



DULWICH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

NEWSLETTER October '06

Review of our last Concert

No-one wrote a review this time, so instead, here's a little quiz.

How much does it cost to run the orchestra each week we meet?

- a) £136
- b) £146
- c) £156

The answer is at the end of the newsletter.

If you missed having a review this time then make a point of asking a friend to write one for us after November 18th.

Dates for your diary

24th October – 7.30 Open rehearsal.

An opportunity for local people and our friends and family to come along to our rehearsal as part of BBC Radio 3's "Listen Up" season. Donations and raffle money will go to Oxfam. There are flyers available for this.

Our next concert

November 18th All Saints, West Dulwich (entrance Lovelace Road). Rehearsal 2.30 – 5.30pm. Concert 7.45pm. Tim has the list of necessary jobs that will make the day run smoothly for us all.

Future concert dates –

February 24th, May 12th (part of the Dulwich Festival), July 21st. These are also on our noticeboard.

Marketing

Thank you to all those who completed the questionnaire. The answers were very useful and will help the general promotion of the orchestra. Watch out for more information. If you haven't completed one yet it's not certainly not too late. Ask Frances for a paper version.

The AGM

This was held on 17th October. For those who missed it, here is the Chair's report

There have been changes in this last year. I know I said that last year, but it's still true! There's been a noticeable keenness at the start of each rehearsal period – less drifting in. Is this because people want to check the notes out on the increasingly difficult pieces we are now managing to play? Is it because people are worried that they might lose their place if they don't turn-up? Certainly we have been playing increasingly challenging music. Certainly the orchestra has many full sections.

The “Music in the Garden” at St Christopher’s in the summer was a new departure for us. It was probably one that not all of us would like to repeat, but an experience none the less and it's broadened our view of who we are and what we do. It helped us to think out of the tick box. We are no longer in the evening class mentality – an orchestra doing three concerts per year, and those often clashing with other amateur orchestra concerts. This season we are playing four concerts and taking part in the Dulwich Festival – something unimaginable a few years ago. I'm very much looking forward to us taking part in the Dulwich Festival and making links which we haven't had locally for years.

I went on a marketing course at Easter for the orchestra and learnt a great deal. We started a marketing sub-group of the committee and some great ideas came out of that. The questionnaire was one of them, so if you haven't yet filled in a questionnaire please do so. There are paper versions in the red box and it would be really help us to get your views.

We welcome Russell as a new member of the committee. He is not another foolish “lamb to the slaughter” who will end up doing all the work. We have moved on. When I joined this orchestra the previous Chair was doing most of the work of the committee. At concerts she was even selling tickets at the door until the A was played! When I became Chair my aim was to chair a committee of equals, sharing out the jobs and responsibilities. And that's what we have now - we have a committee of people representing the whole orchestra, working to make the orchestra better run and a good place to be! Now every member should be thinking of their share. As musically we are carrying no passengers so with all the other things that make this orchestra tick. It's often the little jobs - like making sure your music is back in the box and your coffee cup is put in the bin. Looking to see if the podium needs taking upstairs. If you leave these jobs undone they still have to be done by someone, and you know it's often the people who have the longest journeys home that end up doing them.

Also because we have grown in number and grown in the pieces that we can now perform we really do need someone to help the orchestra on concert days who is not a playing member. Annabel fulfilled this role before she joined permanently, and this term Jeremy will, as he's had to be absent most of this term. But we need to be thinking of friends or family members who would do this regularly for us.

Another thing we can all be thinking about is our budget. Ian works hard at making the figures add up, but he can only do that if every member plays their part by paying on time. The committee decided that as we are playing four concerts this season we didn't want to injure all our pockets with making the fee four lots of £50, but you can see that with the number of rehearsals four lots of £40 leaves us tight. We all need to be thinking of sponsorship of any kind, however small.

There are three thoughts I want to leave you with –

- 1) Shared responsibility. If we all do the little jobs then it saves someone else having to do them.
- 2) Don't leave it all to the committee members. If we all look out for a possible venue manager we're more likely to get one.
- 3) If we all look for opportunities for sponsorship we're more likely to get some.

Frances Barrett

St Christopher's Hospice

At our June concert the interval collection for St Christopher's raised £125.

The "Music in the Garden" event raised £1,500. Thanks again to everyone who took part. It was a good opportunity for us to do something a little bit different, and in aid of a very good cause.

Philip's Garden Party raised £224 and this year was not dogged by rain! Thanks Philip for a great spread.

Congratulations!

- to Ann Earle, whose husband is celebrating his 80th birthday this year. (Unfortunately the party clashes with our concert in November.)
- to Frances Barrett who, after a two year struggle, has finally got the flat of her dreams at Denmark Hill! If anyone has any items of furniture they no longer need Frances would be glad to hear from them.

Jewellery and Greetings Cards

We are lucky to have two entrepreneurs in the orchestra. Sam, who sells greetings cards, and Paula (our leader) who sells jewellery. They are both offering a percentage of their sales to the orchestra and will be selling on these dates –

Jewellery 31st October and 28th November

Cards 10th October and 21st November

Items for the next Newsletter to Frances Barrett by January 24th, please

The answer is c) £156