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Hertfordshire Philharmonia Newsletter, July 2009

This season we shall have played seven concerts, plus a play-through evening, giving us experience of seven different conductors in all. (Our December concert had no conductor). One of these concerts was for the North Herts Guild of Singers, in the extraordinary surroundings of the Coptic Cathedral Stevenage.

While most orchestras seek to develop under a permanent conductor, it is part of the philosophy of this self-governing orchestra that playing under a diversity of conductors widens our ability and versatility.

We receive lots of "cold calls" from conductors who want to conduct us, but we would much prefer to engage them on the personal recommendation of members. Therefore, if you have played elsewhere under a conductor who impressed you, please let anyone on the Admin team know, so that he/she may be considered.

The 2009-2010 season:

Provisional details overleaf.

The "big event" this season will be our first pair of concerts on 2 and 3 October 2009, which will be two identical concerts of film music, with lots of lighting effects. The promoters have approached Alasdair Molloy to be compère. The venue will be the Watford Colosseum, which is normally associated with the BBC Concert Orchestra. The promoters, newcomers to the concert scene, have chosen us as their orchestra (a wise choice of course) and have chosen Bjorn Bantock to be their conductor, also a happy choice since he is already well known to us.

As in recent seasons, we have avoided ambitious concertos with big-name players. Although top-line soloists do attract extra audience, the extra ticket income is swallowed up by the extra cost of the soloists. We therefore usually prefer to engage emerging soloists, who can be rewarding to play with, or home-grown excellence, such as our very own Melanie Young on 20 March 2010, who will be playing with us at...

A new concert venue:

A first for the Herts Phil in the 2009-2010 season – we will be playing in St Johns Church, Boxmoor. This stands on a pleasant wooded green, and the postal address "Station Road Hemel Hempstead" gives quite the wrong idea! Some Herts Phil members already know this church from playing in it with other ensembles, and say it is well suited to music of the classical style.

Missing a concert?

Looking at the calendar overleaf, if you know you will be unable to do a particular concert, please let your section fixer know; it helps them to plan ahead.

String players: More Grade 8+ string players would be welcome; please invite any you know!

100 Club: . This is a "prize draw" club, which you are invited to join for the warm glow of knowing you are doing your bit to support the orchestra's finances - and, who knows, you might win a prize, so your altruism might end up costing you nothing! Membership will cost you £5 per month (you can take out multiple memberships!), and there are three prize draws annually, distributing 50% of the income (the other 50% going to support the orchestra). Top prize is currently £80 (but with more members this would be higher), and there are several consolation prizes in each draw (enough to make sure that 50% is returned to members). The 100 Club is licensed and regulated by St Albans Borough Council. Please see June Martin (violin) for more details.

Admin meetings are open to any member of the orchestra. They are held at intervals throughout the season, as necessary. Please ask anybody listed below, when and where the next one will be.

You will be very welcome if you want to take an active role, perhaps by attending Admin meetings or putting yourself forward for election as a trustee at the AGM... Just to reassure you if you do, the Herts Phil carries the usual public-liability and employer's liability insurances, to protect us all.

Who does what:

Trustees (until the AGM):

Chairman: Ian Brown (violin)

Treasurer: Jeremy Goggins (bassoon)

Orchestra Manager: Stef Fano (violin)

Publicity [and Front-of-House]: John Cox

Librarian: Stephen Latham (cello)

Secretary: Peter Neville (bass)

Seventh trustee: Stuart Walker (violin)

But you don't have to be elected as a trustee to help! The following are **some** of our volunteers, and we welcome all help:

Rehearsal refreshments: June Martin (violin)

Fixers: (see current rehearsal schedule)

Advance Tickets: Penny Leach (viola)

Gift-Aid Convenor: Ken Melbourne (cello)

...not to mention keyholders for our rehearsal venue, those who organise bouquets for soloists, those who store and bring the conductor's podium, those who run the 100 Club which raises funds for the orchestra, those who...

Annual General Meeting 8 Oct 2009

This is your notification that the Herts Phil's AGM, to review this season's results and to elect next season's trustees, will be at Applecroft School, WGC, at the end of the (shortened) rehearsal on Thursday 8 October 2009, thus starting about 9pm.

Hertfordshire Philharmonia 2009-2010 Season Programme*Latest position is as shown, but all details are still subject to change*

All **rehearsals** (unless otherwise announced) are at Applecroft School, Applecroft Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL8 6JZ., from 7.30pm to 10.15pm.

All on **Thursdays**, *plus* Tuesdays 8 and 15 Sep, 12 Jan and 23 Feb.

All **concerts** start at 7.30pm and are preceded by a **final rehearsal**, at the concert venue, 2.30pm-5.30pm.

Thurs 3rd September 2009 Full rehearsal

Tuesday 8th September 2009 Strings Sectional

Thurs 10th September 2009 Wind sectional

Tuesday 15th September 2009 Full

Thurs 17th September 2009 Strings Sectional

Thurs 24th September 2009 Full (might be at Marlborough School, St Albans)

Thurs 1st October 2009 Full (might be at Marlborough School, St Albans, or at the Watford Colosseum, tbc)

Concerts Fri 2 and Sat 3 October 2009 (two identical concerts of Film music) at the

Watford Colosseum; Rickmansworth Road; Watford; Hertfordshire; WD17 3EX

Conductor Bjorn Bantock

Scoring tbc probably large strings, double wind + picc + bass clarinet, brass 4331 ?, large percussion, harp, keyboard(s)

Thurs 8 October 2009 Full rehearsal, *also AGM*

Thurs 15 October 2009 Strings Sectional

Thurs 22 October 2009 Wind Sectional [*Thurs 29 October 2009 is half term*]

Thurs 5, 12 and 19 November 2009 Full rehearsals

Concert Sat 21 November 2009 at St Mary's Church, The Walk, Potters Bar EN6 1QQ (east end of The Walk, south side)

Conductor: Jacques Cohen, Soloist: Fenella Humphreys

Vaughan Williams: Serenade to Music (Orchestral version) (2 1+1 2 2; 4 2 3 1; t 1p, hp, solo vln, str) 14 mins

Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto op 35 (2 2 2 2; 4 2 0 0; t str) 34 mins

Sibelius: Symphony number 1 in E min op 39 (2 2 2 2; 4 3 3 1; t 2p hp str) 40 mins

Thursdays 3 and 10 December 2009 Full rehearsals

Concert Sat 12 December 2009 "Carols by Candlelight"

at Homewood Road Church, St Albans [at corner with Sandpit Lane] AL1 4SZ

Thurs 7 January 2010 Full rehearsal

Tuesday 12 January 2010 Wind Sectional

Thurs 14 January 2010 Strings Sectional

Thurs 21 and 28 January and 4 February 2010 Full rehearsals

Concert Sat 6 February 2010 at St Saviours Church, St Albans, Sandpit Lane, St Albans AL1 4DF (near Walton Street)

Conductor: Patrick Bailey, Soloist: tbc

Rossini: William Tell Overture (1+1 2/1 2 2; 4 2 3 0; t p str) 12mins

Rodrigo: Guitar Concerto (2/1 2/1 2 2; 2 2 0 0) 20mins

Nielsen: Symphony 5 op 50 (3/1 2 2 2 (1); 4 3 3 1; t 3p/cel str) 37mins

Thurs 11 February 2010 Full rehearsal [*Thurs 18 February 2010 is half term*]

Tuesday 23 February 2010 Wind Sectional

Thurs 25 February 2010 Strings Sectional

Thurs 4, 11 and 18 March 2010 Full rehearsals

Concert Sat 20 March 2010 at St Johns Church, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead (Station Road, opposite south end of Heath Lane), HP1 1JY Conductor: Rufus Frowde, Soloist: Melanie Young

Rossini Overture - Tancredi 2 2 2 2; 2 2 0 0; t str 6mins

Mozart Flute concerto in G Major (2) 2 2 2; 2 0 0 0; str 23/27mins

Beethoven Symphony number 7 in A op.92 2 2 2 2; 2 2 0 0; t str 33mins

Thurs 6 May 2010 Full rehearsal

Thurs 13 May 2010 Strings Sectional

Thurs 20 May 2010 Wind Sectional

Thurs 27 May 2010 Full rehearsal [*Thurs 3 June 2010 is half term.*]

Thurs 10 and 17 June 2010 Full rehearsals

Concert Sat 19 June 2010 at St Mary's Church, The Walk, Potters Bar EN6 1QQ (east end of The Walk, south side)

Conductor: Bjorn Bantock

Latham Rail Road 2+1 2+1 2+1 2+1; 4 2+Pic in A 3 1; 3p t str 4mins

Stravinsky Symphonies of Wind Instruments (rev. ver 1947) 3 2+1 3 2+1; 4 3 3 1 10mins

Barber Adagio for strings Str 8mins

Copland Quiet City Cor Ang/Ob, Tpt, str 10mins

Bernstein West Side Story Symph. Dances 2xpicc 2cor Ebcl asax 2xbcl 2xdbn; 4 3 3 1; t 4p hp pft str 23min

Peter Neville, Secretary, 01438-714394