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Hertfordshire Philharmonia Newsletter, July 2010

At our June 2010 concert, the Herts Phil is fielding one of its largest-ever number of players. If you have recently joined us, we hope you have enjoyed playing with us and that you will remain with us for future seasons.

The Herts Phil started this (2009/10) season with a similarly ambitious project – playing two Film Music concerts (2&3 Oct 2009) narrated by Alasdair Malloy in the Watford Colosseum. The concert promoter secured near sell-out audiences, and there was talk of the Herts Phil going on to play a similar concert in London, but we have heard no more.

We have one more concert in the 2009-10 season, where we shall be playing as a rather smaller ensemble for the North Herts Guild of Singers, in the extraordinary surroundings of the Coptic Cathedral Stevenage.

In the 2009-10 season, we shall have played 7 concerts under 5 different conductors including (in December) our member Jane Stott! While most orchestras have a permanent conductor, it is part of the philosophy of this self-governing orchestra that our ability and versatility are improved by playing under a diversity of conductors.

We are always keen to widen our 'panel' of conductors. 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 2010-2011 season:

Provisional details are overleaf.

Orchestra members were polled last year and suggested many many works to be played in the 2010-11 season. The February and June concerts will consist entirely of works suggested by members, and October's and April's will include one suggested work each. While always wanting to perform works which our members have suggested, we also have to bear in mind box-office appeal, costs of music hire, whether the various works in a programme will fit well together, whether some players will get just five minutes' playing in the whole programme, etc.

The October concert will follow a wartime anniversary theme, with all pieces by British composers.

Details of our November concert are still tentative. What's behind it is that we hope to attract a new audience by playing more informally in small groups in less intimidating surroundings.

Our February concert will feature a viola concerto. The soloist's fee (normally £1200) is being entirely met through the generosity of a Bartók scholarship.

In April we return to St Johns Church Boxmoor. We first performed there last year, and the warmth of the church's welcome and the enthusiasm of the audience have encouraged us to return.

Subscriptions: Our main income is from ticket sales, which is why it is important to sell as many tickets as possible for our concerts. But these, even with other miscellaneous sources of income, do not cover our running costs. The difference has to be met by your subscription, which next year (Aug 2010 to July 2011) will be £130. *But if you pay by Standing Order (see the Treasurer about this) or if you pay before the first concert (9 Oct), your sub is only £95.* Cheques to your section fixer please, payable to "Hertfordshire Philharmonia Orchestra". *Existing Standing Order payers*, please change your payment to £7.82 per month to take effect 1 September.

There's a "per-concert" subscription of £35 if you can't play with us regularly. In case of hardship, please have a confidential word with the Treasurer.

Annual General Meeting (2 Sep 2010)

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 2 September 2010, thus starting about 9pm.

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)

...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...

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.

"Sectionals"

Most (though not all) orchestras set time aside for rehearsals of individual sections or groups of sections. The Herts Phil usually has two sectional rehearsals, one for All Strings and one for All Winds.

In favour of Sectionals is that we can make progress on problem-passages for Strings without the wind players having to sit around bored, and vice-versa.

But against, attendance at sectionals is often lower, suggesting that players don't like them, and there are various logistical problems to do with the library of music and access to the rehearsal hall.

For the moment, the 2010-11 programme is assuming that Sectionals will continue as hitherto, but your views will be welcome.

Hertfordshire Philharmonia 2010-2011 Season Programme

All details are subject to change. For the updated position, visit www.hertsphil.org.uk and click on "rehearsals".

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

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

Concert dress (unless otherwise announced for any particular concert) is **all-black** for both gentlemen and ladies.

"Battle of Britain Anniversary" concert

Thurs 2 September 2010 Rehearsal of the full orchestra

Thurs 9 September 2010 Strings Sectional

Thurs 16 September 2010 Wind sectional

Thurs 23 September 2010 Full

Thurs 30 September 2010 Full

Thurs 7 October 2010 Full

Concert Sat 9 October 2010 at Homewood Road Church, St Albans [at corner with Sandpit Lane AL1 4BH

Conductor Bjorn Bantock

Coates	Dam Busters March	2 2 3 2; 2 3 2 1; t 4p str	~5 mins
Walton	"Spitfire" Prelude and Fugue	2/1 1 2 1; 4 2 3 1; t 3p str hp	8 mins
Walton	Battle of Britain Suite	2+1 2 1+1 2+ bcl 2+1; 4 3 3 1; t 3p str hp	12 mins
Elgar	Pomp and Circumstance March no 4 op 39	3/1 2+1 2+1 2+1; 4 3 3 1; t 3p 2hp str	5 mins
Elgar	Pomp and Circumstance March no 5 op 39	2+1 2+1 2+1 2+1; 4 3 3 1; t 4p str	5 mins
Elgar	Enigma Variations op 36	2/1 2 2 2+1; 4 3 3 1; t 4p (org) str	30 mins

"November informal concert"

(provisionally): rehearsals 11 Nov, 18 Nov, 25 Nov, not necessarily at Applecroft School

Concert Sunday 28 November 2010 at The Old Town Hall, St Albans (St Peters Street, opposite Victoria St)

All aspects of this concert are still tentative and subject to confirmation: Our intention is for an informal concert of small ensembles from within the orchestra, where the audience can enjoy refreshments during the performance

"Viola and Dvorak" concert

Thurs 13 January 2011 Full rehearsal

Thurs 20 January 2011 Strings Sectional

Thurs 27 January 2011 Wind sectional

Thurs 3 February 2011 Full

Thurs 10 February 2011 Full

Thurs 17 February 2011 Full

Concert Sat 19 February 2011 at St Saviours Church, Sandpit Lane, St Albans AL1 4DF (near Walton Street)

Conductor: Jacques Cohen Soloist: Eniko Magyar

Dvořák	Slavonic Dances nos. 1-4 op 72	2/1 2 2 2; 4 2 3 0; t 3p str	~15 mins
Bartók	Viola concerto	3/1 2 2 2; 3 3 2 1; t 2p str	21 mins [Serly version]
Dvořák	Symphony no.8 in G	2/1 2/1 2 2; 4 2 3 1; t str	38 mins

"Classics at Boxmoor" concert

Thursdays 31 March, 7 April, 28 April and 5 May 2011 all full rehearsal

(no rehearsals Thursdays 14 and 21 April because of Easter school holidays)

Concert Sat 7 May 2011 at St Johns Church, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead HP1 1JY. (St Johns Church Boxmoor lies between Station Road and the south end of Heath Lane)

Conductor: Ben Palmer Soloist: tbc

Beethoven	Overture – Zur Namensfeier, op 115	2/1 2 2 2; 4 2 0 0; t str	7 mins
Haydn	Trumpet Concerto in E flat	2 2 0 2; 2 2 0 0; t str	15 mins
Mozart	Divertimento no 2 in B flat K137	Str	9 mins
Brahms	Serenade no 1 in D	2 2 2 2; 4 2 0 0; t str	43 mins

"Mahler" concert

Thurs 12 May 2011 Full rehearsal

Tuesday 17 May 2011 Strings Sectional

Thurs 19 May 2011 Wind sectional

Thurs 26 May 2011 Full

(No rehearsal Thursday 2 June - half-term)

Thurs 9 June 2011 Full

Thurs 16 June 2011 Full

Concert Sat 18 June 2011 at a venue tbc, in Potters Bar

Conductor: Patrick Bailey Soloist: tbc

Rossini	Overture – Thieving Magpie	1+1 2 2 2; 4 2 1 0; t 3p str	10 mins
Britten	Les Illuminations	Str and high soprano	21 mins
Mahler	Symphony no 4 in G	4/2 3/1 3/1/2Eb 3/1; 4 3 0 0; t 4p str; solo Sop	50 mins