

Chairman of the Norwich Philharmonic Society, Caroline Jarrold said: "We are very fortunate to secure the services of a young conductor who is not only very gifted but who has already established such a terrific rapport with the orchestra. I know our audiences can expect some wonderful music-making in concerts and seasons to come."



## **What you didn't know about the Mahler concert**

"One or two minor hiccups that I didn't really tell anyone about included - the lights we hired kept shorting out! St Andrews Hall only has a 'domestic' electric circuit and every time we switched the lights off, they would not come back on again! The Hall staff had instructions to crawl underneath the stage during the performance and throw the switches if the lights shorted! Also, the stage did not have enough legs, so we had to 'improvise' a bit....."

**Keith Hobday**

### **Update on film recording**

As you know, the Mahler rehearsal on the Friday night before the concert was filmed by the local BBC production unit for the Big Screen in Chapelfield Plain with a sound track recorded by a local recording engineer. The BBC undertook the filming as a pilot project with a view to screening edited highlights on the Big Screen at a later date. In addition we are planning to upload the footage to the Phil website and to use it in support of future funding applications and sponsorship bids. We are still awaiting news on the final edit and will let you know as soon as we have received it.

### **Get set for the**

# QUIZ NIGHT

Last year, the lower strings team won the Quiz. Let's make sure the Orchestra make it two years in a row.

Teams of up to 8 people, bring your own food/drink.

Friday 28th January 2011  
Lower School Refectory  
Norwich School  
Tickets: £7 per person

### **Repertoire Night**

As a new innovation this season there will be a Repertoire Night on Tuesday 8th February. The plan is to assemble the full orchestra is called for **a fun play-through of a couple of works from the romantic repertoire**. We are hoping everyone will be available but please let your section leader know if you can't attend so that we know what forces we will have available on the night.

### **Website working for us**

The Orchestra is really using the website to check up on rehearsal updates etc. now - 184 visits to the rehearsals page in the last month alone.

But our audiences are using it more too. In the 3 days following the Mahler concert, there were *double* the average number of visits to the site, and over 50% of those visits were people who had never been to the site before.

You can also see new photos of the Mahler rehearsal too (under History > Photographs) and lots more at [www.norwichphil.org.uk](http://www.norwichphil.org.uk).



### **Post-Christmas rehearsal schedule**

Please note that because the February concert is taking place earlier than usual we plan to start rehearsals after Christmas a week earlier on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January**.

It's an exciting and challenging programme with Tchaikovsky's 4<sup>th</sup> Symphony and the colourful Peacock Variations by Kodaly. However, as the Schools do not reopen until 5th, so there may be a **change of venue**.

Rob Barnes will email everyone with updates, **so please check your email and the website over the Christmas period**.

### **Wear your Phil sticker with pride!**

Thanks to the Society's recent benefactors, we now have some handsome new Norwich Phil stickers – both for your instrument case and your car window. Please display and if you'd like extra copies we do have some reserve stocks left - please ask Mike Nutt.



### **Post concert Bar**

As there was no interval in the Mahler concert we persuaded the Hall to keep the bar open after the concert. It provided an excellent opportunity for orchestra players, chorus members and audience to mingle after the concert and wind down after the performance. As it was so successful we are hoping the Hall will be willing to make this a regular post-concert feature in future so join us at the bar for a drink after the next concert!



### **Don't forget our .....**

## **DINNER DANCE**

On 9th April 2011, at Dunston Hall

To mark the 170th Anniversary of the Society  
at Sunningdale Suite,  
Dunston Hall  
on Saturday, April 9th 2011  
at 6:45pm for a 7:30pm dinner  
Dancing to The O'Fenders

Black Tie  
Price £37.50  
email: [sallyfish@msn.com](mailto:sallyfish@msn.com)

