



Abergavenny Symphony Orchestra

Newsletter

Issue no.41

April 2016

Next Concert:

Sunday 17th April 2016, 8:00 pm
Our Lady & St Michael's Church,
Abergavenny.

Conductor: Tianyi Lu

- Dvorak – Cello Concerto
Soloist – Rosie Biss
- Dvorak – Symphony No. 8



Rosie Biss is Principal cello with Welsh National Opera. She also enjoys a busy and varied career as chamber musician, soloist, guest principal, and teacher.

Rosie teaches cello and chamber music at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, coaches for the National Children's

Orchestra, and gives masterclasses annually at Cellofest.

She played with us last spring and we enjoyed working with her so much that we've asked her back again!



We are delighted to welcome back

Tianyi Lu as guest conductor for this concert. It has been a real pleasure to work with her and

we are pleased to report that her conducting career is really taking off, with a summer school engagement in New Zealand in January, working with BBC NOW in February, and a masterclass with Bernard Haitink in Lucerne this March.

Of our forthcoming concert she says, "Dvorak is

known for his charming melodies and elegant forms, but there is also a depth and bittersweet nostalgia to his music that is interesting to explore. I have really enjoyed working on this with the Abergavenny Symphony Orchestra and I am excited to welcome back Rosie Biss to perform the wonderful cello concerto with us!"

Musical Director's Column

"It was a great pleasure for me to conduct my first concert with the Abergavenny Symphony Orchestra as Music Director last November. The musicians of the orchestra did themselves proud and the large audience was very appreciative. Cristan Grajner De Sa, our soloist, played a stunning Sibelius Violin Concerto, a young artist on his way to a great career. We also received a very fine notice in the newspaper, so altogether a very satisfying experience all round."

Here is the link to the review in the Argus:

http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/leisure/reviews/14102836.Abergavenny_Symphony_Orchestra_a_Concert_Our_Lady_and_St_Michael's_Church_Abergavenny/

"In January, we presented a one day workshop with the Symphony No. 10 by Shostakovich, a colossus of the 20th century. It was a very rewarding day with the Abergavenny Symphony Orchestra with guests who travelled from far and wide to take part in this project. Plans are afoot for early next year for another and even larger project: watch this space."

Workshop Day Review

As Dennis noted in his column, participants in our workshop day travelled from as far away as London to join us so Shostakovich's Symphony no.10 proved to be a good choice for the day. In total, 77 players took part and we all had a great day.



Children's Concert Review

The children's concert was a huge success with an estimated audience of around 160 people. Members of the orchestra dressed in festive manner and hung baubles from their stands and many children came in their favourite costumes. We 'employed' dancers to encourage the children to dance along to the music, handed out sleigh bells for youngsters to join in with the percussion section, and gave them an opportunity to try out some of our instruments after the concert. Parents were thrilled that their children had such a good time and hope that we will be holding this sort of event on a regular basis.

We invited The Children's Centre Trust, Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny to bring along collecting tins, and £280 was raised for the charity.

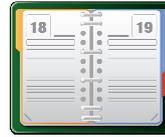
Members and Other Players

Phil Roberts has now had his operations. He and Sally have had a difficult time, but he appears to be on the mend now.

Ben Beckingsale, the snare drummer who came and did brave things for us in Frozen and in the Shostakovich workshop, has pulled off quite a success. Just after the workshop he noticed some information about BBC Digital Radio Apprenticeships, applied and got a place - one of 15 who succeeded out of over 700 applicants! He'll have his university costs paid for him, and he'll be salaried for the three years of university. He'll have to compress each three-term year into 10 weeks (!) and will be working full-time with BBC Radio for the remainder. He'll emerge with a degree, free to stay or leave the BBC. Whether Shostakovich 10 swung it for him, we'll never know....

The other percussionists who joined us for the children's concert will be helping out again. Justine Wheatley will be with us playing triangle in the Dvorak cello concerto. David Fraser (viola) and his son William will be back for the summer season with us - lots of percussion needed!

Trina Lodge, (Alan's wife) is helping with violins for the April concert. We hope that she is enjoying rehearsals.



Calendar

Summer Concert 2016:

Sunday 26th June 2016, 8:00 pm
Our Lady & St Michael's Church, Abergavenny
Conductor: Dennis Simons
Programme:

- Beethoven – Symphony No. 8
- Jack Capstaff – York Sketches (new commission)
- Morricone – Gabriel's Oboe
- Rimsky-Korsakov – Capriccio Espagnol
- Tchaikovsky – Capriccio Italien
- Weber – Invitation to the Waltz

Autumn Concert 2016:

Sunday 20th November 2016, 8:00 pm
Our Lady & St Michael's Church, Abergavenny
Conductor: Dennis Simons
Programme to include:

- Saint-Saens – Organ Symphony

Christmas Concert 2016:

Sunday 11th December
Details to be confirmed

Workshop Day 2017:

Sunday 5th February
Clarence Hall, Crickhowell

Other Events

Abergavenny U3A Opera Group organises coach trips to opera screenings in Monmouth and Cwmbran from the Metropolitan Opera in New York and from Covent Garden. Non-U3A members are welcome - details can be obtained from Anita Saunders: 01873 857853.