

## SIMPLY FABULOUS!

We have some fabulous music lined up for the 2019/20 season including Beethoven's Missa Solemnis and Berlioz' Symphonie Fantastique, both marking notable anniversaries for the respective composers, as well as a performance of Mahler's epic Third Symphony in the Norfolk & Norwich Festival.

The season's opening half and half concert is an all-English affair with the choir performing a major work by Gerald Finzi, his *Intimations of Immortality*, a powerful setting of an ode by William Wordsworth and a terrific workout for both choir and orchestra. In the first half the orchestra play Holst's ballet music, *The Perfect Fool*, and there's a welcome outing for Frank Bridge's Orchestral Suite, *The Sea*, which had such a profound influence on the young Benjamin Britten when he heard it at, yes, St Andrew's Hall!



Zoe Beyers, soloist in Lalo's Symphonie Espagnole

In December, as part of a French programme that includes the Symphonie Fantastique by Berlioz, marking the 150th anniversary year of his death, we are delighted to welcome back the wonderful Zoe Beyers as soloist in Lalo's Symphonie Espagnole and the concert begins with a glorious tone poem by Saint Saens, *Phaeton*.

The orchestra joins the choir again by popular request for the Phil's Family Christmas



Alexander Ullman, soloist in Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 3

Concert this year, and February sees a return to Russia for Shostakovich's sparkling Festive Overture, Prokofiev's 5th Symphony and the epic 3rd Piano Concerto of Rachmaninov, with the stunning Liszt Piano Competition Winner, Alexander Ullman, returning as soloist.

2020 is the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth and the seasons ends with a choral showpiece, his Missa Solemnis, bringing the curtain down on the season with a real flourish. David says it's a huge challenge to sing but also a wonderful opportunity for the choir to show off its talents.

In addition to our usual season at St Andrew's Hall, we are thrilled to have been invited to perform Mahler's Symphony No.3 as part of the 2020 Norfolk & Norwich Festival. The orchestra will be joined by the ladies of the Phil chorus and the children's voices of Norwich Cathedral Choir, and we are hoping to book a big-name soloist for the prominent contralto role.

The full programme is on the next page - put the dates in your diary!

Mike Nutt

## AGM

**The Norwich Phil AGM is on Tue. 18th June, 7.30pm in the Assembly House Music Room**

With live music by young musicians from the NCYM.

A bar for refreshments will be open from 7pm.

Agenda and Accounts will be available on the Norwich Phil website soon.

Your opportunity to have a say in how the Phil is run!



## SUBSCRIPTIONS and TICKET PRICES

Membership subscriptions for the 2019-20 season will increase by £1 to £69 per year. Still excellent value we hope you will agree.

Ticket prices for the Stalls and West Gallery at St Andrew's Hall will increase to £17 and £18 respectively, with other seat prices staying the same.

Next season  
first rehearsals are:

Choir:

**Tue 10th September**

Orchestra:

**Tue 17th September**



## Programme for 2019-20

9 November	<b>Holst</b> Ballet Suite, The Perfect Fool <b>Bridge</b> The Sea, Suite for Orchestra <b>Finzi</b> Intimations of Immortality
7 December	<b>French Evening</b> <b>(Berlioz 150th Anniversary tribute)</b> <b>Saint Saëns</b> Symphonic Poem, Phaeton <b>Lalo</b> Symphonie Espagnole (Zoe Beyers, violin) <b>Berlioz</b> Symphonie Fantastique
17 December	<b>Family Christmas Concert</b>
8 February	<b>Shostakovich</b> Festive Overture <b>Rachmaninov</b> Piano Concerto No 3 (Alexander Ullman, piano) <b>Prokofiev</b> Symphony No 5
21 March	<b>Beethoven</b> Missa Solemnis



## ARE YOU A SOCIAL MEDIA MAESTRO?

Are you a Facebook Fanatic, Tireless on Twitter, an Inveterate Instagrammer?

We are looking for 2 reps, one for Choir and one for Orchestra to promote the Phil through social media channels. Two Philharmonic members who can let people out there know what we're up to: post photos or videos from rehearsals, retweet compliments about the Norwich Phil from others, plug concerts or rave about soloists on our Facebook page, send out links to Newspaper and magazine articles, and

Reviews about the Phil.

Not a huge amount of work on its own, and great fun. Or alternatively it could form part of a the wider Publicity Officer role (see next page) If you think you can help, please get in touch with Mike Nutt or Caroline Dixey.



## Choir News

An appropriate and fitting start to the 2018-19 season was the **Armistice Centenary Concert**, marking the end of the First World War, in which the choir performed two contrasting pieces: Vaughan Williams' '**Lord thou hast been our refuge**' and '**The Spirit of England**' by Elgar. The former piece contained haunting passages and opened with a semi-chorus drawn from the ranks of the choir: Helen Blake, Nicky Dunnett, Hannah James, Rebecca Marr, John Simmons and James Stewart, who all performed beautifully. The words of the Elgar work felt at times a little anachronistic, however, the music and David's interpretation added great texture and reflected the turmoil of those World War 1 battles and the grief that affected so many families in their aftermath.

To paraphrase Binyon 'Swift, swifter than those hawks of war, those threatening wings of Christmas loomed!' We had the best ever turn out of singers for our annual carol singing around Jarrolds where we cheered the shoppers and raised money for EACH, Big C and Princes Trust. The **Phil's Family Christmas** soon followed to a packed St Andrews Hall where we performed some well-known festive classics and some interesting arrangements.

The season came to a tumultuous close with our performance of the **Verdi Requiem** - as some put it, 'his best opera'! For many in the choir it is an 'old favourite' and for those of us singing it for the first time it was a spine-tingling climax to the season. We were ably augmented by 32 singers from the Choir of the Musik-Institut Koblenz who were welcomed to the Friday evening rehearsal with a wonderful 'bring and share' supper masterminded by Claire Crawshaw and Julia Leach. Alas, there is no summer singing opportunity this year, but it is something we are looking into for the future.

As ever, our thanks and appreciation go to Sally, David and Tim for guiding us through some exciting and challenging music and much appreciated social events, with both humour and forbearance! The new season will provide us with further homework, performing **Finzi's Intimations of Immortality** and the wonderful **Missa Solemnis** by Beethoven.

### Social scene

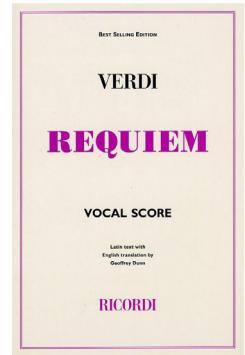
We were treated by our new quizmasters: Caroline Furniss and Matt Andrews who seamlessly took over the helm from the Allens. Once again, the choir teams were victorious and over £900 was raised for the society.

## Returning your vocal score hire copies

We spend a lot of time and effort after concerts, trying to retrieve vocal scores from Choir members.

We have to return them to the Lending Library, usually within a week of the performance, and it's unreasonable to expect us to chase missing copies. They cost a lot of money to hire, and we are charged for non-returns.

- If you have to pull out of the concert, **please return your copy asap.**
- If you find you still have your copy after the concert, **please return it asap.**
- If you do not return your copy **the non-return charge will be passed on to you.**



## Publicity Officer

The Phil needs someone to coordinate their publicity. It's a fascinating role and a great way to be involved with the organisation of our fabulous Phil. Tasks are not too onerous and include:

- Supporting the choir and orchestra's social media reps to promote the Phil online and liaising with the Phil's web-master
- helping with PR activity such as press releases and photo calls
- keep the concert listings like EDP and Visit Norwich up-to-date.
- overseeing brochure and leaflet distribution (but not doing it yourself).
- being proactive in identifying opportunities to promote Phil activities.
- convening and minuting one Publicity Sub Committee meeting a year, and ideally joining the main Committee too.

If you think you could take on this valuable role, please contact Sue Mitchell [info@norwichphil.org.uk](mailto:info@norwichphil.org.uk), or if you want to find out more about what the role entails, feel free to contact Caroline Dixey or Mike Nutt for an informal chat.



## Friday nights are SAH nights

It has become increasingly difficult to secure orchestra rehearsal venues with a good acoustic for the Friday evening rehearsals for our orchestral concerts (Dec + Feb).

After careful consideration **the NPS Committee has now agreed to bring arrangements in line with the choral concerts and book St Andrew's Hall for all future Friday evening orchestral rehearsals.** Hearing the music in the actual performance venue one rehearsal earlier will give the orchestra a greater opportunity to improve their sound and balance before orchestral concerts.

Details of all the orchestra's rehearsal venues are always posted on our website, and in the rehearsal schedule pdf.

## Don't forget to buy your 100 Club tickets in the autumn



## KEEP IN THE LOOP ONLINE

We have 2 Facebook pages:  
Our private group (ask to join)  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/196375054156/>

Our public group  
<https://www.facebook.com/NorwichPhil/>

Follow us on Twitter  
[@norwich\\_phil](https://twitter.com/norwich_phil)  
[https://twitter.com/norwich\\_phil](https://twitter.com/norwich_phil)

And check the Phil website regularly for important updates  
<http://www.norwichphil.org.uk/>

## HEARING PROTECTION

You may have read in the press how viola player, Christopher Goldscheider, successfully sued the Royal Opera House for the life-changing hearing damage he suffered during a rehearsal of Wagner's Die Walkure.

The risks of damage to hearing while playing in rehearsals and concerts are very real, and the Phil take them extremely seriously.

We have advice on our website about hearing protection and we urge all our members to read it. In addition, this

year we are looking at ways in which we can minimise the risks by increasing the stage area and trying different orchestral layouts. We have taken advice from acoustic consultants and we are actively looking at other protective device options such as screens and earplugs.

However, there is only so much we can do, given the nature of the music we play and the physical restrictions of the places where we play it. It's vital that you as musicians take responsibility for your hearing and do all you can to protect it for the future.

## DIDN'T WE DO WELL!

We've been particularly struck this year by the number of appreciative comments we have received about our concerts from press, public, and Society members alike. Here are just a few:

Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet, perfectly paced by Andrews, and with superb playing from the band.

I've been coming to the Christmas Concert for more than twenty years, it's the start of Christmas! Tonight's was the very best ever! The choir and orchestra were amazing; the children stunning! Loved their confidence and performance! Well done to everyone and a very Happy Christmas!

The Phil managed to bring off such a 'tour de force' with the Verdi last evening that I felt that I must write to say so. They really did surpass themselves, The loud bits, like the dies irae were almost shattering but the soft bits really soft and delicate. Having sung it quite a number of times myself I am aware of all the possible nuances and David didn't miss one. All the small crescendos and decrescendos within a phrase that make such a difference were there. The choice of soloists was great. They, too were so very good.

Huge congratulations on a very exciting and moving Verdi on Saturday. You all sounded so confident and on the ball - I couldn't have asked for any more from you all - it was a privilege to be on the podium! I think we really made the Koblenzers feel welcome and it was a great collaboration.

In the interval, a friend of mine in the audience said she could not believe it was an amateur orchestra, she was so impressed.

Uncle Sam hit Norwich big time on Saturday by way of the Norwich Phil's 'American Night' - a shindig like no other which not only packed them in at St Andrew's Hall but opened in a blaze of glory with a blistering rendering of Leonard Bernstein's fiery overture to 'Candide'.

American Night was electrifying! The orchestra at the top of their game and a great soloist... well done everyone!



The orchestra were on top form, with many solos, too numerous to mention individually, all superbly performed.

The Phil's Family Christmas

Tue 18 Dec 2018, 7:30PM



# ANOTHER BUSY YEAR OF FUNDRAISERS

Special thanks to Sally West-Lindell, Choir and Social Secretary, for her tireless efforts to arrange these events.

## Lunch at the Assembly House



With a really entertaining talk  
by Guest Speaker Anna Hill  
from Radio 4's 'Farming Today'.  
£40 raised for Society Funds



## Christmas Concert Charity

This year we raised a fantastic £1500 for



## Carols at Jarrolds

£86.11 raised which went to EACH, Big C and Princes Trust

Ideas for social events and fundraisers  
always welcome.

Just contact Sally West-Lindell at [sallyfish@msn.com](mailto:sallyfish@msn.com)

## Quiz and Chips

A humdinger with new Quizmasters Caroline Furniss  
and Matt Andrews



... and hot off the press, Caroline and Matt have agreed  
be Quizmasters again next year.



Alex Atherton's team were the winners, and the Choir  
team retained the trophy. The Quiz raised over £900  
for Society funds. Thanks to everyone who helped  
make the evening such a success

## Date for your diary:



The Phil's Quiz and Chips next  
year will be on  
Friday 31st January 2020

# KOBLENZING



A tour of the City and a visit to the Cathedral...  
(thanks to guides John Humphreys and Phil Tuckwood)



...and to Museum of Norwich in the Bridewell



Bring and Share Supper (thank you to Claire Crawshay,  
Julia Leach and Michelle Martin for organising)

We welcomed 32 members of the Choir of the Musik-Institut Koblenz to sing with us in the Verdi Requiem and along with their 17 guests, to enjoy some of the great things Norwich has to offer.



Great performance of Verdi Requiem to sellout audience!



Post concert reception buffet and speeches.

