

## Christmas Message

Dear Members,

At the start of this festive season of celebration, when we would normally be in the middle of the Phil season and preparing for the surprises of our Christmas Concert, we decided to send you a round-up of Phil-related news.

Many members have enjoyed participating in the Covid-safe workshops we have been able to organise and I should like to thank the Committee and particularly the Covid19 Sub-Group of Matthew Andrews, David Dunnett, Sally West-Lindell, Rob Barnes and Alison Rhodes for their support during this challenging time. We are most grateful to members who have continued to support the Society through paying their subscriptions and generous additional donations, which will help to ensure that our finances remain healthy.

We plan to hold the AGM on-line on 20th January, 2021, when we hope to provide more details of our future plans. Please look out for the official notice of the meeting and further details.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish you all an enjoyable Christmas period, however you are able to celebrate it, and hope that you, your families and friends all stay well. Let's hope that the New Year brings the successful implementation of vaccination programmes and that we can look forward to meeting again soon and enjoying music together.

With very best wishes,

Caroline Dixey  
Chairman



### ONLINE



Matt Andrews and Caroline Furniss have kindly agreed to host the annual quiz on **Friday, 29th January, 2021**. The quiz will be on-line this year. Please put the date in your diaries and look out for further information.



### ONLINE AGM Wednesday 20th January, 2021

Time and software tba.  
An opportunity for you to hear about more details of future plans for the choir and orchestra.  
Look out for the official email announcement soon.

### Is David really 60?



Caroline and Sally went up to David Dunnett's house on his 'significant' birthday back in September and surprised him with a superb rendition of Happy Birthday.

He was thrilled with his "Never look at the conductor, it only encourages them" apron and with the card, a painting by Gwen Stewart one of our altos. There were also 2 bottles of wine and a cake. He thanks everyone for their good wishes.



## Chorus makes a joyful noise

For the first six months of the Covid epidemic, Sally kept choir members entertained with weekly, inspirational, musically-inspired emails with contributions from several guest presenters. These were much appreciated by all.

The choir met at St. Andrew's Hall for socially-distanced choral workshops over four weeks before the second lockdown intervened. Divided into two groups, called Elgar and Mozart, they sang a wide selection of music from West Side Story to 'Running Away with the Smoothing Iron' via excerpts from Carmen. As usual, David made the evenings great fun and participating members were delighted to have the chance to enjoy singing together again. We are very grateful to Rachel Clayton for arranging for part of a recent new donation from Shirley Newton in memory of Patricia Mockridge to be designated towards the costs of the choral workshops.



*Elgar and Mozart Choir groups rehearsing in St Andrew's Hall*

### 100 Club

There are still numbers available. They are a good way to raise money for the Society and also get something in return (a chance to win £50). Buy one for a Christmas present! We can do draws as and when in the new year in person at rehearsal (Covid permitting) or we can do a live draw on Facebook on a Saturday morning. To join, simply download and fill in [this electronic form](#) (you can't fill it in online), and return it to our Treasurer with your remittance (or pay online).

the **PHILHARMONIC 100 CLUB**  
JOIN NOW for the 2020-21 season!



**NORWICH PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY**  
**100 CLUB**  
a fundraiser for the Philharmonic - with cash prizes

2020/2021 SEASON

**6 DRAWS EVERY SEASON** and **3 WINNERS EVERY DRAW**  
1st Prize - £50, 2nd Prize - £25, 3rd Prize - £10

### Lord Lieutenant's Commendation

The Phil received a lovely commendation from The Lady Philippa Dannatt, HM Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, recognising the work which the Phil Committee, the St. Andrew's Hall team and the Norfolk Showground team have undertaken to enable members to keep active during the pandemic.

### St. George's Music Shop

Many members will have probably heard that St George's Music Shop will be closing in 2021. Chris and Anne Duarte and their team have given fantastic support to the classical music scene in Norwich since 1987, most recently acting as ticket office for the Phil amongst other groups. We are all very sad to see another music shop disappear and hope that members will support them until they finally close their doors next year. New options for the sale of our tickets are being explored.





## Orchestra back in action



Although we all stopped making music when the virus struck in March, the Phil Committee has kept meeting on a regular basis ever since to review developments and work out when it would be safe to get together and play again. And finally, after months of lockdown and no music making, it felt so good to get together in October and play music as an orchestra again.

We were lucky to be given special access to the vast space of the Showground Arena where we could safely assemble a full, socially-distanced symphony orchestra and experience the joy of playing through Tchaikovsky's 5th Symphony. We just managed to fit in our final play-through – with a small but appreciative audience from the choir – before lockdown v2 came along and we had to stop meeting.

But the good news is that with this current lockdown coming to an end on 2nd December we are able to get back to playing together again and we have dates booked at the Showground for **Monday 7th** (note change of day!) and **Tuesday 15th December**. On the 7th we will play through Dvorak's 7th Symphony - in a special edition which Matt has found with newly discovered passages that none of us has played before. Then on Tuesday 15th we will have a fun night of festive music – to which our percussion players are warmly invited to come along!

And any of our string players who haven't previously signed up who would now like to join us for these last two sessions before Christmas are most welcome to come along too. We would just ask you to let us know so that we can send you your part for the Dvorak and a Test & Trace form to complete.

The plan is then to resume playing at the Showground from Tuesday 5th January through to March but we will let you have more information about that and the repertoire planned in due course.







## Long Service Awards

We are delighted to announce that the following members have received their long service certificates, having completed 25 years with the Chorus or Orchestra.

### Chorus

Marion Jones  
Eryl Pickworth  
Fred Pickworth  
Pat Stephenson

### Orchestra

Stephen Cox  
Ruth Eagling  
Caroline Furniss  
Pat Hanchet  
Andrew Murray

**Congratulations to all.**

## St Andrew's Hall

The team at St Andrew's Hall has been very helpful in arranging for the hall to be set up in a Covid-secure way for the choir sessions.

They have also been busy painting parts of the hall and funding has been secured to provide new seating for audiences and the orchestra, a new conductor's rostrum and new, more flexible bleacher seating.



## Diary Date

Another date for your diaries: Revised date for the Norfolk Young Musician Competition (Michael Badminton Trust).

This competition will now take place on **Sunday, 21st March, 2021**. For more details and entry form, see: <https://bit.ly/3kmahna>

## Farewell to...

### Jane Howard, Viola



As well as playing viola, Jane has generously organised interval refreshments for all orchestra rehearsals for many years, raising money for the Phil coffers. She will be sorely missed.

And now there are two vacancies: viola seat and refreshments person. Any volunteers?!

### Rob Slocombe, Trombone



After over 25 years with the orchestra we were sorry to hear from our Second Trombone, Rob Slocombe, that he has decided to stand down from the Phil. Rob writes: "I look back with great pleasure on 25+ years with the orchestra, during which time the Society has gone from strength to strength under skilled management and direction. Thanks

to all. There have been numerous awesome concerts (I'm going to talk myself out of this in a minute!

At the time that I auditioned for the Phil, along with two other trombone-players even younger (!), the orchestra welcomed the opportunity to have a locally-sourced section, rather than students/professionals from London. Job done.

Best wishes to one and all for the future,

Rob"

**Thank you, Jane and Rob, for your contributions and very best wishes for the future.**

## and finally ...

SEASON'S GREETINGS AND ALL GOOD WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

