



DULWICH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2006

Review of our December Concert

This was the first concert that the orchestra had played in the Great Hall Dulwich College and this made for some acoustic difficulties.

In the Rossini overture, “William Tell”, the opening solo ‘cellos had a spacious quality, yet the trombones in the Storm section sounded distant. The timps had a problem being placed against the panelling and were too strong throughout. In the Pastoral section the duet between the cor anglais and flute was very pleasing, despite some sharpness from the flute. The strings (especially the violins) did extremely well in the final gallop and Rossini’s infectious exuberance came over well.

In the Tchaikovsky piano concerto the arrangement of the hall meant that the piano had to remain on the stage, with the orchestra below. Although the physicality of the dramatic writing was missing the aural effect was still present and the piano was easily heard above the orchestra. The soloist took some time to settle and to being alone on stage – missing some of his flourishes - however, he did settle to the slow movement with soft, tender and yet playful playing. The finale felt rushed - but I suppose he has plenty of years in which to slow down!

Schumann’s “Rhenish” symphony showed the brass to be at their most secure, and the tempo of the 1st movement evoked the strong current of the river. The lyricism and lilt of the Landler Scherzo was also enhanced by a flowing tempo and the semiquavers had a lightness that added contrasting colour. The slow movement had gentle warmth with some nice phrasing in the wind but the solemn fugetta, with a well-controlled alto trombone, was the most effective. Again, the tempo relations were carefully judged by Julian. The finale was light and effervescent with some splendid trumpet playing.

Chris Wyatt.

If you (or a friend) might be interested in writing a review for one of the DSO concerts, please speak to Chris in the violins.

Our next concert

Our next concert is on 25th March at 7.45 in St. Paul's Church, Herne Hill, SE24. The afternoon rehearsal begins promptly at 2.30. Tickets are available *now* from Graham (horn).

We will be taking a collection for St. Christopher's Hospice and to do this we need a volunteer to pick up the official bucket from St. Christopher's in Sydenham during the week before the concert. Please speak to Frances if you can help with this.

An article from our Librarian

If you've ever wondered where the music we play each week comes from, then read on ...

As the orchestra doesn't have a library of its own we have to borrow the music from other libraries.

Once the committee has decided on the programme for the coming year, my job as librarian is to find out what is available and check up on costs. At this stage we might find that we have to change the programme if music isn't available or if the costs are prohibitive.

There are a number of music libraries around the country that I use. My local public library in Croydon has been very helpful in sourcing orchestral sets for us at an incredible £1 per set. Unfortunately, due to cuts, Croydon no longer provides this service for music groups from outside the borough. I am currently checking whether Lambeth public libraries can do the same.

Much of the music we play is by composers who are long dead. This is due to copyright on a work which lasts for seventy years after the death of a composer and publishers continue to charge hefty hire fees for playing some of their works. For example, the fees for this term's Sibelius and Rodrigo mean that our budget won't stretch to hiring the Moeran symphony for next term. However, the committee does try to factor these costs into the budget to ensure that we are able to play a good range of music.

Our responsibility

Like a cracked record, I ask each term that you sign for your music part if you want to take it away with you. This is because we have a responsibility for the safe return of all the parts and will be charged the replacement costs for any sets returned with missing parts.

It has been a while since we last lost a part, but retrieving music sometimes entails a fair amount of chasing around and guesswork, so please ensure that you sign for your music. (Please ask me if you are unsure of the part number on the front of your music – there can sometimes be a fair amount of scribble!)

Louise Simon

An e-mail from Miklos Pohl (2nd violin)

Dear Ian,

It is with some sadness that I have to resign from DSO. I have accepted a consultant post in Melbourne and will be leaving the UK on the 22nd of March. I have really enjoyed playing with you all and especially valued Julian as a conductor/ musician. He is of very high calibre and DSO is very fortunate to have him. Please pass on my kindest regards to all the members and a fond farewell.

Should any of you happen to pass through Melbourne and are up for some chamber music, please let me know in advance. My contact details are attached.

Cheers Miki

Next year's programme

Next year we are planning to perform four concerts, including one in the Dulwich Festival. The expected dates are:

18th November 2006
24th February 2007
12th or 19th May 2007 (Dulwich Festival)
21st July 2007

The following programmes for 2006 – 2007 were provisionally set:

**Concert A:*

Overture Hansel and Gretel – Humperdinck
*Violin Concerto – Dvorak/ Piano Concerto in C minor (K 491) – Mozart
Symphony No 5 – Shostakovich

Concert B:

The Tempest – Tchaikovsky
Polovtsian Dances – Borodin
Symphony No 6 – Dvorak

Concert C:

Overture Macbeth – Sullivan (or another English overture)
'Cello Concerto – Finzi
Falstaff – Elgar

**Concert D:*

Overture Der Freischutz – Weber
*Violin Concerto – Dvorak/ Piano Concerto in C minor (K 491) – Mozart
A Symphony – Brahms

*Piano concerto to be played in whichever concert is at a venue with a suitable piano, violin concerto at the remaining concert.

Christmas card thank you!

I was able to send a donation of £15 to St Christopher's Hospice, based on sales of Phoenix Trading Christmas cards to DSO members, so a big thank you to all who purchased cards, gift wrap and tags.

The spring/summer 2006 catalogue is available now, with many exciting new products, (greeting cards, gift wrap, tags, invitations, thank yous and note paper) do ask for a catalogue or take a look at the website www.phoenix-trading.co.uk

Many thanks, Sam Purser (Independent Phoenix Trader)

Music in the Garden

On the afternoon of 25th June there will be an opportunity for groups of players from the orchestra to perform at St. Christopher's Hospice in Sydenham for their fundraising event "Music in the Garden". Please liaise with Frances (strings) or Ian (wind and brass) if you would like to take part. Tickets will be available for sale for this Glyndebourne-style event nearer the time.

ARTICLES FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

email your contribution to Chris Burns

at

baxquartet@yahoo.co.uk

Or by hand at a rehearsal.