



Abergavenny Symphony Orchestra

# Newsletter

Issue no.42

June 2016

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## Next Concert:

**Sunday 26th June 2016, 8:00 pm**  
**Our Lady & St Michael's Church,**  
**Abergavenny.**

**Conductor: Dennis Simons**

Programme:

- Mendelssohn – Hebrides Overture
- Beethoven – Symphony No. 8
- Morricone – Gabriel's Oboe (Soloist: our own principal oboist, Malcolm James)
- Rimsky-Korsakov – Capriccio Espagnol
- Tchaikovsky – Capriccio Italien
- Weber – Invitation to the Waltz

Tickets available in advance from 'Abergavenny Music' and online at [www.abergavennysymph.org.uk](http://www.abergavennysymph.org.uk)

Our MD, Dennis Simons says, *"I am really looking forward to conducting my second concert with the Abergavenny Symphony Orchestra. We have devised a 'Summer Serenade' that has more than its share of sunshine. We have two Capriccios in the programme, Tchaikovsky's stunning Capriccio Italien which was inspired by a trip to Rome and all the richness of the Italian folk melodies, and the brilliant Capriccio Espagnol by Rimsky Korsakov evoking all the colours and excitement of dances of Spain. In the hands of these master composers, we have works that display the amazing soundscape that can be created by the modern symphony orchestra. Our dance theme continues with the 'Invitation to the Dance', originally a piano work by Carl Maria von Weber brilliantly orchestrated by Berlioz. With Beethoven's light and cheerful symphony number 8 and more travelling to South America for Morricone's haunting 'Gabriel's Oboe' from the Mission and the Hebrides 'Fingal's Cave' overture by Mendelssohn, we have a concert specially designed to be enjoyed on a summer evening. I am truly excited at the prospect and*

*invite you all to share these wonderful works with us on June 26."*

Harpist **Katherine Thomas**, who lives in Abergavenny, will be joining us for the concert. She plays frequently with the Orchestra of Welsh National Opera and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. In her role as an orchestral accompanist, she has worked with artists as diverse as Noah Stewart, Bryn Terfel and the Manic Street Preachers. Also an experienced chamber musician, Katherine plays in the Enigma Duo alongside violinist Laurence Kempton and is a member of the Wales-based ensemble Dragonfly, with whom her recordings include Mozart's Flute and Harp Concerto with flautist Sarah Newbold. She teaches the harp pedagogue and orchestral modules at Birmingham Conservatoire and has published several volumes of technical works for the harp with Alaw Music.

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## FYI

We use **IMSLP** quite a bit for printing parts and it seems only right that we contribute to its running. IMSLP have been encouraging users to either pay an annual membership or give a donation. Group membership would cost more than our library subscriptions so we have decided to make an annual donation of £50.

We are registered with **Easyfundraising** through whom we have so far raised £182. We could do much better than this though, so if you regularly shop online please sign up to [Easyfundraising.org.uk](http://Easyfundraising.org.uk), select us as your chosen charity, and remember to make that page your first port of call when shopping so that a percentage goes to the orchestra.

## Spring Concert Review

Our spring concert was very well received. A review of the concert in the South Wales Argus used phrases such as “inspired interpretation” and “ expressive intensity” of which we can be proud. See the full article online at: [http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/leisure/review/s/14437481.Abergavenny\\_Symphony\\_Orchestra\\_Our\\_Lady\\_and\\_St\\_Michael\\_s\\_R\\_C\\_Church\\_Abergavenny/](http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/leisure/review/s/14437481.Abergavenny_Symphony_Orchestra_Our_Lady_and_St_Michael_s_R_C_Church_Abergavenny/)

Tianyi Lu wrote afterwards, “*I want to give my heartfelt thanks and congratulations for the concert on Sunday night. I have been impressed and inspired by the way we have developed together over the past few months and in the concert you brought an energy and dynamism that brought the performance to a whole new level. It was a very special evening for me and I was moved by the way you played. I feel so thankful to have had the chance to work with you and get to know you over the past while, and will miss our rehearsals together!*”

Tianyi has been granted a visa which allows her to stay here for another five years while she develops her career, so hopefully we haven't seen the last of her yet!

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## Next Orchestra Workshop

We are ‘going large’ next February for our next workshop. Mahler’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Symphony is the chosen work, a piece that requires a choir and vocal soloists in addition to a full orchestra. Players’ seats have already been booked with some sections already full so don’t delay in signing up, especially if you are a wind player!

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## Members and Other Players

This will be **Paul Kelly**’s last concert with as a member of the orchestra. This is sad news indeed, but as he now commutes daily from Cardiff to Bristol for work he is finding the Sunday evening commitment too tiring. He wishes to thank the orchestra for the opportunities we have given him over the last six years. We would like to thank him for his

contribution to us and hope to see him at our future workshops.

**Phil Roberts** is now feeling much better and Sally is enjoying her new job. Hopefully, they’ll join us for our workshop next year.

Walking seems to have been popular with our members in recent months.

**Martin Bailey-Wood** and his twin 13 year old sons walked from Milford Haven to St. David’s along the coastal path in aid of Friends of Bridgend Youth Music. Donations are still being accepted online at:

<http://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/martinbailey-wood1> .

**Heather Leighton** did the Yorkshire 3 peaks last weekend and she also did the Hadrian’s Wall Path last month to raise money for the charity, Natalya’s Fund, of which she is a trustee. Details of the charity and how to donate online at: <http://natalyasfund.wix.com/main>

**Jane and James Leney** went a little further afield, travelling to Nepal and walking to Everest Base Camp. James claims to have seen a yeti skull ... I’m not sure we should believe that, but he and Jane definitely had the trip of a lifetime.



## Calendar

### Autumn Concert 2016:

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

- Saint-Saens – Organ Symphony
- Neville John - Triumph of Aberfan
- Mendelssohn violin concerto

### Christmas Concert 2016:

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December  
Details to be confirmed

### Workshop Day 2017:

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February  
Clarence Hall, Crickhowell  
Mahler Symphony no. 2