



# BRISTOL CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Newsletter No 50 - 26 May 2008

## NEXT CONCERT:

Sat 28 June 2008 - St George's, 7.30 pm

**Strauss** Die Fledermaus overture

**Respighi** Fountains of Rome

**Milhaud** Scaramouche (solo Nicholas Shipman)

**Dukas** Sorcerer's Apprentice

**Barry** Best of Bond

Remaining rehearsals - 2, 9, 16, 23, 27, 28 Jun.

The rehearsal on Fri 27 June will be at Ashton Park School, and will finish at 9.45pm. The rehearsal on Sat 28 Jun will be in St George's (2.00-5.00pm maximum).

All other rehearsals will be at Red Maids School.

## June 2008 concert details

**Tickets** - are priced £12 (£10), £10 (£8), £8 (£6); £7 (£5) - all seats numbered and reserved. Tickets will be available as usual during rehearsal breaks. Please try to buy your tickets direct from BCO wherever possible rather than from St George's Box Office who charge 15% commission on each ticket they sell for us.

**Music stands** - remember you will need music stands at St George's. Note: If you borrow a stand from BCO, please don't leave it at St George's!

**Music parts** - are handed in to section leaders at the end of the concert, with all marks that identify yourself and / or BCO deleted from the front covers!! Section leaders are expected to check returned parts against the issued parts lists, and inform the librarian urgently if parts are missing. Finally, please do **not** use ballpoint pen and sticky tape on music parts.

**Green Rooms** - are very small at St George's; please allow plenty of time to sort out your instrument and get changed, and ideally don't all turn up at once!

**Concert dress** - long black skirt with plain black top for women; black trousers, long-sleeved, open-necked black shirt (i.e. no tie) for men.

## Ticket sales

As everyone surely knows by now, the orchestra needs YOU to make a big effort on ticket sales if we're going to pull in the audience that all our hard work deserves. Do bear in mind that our "light" programme this term is one that may appeal to people who you wouldn't normally consider asking along! A selection of posters and flyers will be available at every rehearsal from now on - please pick up supplies and distribute them anywhere you think might attract those important new people along to our concerts ... not to mention your regular fan clubs, of course. The Lucky Ticket Draw will take place this term as usual.

## Next term's rehearsals

Note that the first rehearsal for the December 8 concert will be Monday 8 September. The venue for our Autumn term rehearsals is to be confirmed, but Ashton Park School should be assumed unless announcements are made to the contrary.

## Rehearsal schedule

To help everyone schedule their valuable personal practice time appropriately, multiple printed copies of the schedule (including coffee rota) and subsequent updates will be put out on the Committee table at rehearsal every week. Please pick up a copy of the latest schedule or, if you prefer, look at the *Members' Area* on the BCO website.

## Charity collections

At the June concert we will be supporting *Young Bristol* - they work with young people in Bristol, offering activities and a chance to get involved in their community.

We now need to start thinking about charities to be supported during the 2008/9 season. Please add your suggestions to the list that will be on the Committee table at rehearsals from now till the end of term.

## General points for rehearsals

- 1) We always need maximum turnout for as many rehearsals as possible (Note: there are waiting lists for nearly all sections of the orchestra).
- 2) Sectional rehearsals are extremely important to the rehearsal strategy. It is vital to have full attendance.
- 3) Brass and Woodwind players must inform section leaders and arrange deputies for planned absences.
- 4) String players are also expected to inform their section leaders as far as possible in advance of planned absences from rehearsals.
- 5) *Everyone* must practise his/her part diligently, so we can concentrate on the music, not the notes!
- 6) When it is your section's turn for coffee duty (check the rehearsal schedule in advance!) please remember to help set up beforehand AND clear up afterwards.
- 7) PLEASE help with clearing away stands and chairs after rehearsals - don't leave it for the same few people to do this for you every week! Also, please take care to fold up your music stand properly, tightening all the screws before putting it carefully into the box.

8) Mobile phones: Just like when you're at a concert or the cinema ... PLEASE avoid disrupting rehearsals and embarrassing yourself: ensure that all audible ring tones on your mobile phone are switched OFF!

### Future concert dates and programmes

6 December 2008 (Earth theme) - Shostakovich: Festive Overture; Grieg: Piano Concerto (solo: You-Chiung Lin); Tchaikovsky: Manfred Symphony.

21 March 2009 (Sea theme) - Mendelssohn: Hebrides Overture; Elgar: Sea Pictures (solo: Joke de Vin); Britten: Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes; Arnold: The Padstow Lifeboat; Wagner: The Flying Dutchman.

27 June 2009 (Fire theme) - Bizet: Selection from Carmen Suite; Rodrigo: Concierto de Aranjuez (solo: Morgan Szymanski); Stravinsky: Firebird Suite. Falla: Ritual Fire Dance from El Amor Brujo.

The above concerts will be at St George's Bristol.

Also, don't forget to make a date for Saturday 6 June 2009, when BCO are planning to participate in a "come and sing" performance of the Verdi Requiem with Bristol Choral Society in Colston Hall.

### Stefan Sez... next term's programme

In line with our new "one term ahead" policy for recording recommendations (so that you've got plenty of time to find a recording!) here's what you need to know about our Autumn concert pieces:-

Grieg Piano Concerto: Rubinstein on RCA, with Leinsdorf. *Manfred* Symphony - a great recording by Oslo Phil with Janssons!

(NB: For *this* term's recommended recordings, see last term's Newsletter, No 49.)

*Remember ... it's essential to start listening to a recording of any music you're not familiar with as early as possible. If you can't track down Stefan's recommendation, any recording is better than nothing - there are numerous web sites where you can download individual works and even single movements at very reasonable prices - cheaper than buying a whole CD! J*

### Membership

If you're new to the orchestra this term - welcome!

Whether you're new or not, have you picked up a copy of the "members' pack"? This contains all sorts of useful information about being in BCO - pick one up from the Committee table at rehearsal.

### Your Committee

The Committee meets at least once per term, so do mention anything you'd like raised to your favourite committee member. We are: Wendy Lewis (chair), Philip Ellwood (secretary), Tim Barrett (treasurer), Andrew Stephen (membership), Kate Brown (publicity), Mary Ingram, Ida Miller, Helen Hook, Mike Organ, Linda Bearpark, Gill Richards & Hugh Barnes.

Stefan also attends some meetings - and so do our Librarian (Christine Davis), and Leader (Andrew Rees) - though none of these are officially elected Committee members and do not get a vote in any matters requiring a Committee decision.

At the next AGM, three Committee members will reach the end of their 3-year term. Please consider doing your bit by standing for the Committee.

### Are you feeling artistic??

The Committee are agreed that it's time to give BCO's advertising material an artistic "makeover". Do you - or anyone you know (who need not be a BCO member) - have an artistic streak in need of an outlet? If you do, please see Phil Ellwood (trombone) or Kate Brown (cello) to find out how you can help.

### Thankyou BCO!

Mary Ingram says: *Congratulations* to Jo Boyle, who succeeded in her attempt to lose some weight for a good cause. She achieved her goal and with it raised about £130 from you in sponsor money to help the Tea Growers in Kerala to purchase their own lorry.

### The Alexander Technique

For those of you who haven't heard of the Alexander Technique, many professional musicians\* have used it to improve the quality of their performance and deal with physical problems, including tension and pain. The good news is that a professional Alexander Technique teacher will be available to help us next term. (*\*Including Yehudi Menuhin, Paul McCartney, Sting, Julian Bream, James Galway and Sir Adrian Boult.*)

### Nailsea Concert Orchestra

If any string players would like a little light relief, the Nailsea Concert Orchestra meets on Fridays - in Nailsea surprisingly enough! We play quite a bit of genuine *light music* and smaller classical repertoire. If you'd like to know more please speak to Mary Ingram (violin), or visit [www.nailseaconcertorchestra.org.uk](http://www.nailseaconcertorchestra.org.uk)

### BCO on the Internet

To make sure you receive all the latest updates and information from the Committee - or from any other BCO member who may wish to contact the orchestra - get yourself added to the orchestra's e-mail distribution list. See Phil Ellwood (Secretary - trombone section) or just send your e-mail address to him at [secretary@bristolconcertorchestra.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bristolconcertorchestra.org.uk)

If you want to check out the rehearsal schedule, read the latest Newsletter, consult the BCO Constitution ... or just generally be "in the know" about all things BCO related, don't forget you can always pay a visit to [www.bristolconcertorchestra.org.uk](http://www.bristolconcertorchestra.org.uk)