

Welcome to our summer newsletter together with the Phil's rehearsal schedule for next season. As we now go deep into our summer recess, we can look back on a very successful and satisfying season for the Phil – as well as looking forward to some great music next season.

I think everyone would agree that the highlight of 2010-11 was the Phil's thrilling performance of Mahler 2. What a fantastic experience it was to play such moving music on such an enormous scale and to a sell-out audience too! In fact, thanks to the 'Mahler effect', packed houses became the norm for the whole of the season with ticket revenues greatly exceeding budget, much to the delight of John MacDonald, the Society's Treasurer. Of course it's great for the Society's finances but isn't it so much more rewarding for us playing to large and appreciative audiences?!

So for next season how do we follow that? Well, we may not have a blockbuster quite on the scale of the Mahler but we do have some terrific music to look forward to and of course it's Matthew Andrews' first full season with us as Principal Conductor.

We have two gorgeous symphonies to play – **Sibelius' 5th** and, a first for the Phil, **Rachmaninov's 3rd**, with all that composer's hallmark lyricism and colour. Other works never before performed by the Phil include the **Suite** from the opera **Der Rosenkavalier** by **Richard Strauss**, a composer very rarely featured in Phil programmes, as well as Nielsen's glowing **Helios Overture** "in praise of the sun" and Holst's homage to Thomas Hardy, **Egdon Heath**, a work he regarded as his finest.

And at the end of the season we join the Chorus for two more Phil first performances. Jonathan Dove's **There was a Child** was premiered at the Norfolk & Norwich Festival only 2 years ago and is his moving tribute to a friend's son.

Alexander Nevsky is a fiery cantata by Prokofiev originally written as music for a film about a famous battle in Russian history. Strongly inspired by Russian folk music, it is a thrilling tale full of orchestral full of orchestral colour and melodic invention - a real tour de force for the orchestra.

We have two outstanding young soloists joining us in concertos next season. American-born Yehudi Menuhin School graduate **Bartholomew LaFollette** is the soloist in Elgar's Cello Concerto ,



Bartholomew LaFollette (Elgar Cello Concerto)

while Romanian-born **Alexandra Dariescu**, 2008 winner of the prestigious Prix Maurice Ravel, makes her Philharmonic début in Brahms First Piano Concerto, surprisingly not performed in a Phil season since 1969.

So it looks like we have some challenging and rewarding repertoire to play next season and I am sure you will enjoy it! Rehearsals start on 27th September and I look forward to seeing you again then. In the meantime have a great summer!



Alexandra Dariescu
(Brahms Piano Concerto No.1)

Mike Nutt
Chairman Orchestra Sub-Committee

A Big Thank You to Sue Drake

After 24 years, Sue Drake has decided that it's time for her to hand over the responsibility for drinks and biscuits in the rehearsal breaks to someone new.

Sue took on the role in 1987, having persuaded Julian Webb that drinks would be a good idea. They certainly were, and have been extremely popular ever since.

For those of you who didn't play in the Brahms, Sue was given a small thank you present at one of the last rehearsals, as a token of our appreciation. Thank you Sue, for everything you have done, and thanks to Jane Howard, who will take over Sue's role next season. Jane has a hard act to follow!

Society's new acquisitions

Thanks to some generous legacies recently received, the Society has been in a position to invest in some new instruments. We have acquired a bass clarinet and an E flat clarinet for use by resident players when repertoire demands, and we have purchased a xylophone for the percussion section.

We are also about to purchase a new set of music stands for use in concerts at St Andrews Hall to replace the existing set which have got very rickety and shabby. We have chosen a robust stand made by German company Konig & Meyer which has generous height adjustment, a good sized music plate and solid base. They should serve us well for many years to come.



Members' Subscriptions

A reminder that Norwich Phil membership subscriptions for next Season are now due.

You should have recently received a Membership Subscription Form in the post, together with a letter from Rob Barnes, the Orchestra Secretary, and a copy of the new 2011/12 Season brochure. Please make sure you return your cheque and completed form to Rob, either by post, or in person at the first rehearsal on 27th Sept.

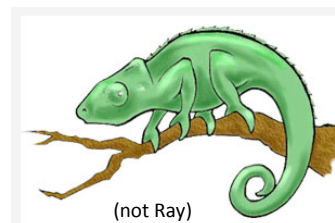
More Concert information is on the website at

www.norwichphil.org.uk



Chameleon at Phil AGM

Those of us who were at the Society's AGM at the Assembly Rooms on 25th May were entertained by a wonderful talk by Ray Simmons entitled 'Memoirs of a Musical Chameleon'. Ray told us all about his illustrious career as a professional trumpeter with orchestras like the Bournemouth Sinfonietta, the RPO, the Royal Opera House and the Stavanger Symphony as well as his passion for playing jazz. As a finale he gave an hilarious account of how, while on tour with the RPO in Spain, he single-handedly pacified an airplane full of rioting passengers with his trumpet – a story that made headlines all over the world.



Have you got your Phil Stickers yet?

Mike Nutt still has a few of the Norwich Phil stickers available – both for your instrument case and your car window.

Please display one if you can. Every bit of publicity helps.

