

Welcome to the 2013-14 Phil season

Yes, it's September and the start of another Phil season – our 173rd to be precise (so a rather special milestone looming in 2 years!) But this season we continue our celebrations of the Britten centenary and on 9th November, just a fortnight before the actual anniversary on 22nd November, we perform his colossal War Requiem with the Chorus and Orchestra joined by the Academy of St Thomas, singers from UEA Choir and choristers from Norwich Cathedral. It's fitting too that our performance of this moving protest against the futility of war takes place close to Remembrance Day. As well as the performance at St. Andrews Hall, many members of the Choir will be travelling to Koblenz to give another performance of the War Requiem on the centenary date itself with the Koblenz Musik Institut choir and the Rheinische Philharmonie in the Rhein-Mosel Halle.

The choir have already begun rehearsals after the summer break and indeed started work on rehearsing the War Requiem in June, but orchestra please don't forget our first rehearsal on 24th September is a Repertoire Night with a read-through of Rachmaninov's First Symphony. A special prize for the first person who can tell me which BBC current affairs programme used the theme from the last movement!! E-mail your answer to michaelnutt@btconnect.com.

After the War Requiem we step back to romantic repertoire for the December concert with Brahms 1st Symphony and Zoe Beyers as soloist in Sibelius Violin Concerto – see her profile below. For this year's Family Christmas Concert the Chorus are once again joined by Norfolk Brass, and February's concert is an all-Russian affair featuring Tchaikovsky's 6th Symphony and the Phil's first ever performance of Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet. The season ends with Chorus and Orchestra in a foot-tapping American night including music from Bernstein's West Side Story, Gershwin's Porgy and Bess and songs from the shows. I think you'll agree, for players, singers and audiences alike, it's a mouth-watering line-up! Enjoy your music-making in 2013/14 and see you soon!

Mike Nutt, Orchestra Chairman

Orchestra Repertoire Night

Following the enthusiastic response to last season's repertoire night, we have scheduled a play-through of **Rachmaninov's vibrant Symphony No.1** for the orchestra's first night back on **Tuesday 24th September**. Please can all section leaders make sure they have a full section on the night.



And to give everyone a chance to say 'hello' and catch up after the Summer break, we have arranged for a slightly extended rehearsal break with refreshments.

Book your tickets ONLINE



You may still prefer to phone or drop into Prelude Records to get your tickets (and maybe pick up a CD or two at the same time), but it is now also possible to buy tickets for all our concerts online.

Follow the links from any of:

- The Phil website norwichphil.org.uk
- Prelude Records www.preluderecords.co.uk
- Ticket Source norwichphil.ticketsource.co.uk

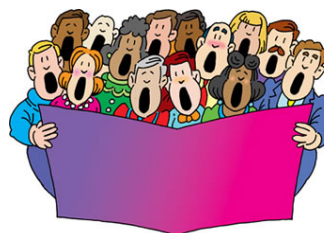
Seating plans are provided on the Ticket Source website to allow you to select your exact seats.

Extra-curricular

It's not just the regular pleasure of singing and playing in rehearsals and concerts. The Phil has a couple of extra events lined up for the coming Season. Put these dates in your diary NOW:



This season, the Quiz and Chips will be held on the evening of Friday **31st January 2014**. Quiz Masters, Paul and Steph Allen, venue to be confirmed.



COME AND SING
2-5pm, Sat 7th December
Walter Roy Theatre, £5

Come and Sing is an opportunity for new singers to try out the choir experience by joining with existing Chorus members at a Choral Workshop. New people expressing an interest at the end of the afternoon, would be invited to sing at the Christmas Concert and could go on to join the Phil on a permanent basis.

Some Generous Boosts

We are delighted that Hansells have agreed to be our Sponsor again this season. Their support is invaluable and much appreciated. We were also thrilled to hear just recently that our application to the **Norwich Town Close Estate Charity**, for funding to help us put on the War Requiem, had been successful. They have given us a *very significant contribution* towards what will be a costly production. We are extremely grateful for their support.

Zoë Beyers – a musical profile



For our December concert this year, we welcome back Zoë Beyers to perform the **Sibelius Violin Concerto**. We look forward to an exceptional performance from an amazingly gifted and talented musician. We can find out more about her background and her musical preferences from an article on the CBSO website which takes us through her 'Desert Island Discs'.

It's been said that the leader of an orchestra has to be more than just a violinist. Not a problem for Zoë who is now Associate Leader of the CBSO. As a member of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Zoë has found herself performing in venues from the Wigmore Hall to the Isle of Mull. It's all a long way from her childhood in Stellenbosch, South Africa - and she's acquired some very personal musical passions en route. Her Desert Island Discs include:

The Intermezzo in A major from Brahms' Piano Pieces Op.118 - played by Radu Lupu. "I began on the piano, and only started the violin after a year or so" Zoë explains. "These pieces really spoke to me. Radu Lupu's recording was practically the daily companion of my teenage years".

Albert Sammons' 1929 recording of the Elgar Violin Concerto. Zoë hears something very distinctive in Sammons' interpretation: "it has this feeling of 'walking' the piece, of journeying. You get a real sense of epic struggle".

Ravel's Daphnis and Chloë. Zoë explains that she'd never played in a full orchestra until she came to the UK at the age of 18, "I just love the way this music feels. It has to be the full-length version, though, with chorus".

Richard Strauss' Four Last Songs - though her feelings about that particular prospect are rather more mixed. "I heard Karita Mattila sing them at the Salzburg Festival, in 1996, and it was the first time I'd come across Strauss on this scale. By the end, most of the audience was weeping. I'm almost wary of playing it again, after that first impression".

The Marriage of Figaro, has another personal connection for Zoë. "I used to listen to it with my dad when I was little - the Solti recording. It's impossible for me to choose between Mozart and Bach, but on memories alone this wins".

Barber's Sure on This Shining Night, Op.13, and **Poulenc's O Magnum Mysterium**. I've always had a very clear idea in my head of how I want my playing to sound, and that sound is very vocal. I don't sing myself, but I love poetry, and I'm pretty envious of the lied; there's nothing like it for the violin. The Barber is so short, so simple; such a perfect thing".

Through the Windowpane by Birmingham band Guillemots. She swears that she wasn't aware of the Birmingham connection - still less that Guillemots actually performed live with the CBSO in 2007! "I caught this on TV one night, and thought it was the most perfect pop song I had ever heard. It puts such a smile on my face. I'm quite a serious fan!".

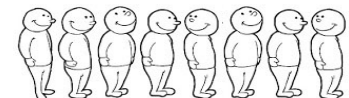
And her luxury? "My (slightly eccentric) shoe collection!"

Did you check the website for Choir and Orchestra Rehearsal changes?

There is a complete rehearsal schedule for both the choir and orchestra for the season, together with venues, on the Norwich Phil website at www.norwichphil.org.uk/orchrehearsals.htm and www.norwichphil.org.uk/choirrehearsals.htm

Any last minute changes are posted there, together with the time of the last update. So it's a good place to double-check for hall moves, cancellations etc.

At the first Orchestra rehearsal DON'T FORGET



Get there **EARLY**

Collect your music **AS SOON AS YOU ARRIVE**

Be **READY TO PLAY at 7:15!!**

(there will still be plenty of time to catch up on all the news with your friends later)

Video delights

www.norwichphil.org.uk/videos.htm - NEW to the Phil website: all the links to YouTube and other recordings of Norwich Phil performances in one place! [Email](#) us if you are know of any other online content.

