

2016-17 A GREAT SEASON - AND MORE TO COME

For me the highlights of another successful season for the Phil were that rousing performance of Vaughan Williams' A Sea Symphony and a rare outing of Haydn's the Seasons, with the added bonus of singing it again in Koblenz (see below). We also had a sublime performance of Korngold's Violin Concerto from Zoe Beyers and the orchestra thrilled us all with Shostakovich's 12th Symphony.

This coming season we can look forward to another choral rarity, Holst's Cloud Messenger, the most neglected of his large scale choral works and inspired by his fascination with Sanskrit literature. It is paired in the opening concert with Sibelius's Symphony No. 1. The choir then return to more familiar territory in the final concert with Brahms' beautiful Song of Destiny and Mendelssohn's uplifting Hymn of Praise, otherwise known as his 2nd Symphony. And for the Family Christmas Concert the choir are joined this year by Cawston Band.

In December, after performances in recent years of the 1st, 2nd, 5th and, perhaps most memorably, 8th symphonies, the Phil continues its Mahler cycle with the wonderfully heart-wrenching 9th, his last complete symphony. For the February concert we welcome the outstanding young British pianist Alexander Ullman in that most physically demanding of piano concertos, Rachmaninov's 3rd. It is complemented by the 3rd Symphony of Czech composer, Bohuslav Martinů, a particular passion of conductor Matt Andrews and another first for the Phil which I'm really looking forward to hearing.

So it's another exciting season to relish and I can't wait until rehearsals start again in September. Do look out for the season brochure – launched at the AGM on 20th June – and encourage your friends and family to buy a season ticket! In the meantime enjoy a wonderful and relaxing summer!

Caroline Dixey

KOBLENZ TRIP A RESOUNDING SUCCESS



On Wednesday 26 April, by plane, train and automobile, 39 intrepid Philharmonic singers, plus 12 groupies, set off to Koblenz to sing *The Seasons* by Haydn with our friends from the Musik-Institut. The German conductor, Prof. Breitschaft, had flown over in March to be at our concert and had made complimentary noises about our

performance – and our German!

The concert was on Friday evening in the magnificent Rhein-Mosel Halle and was a sell-out. It went well and was thoroughly enjoyed by all the singers.

Thanks to David for coaching us so well and to our German hosts – warm, friendly and welcoming as ever.

DON'T FORGET

Next season first rehearsals are:

Choir: **Tuesday 5th September**

Orchestra: **Tuesday 19th September**

NB this is NOT a Repertoire night



SUBS AND TICKETS PRICES WILL STAY THE SAME

Membership subscriptions for the 2017-18 season will stay the same at £67 per year. And the Committee has decided to keep ticket prices at the same level as last year too.



Norwich Phil AGM

Tuesday 20 June 2017, 7.30pm

in the Music Room, at the Assembly House,

A bar for refreshments will be open from 7pm.

After the main business we will be entertained by extremely talented members from the

Norfolk Centre for Young Musicians

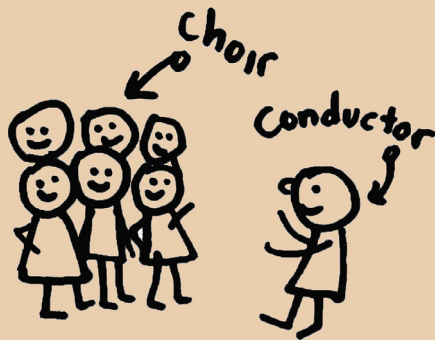
Please come along and support your Society!

Choir News

We welcomed six new members this season. Our membership now stands at 124.

It seems such a long time ago that we sailed into the 2016/17 season with the magnificent **Sea Symphony**. Fast on its heels was the annual **Carols at Jarrolds**, a popular event with members and customers alike, the snow machine lent an air of extra festive cheer. **The Phil's Family Christmas** was a sell out, being one of the most sought after concerts in the City. January saw the arrival of **The Seasons**, all in German, which proved to be quite a challenge for some. The cavalry came in the form of Norbert Meyn, who helped us tremendously last year with the Mahler. He took us for an afternoon session, and by the end we were fluent... well almost. The concert, although not well attended, was a triumph.

The **end of season Party** saw over 100 people tuck into a wonderful buffet, hardly a crumb was left. This occasion gave us the opportunity to celebrate David's 20th anniversary with the Phil. He was presented with a lino-cut of the Hostry, created by our very own Rob Barnes, flowers and a cake. A happy end to a lovely season.



There are people who work quietly in the background and on the committee all season so thanks go to the following members: Christine, Alison, Caroline, Josie, Peter x 2, Caroline, Sue and Elaine.

Not forgetting Tim, ever present at the piano and always on the ball, we thank you for your dedication and willingness to repeat passages..... often!

Also this season we say goodbye to a few members, some moving on and others who have decided to retire: Audrey Laycock, Jane Butler, Penny and Toby Harris, Dion Ogden, Martin Miller, Jeni Young and Jenny Walton. We wish them well and thank them for their support of the Phil.

Clarification on concert dress: At present we have no plans to alter the ladies concert dress, so this is a reminder that pashminas are to be worn at every concert unless otherwise stated. Chaps...you always look wonderful!

Please mark all dates in your diaries, and make every effort to attend most if not all rehearsals. You should have got the 2017-18 Schedule by email, but it's also available to download from the website.

Programme for next season

Our 2017-18 Season is a great mix of familiar favourites and new things to explore:

4 November **Sibelius** Symphony No 1
Holst Cloud Messenger

9 December **Mahler** Symphony No 9

19 December **Family Christmas Concert**

3 February **Kabalevsky** Overture Colas Breugnon
Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No 3
(Alexander Ullman, piano)
Martinů Symphony No. 3

17 March **Brahms** Song of Destiny
Mendelssohn Hymn of Praise



In January, our Quiz and Chips proved as popular as ever, with 14 teams raising an impressive **£1012** for Philharmonic funds. Thanks as always to Steph and Paul Allen for putting on such a splendid night, and to Nicky and her team for the use of Norwich School.



Congratulations to the Choir team, who won the overall 2017 Quiz, and the Orchestra team (above), Mike Nutt, Richard Devonshire, Ursula Pack, Caroline Furniss, Lottie Carlton, Steve Pank and Felicity Devonshire, worthy winners of the Choir vs Orchestra competition.

Congratulations David - 20 years at the choral helm



At the March after-concert party, we helped David Dunnett celebrate an amazing 20 years as the Phil's Choral Conductor. We really appreciate the effort David has put in over that time to guide the Phil Chorus, and deliver some really memorable performances.

From the War Requiem to Belchazzar's Feast, from Berlioz' Grand Messe des Morts to Mahler 8 and a wealth of Elgar Oratorios, David has brought his own particular insights to the music, and delighted and entertained choir and orchestra alike in the process. Thank you David, it's been a privilege working with you, and we look forward to many more years of wonderful music making with you in the future.



New Season Brochure - how will you help promote our concerts?

The brochure for the 2017-18 Season is due out at the beginning of June. You can pick one up at the AGM on 20th June, or at rehearsals starting in the Autumn.

Please help to promote our concerts in any way you can using the brochure and our leaflets, available at most rehearsals. **Tell your friends**, share images of the concert leaflets on **Facebook** and **Twitter**. Link to the brochure on the **website** so people can download it, put leaflets on **notice boards** at work or in your local shop... Anything! Publicising our concerts is essential. If our audiences don't know, about our concerts, they won't come.

The brochure will also be available for download soon at <http://www.norwichphil.org.uk/docs/NPSBrochure2017-18.pdf>



Mahler 8 DVD

Did you forget to buy your copy of the Mahler DVD?

We still have some available at the knock down price of £3 each. Gifts for friends and family who were in the audience maybe?

Contact Rob Barnes, orchsec@norwichphil.org.uk or Sally West-Lindell, choirsec@norwichphil.org.uk for details.

Farewell to an icon of classical music in Norwich

It was with enormous regret that we learned earlier this year that **Prelude Records** was going to close its doors for the last time at the end of March. Prelude has been a fantastic resource for the city for 31 years, both as a record store, and somewhere to buy tickets for Norwich Phil and other concerts. **Andrew Cane** the proprietor has always been on hand to advise with his wealth of musical knowledge. There can't be many of us who haven't benefitted from his experience over the years. But times move on. As Andrew said, "It's not a sudden change, it's been a gradual erosion. The people who are still regulars are wonderful, but sadly, that's not enough."

Music groups across the city contributed to a gift, which was presented to him at our March concert, to say thank you to Andrew for everything he has done.



Andrew Cane with wife Emma and Caz Shepherd at the March after-concert Party

ORCHESTRA NEWS

New Leader



New Leader: Liz Marjoram

Welcome to Elizabeth Marjoram who formally takes over as the Phil's new Leader next season.

Born in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, Liz began playing the violin at the age of 7 and later studied violin at the Royal Northern College of Music.

After graduating in 1978, she spent 13 years in a peripatetic violin teaching post in Worcestershire, teaching all ages and abilities. She also conducted the County Youth Orchestra, led the Worcestershire Symphony Orchestra and the Bromsgrove String Orchestra, and was soloist in the Bruch Violin Concerto, all the Bach solo and double concertos, the Lark Ascending, and Vivaldi's Four Seasons amongst others.

In 1991 she joined the English Symphony Orchestra, conducted by William Boughton, with Yehudi Menuhin as a regular guest conductor, and enjoyed many foreign tours in Europe and further afield, until her move to Norfolk in 2011.

Liz continues to both play and teach. As well as her new role with the Phil, she is currently coaching string quartets and leading and playing in many other choral and orchestral concerts in Norfolk.

She takes over as Leader of the Phil from Dominic Hopkins who is now studying for his PGCE in London. We say thank you to Dominic for all his efforts as Leader in the past, and we are delighted to hear that he will be coming back to join the Phil violins from time to time.

Farewell to Ray Simmons

Ray has stepped down as the Phil's Principal Trumpet. Formerly Principal Trumpet in the Royal Philharmonic and Solo Trumpet with the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, Ray's contribution to the Phil since he has held the first seat has been simply enormous and it has been a huge pleasure to have played alongside him.

Everyone in the band, not to mention our audiences, has admired and enjoyed his wonderful playing and supreme musicianship over the years and he will be sorely missed.

However the good news is that he will be coming back from time to time to help out in the section when the occasion permits.



Nostalgic day with the Norfolk County Youth Orchestra



As former members of the Norfolk County Youth Orchestra, several members of the Phil were among almost 50 alumni, including many from the professional music scene, taking part in the NCYO's performance of Mahler's First Symphony at St Andrew's Hall on 6th April.



Apart from the enthusiasm and commitment of the present day players, what made the experience so special, as they swapped old photos and cuttings, was the deep fondness and appreciation from the alumni for the life changing experiences and orchestral training that they had been given by residential youth orchestra courses all those years ago at Wymondham College.

Strings doing it by themselves

Early days yet, but plans are underway to do a **Weekend String Workshop** sometime next season.

More information to come soon. Please check your emails and other media for details as they appear.

