

## AGM 2023

### Chair's Report



#### Conductor appointment

The autumn term 2022 saw the conclusion of the selection process for DSO's new permanent conductor. Following December's concert, members voted for their preferred candidate. We were very pleased that Chris Stark was able to accept our offer of the role.

#### Concerts and repertoire

The autumn concert was conducted by Dwight Pile-Grey. The concert, which included Tchaikovsky's Second Symphony, a work largely composed in the Ukraine, was a benefit for the Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal and raised £524. The concert was opened by members of the choir of All Saints West Dulwich who sang an arrangement of the Ukrainian Hymn, followed by an arrangement of the same piece for orchestra by Ruth Holton. This was the first of two concerts during the year in which the pianist Adam Heron appeared as soloist, on this occasion playing Schumann's piano concerto.

The spring concert, which was the first Chris Stark conducted after his appointment, featured Rhys Evans as soloist in the Dvorak Violin Concerto. Rhys, a student at Westminster School, and a pupil of our leader, Paula Tysall, played with great confidence and success.

The summer concert was the first programmed by Chris Stark and included Scriabin's *Reverie*, Bartok's 3<sup>rd</sup> Piano Concerto (again featuring Adam Heron) and Brahms' Symphony No 4. On the basis of members' choice from a list of options, Chris has proposed programmes for 2024 which seek to expand our repertoire to allow us for the first time to encounter the work of William Grant Still and Grace Williams. The results of the survey of members preferences are in the annex to this report.

Following the publication of an interview with Chris Stark in the Dulwich Society in April, DSO was approached by the musical director of the Dulwich Choral Society in order to discuss the possibility of joint programming for some of our concerts. Initial discussions have been held, and we hope that it will be possible to stage the first joint concert during the 2024-5 season.

#### Membership of the committee

Tessa Crilly will not be standing for re-election as secretary at the forthcoming AGM or continue in her role as librarian. We are very grateful to Tessa for all the work she has done to keep the orchestra in such good shape over the last eight years. Her role was particularly important during the difficult period of the lockdown and she did a huge amount of work to enable socially distanced rehearsals at St Paul's, as well as setting up the online events which helped us all stay in touch at that time. Her work as librarian over an even longer period has been essential for the orchestra.

Sam Wise was elected to be Treasurer on Liz Cleary's standing down from the role at the 2022 AGM.

The other committee members for 2022-3 were Chris Burns, Ruth Holton, Ishani O'Connor, Ally Rosser and John Paul de Soissons.

### Membership, subscriptions and finances

During the three terms, we had 42, 52 and 54 subscribing members respectively. (the corresponding figures for 2021-22 were 52, 60 and 48).

At the end of the summer term, it was becoming apparent that rising inflation would mean that DSO's costs were bound to increase. Most immediately, we wanted to ensure that the fees for our conductor and leader kept pace with inflation. More recently, it has been apparent that higher fuel costs will lead to an increase in the cost of hiring All Saints West Dulwich for concerts. To be able to meet these and other challenges, the committee decided to increase the cost of a full subscription by 10% to £77 per term with effect from 1 September 2023. DSO's subscriptions had been last increased (from £60 to £70) on 1 January 2016. The concessionary subscription will remain at £35 per term.

We will report separately on the Orchestra's finances and the production company with detailed accounts.

### Education and outreach

There were no outreach activities in 2022-3, although we remain committed to using the funds (amounting to just over £6,000) from the Philip McKenna bequest to encourage performance and composition of orchestral music in local state schools. A commitment to outreach work was one of the criteria we used for selection of the candidate conductors and we look forward to working with Chris Stark on a programme.

### Thanks

On behalf of the orchestra, I would again like to thank all those members who have helped in the running of the orchestra and the preparation and presentation of our concerts. In particular, Nicky Jackson has managed the arrangements for concert days, as well as acting as one of our librarians, and Helen Bartholomew has designed our posters flyers and programmes.

We are grateful to James Allen's Girls' School and All Saints' Church, West Dulwich for continuing to make available facilities for our rehearsals and performances.

Jeremy Crump  
Chair, DSO  
25 October 2023

## Annex

### Repertoire survey 2023

#### VOTES

<p><b>Programme A</b>            Wagner – Overture to Tannhäuser            Fauré – Violin Concerto            Bacewicz, Grazyna – Symphony No. 3</p> <p>or</p> <p><b>Programme B</b>            Korngold Theme and Variations op. 42            Grace Williams – Violin Concerto            Mussorgsky / Ravel - Pictures at an Exhibition</p>	<p>5</p> <p>17</p> <p>4</p> <p><b>26</b></p>	<p>19%</p> <p>65%</p> <p>15%</p> <p><b>100%</b></p>
<p><b>Programme 1</b>            Fanny Mendelssohn – Overture in C            Prokofiev – Violin Concerto no. 2            Schumann – Symphony No. 3 op. 97            Or</p> <p><b>Programme 2</b>            William Grant Still - Threnody: In Memory of            Jan Sibelius            Ravel - Piano Concerto in G            Sibelius – Symphony No. 1</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>3</p> <p><b>26</b></p>	<p>42%</p> <p>46%</p> <p>12%</p> <p><b>100%</b></p>