



Abergavenny Symphony Orchestra

# Newsletter

Issue no.43

November 2016

## Next Concert:

**Sunday 20th November 2016, 8:00 pm**

**Our Lady & St Michael's Church,**

**Abergavenny.**

**Conductor: Dennis Simons**

Programme:

- Neville John – The Triumph of Aberfan
- Mendelssohn - Violin concerto no. 2  
Soloist – Mathilde Milwidsky
- Saint-Saens – Organ Symphony

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 have now had the pleasure of being the Music Director of the Abergavenny Symphony Orchestra for the past year. It has been a very exciting year with the orchestra performing brilliantly and receiving well deserved critical acclaim in the press. Aberfan has been very much in our hearts, minds and in the media. To honour the 50th anniversary of this devastating disaster, we will open our concert with a performance of 'The Triumph of Aberfan' composed by Neville John. Mendelssohn spent over 5 years working on his violin concerto in e minor. His care and genius have given us what is generally considered to be the greatest violin concerto of all time, a work that has remained a firm favourite with audiences everywhere. It will be a unique opportunity to hear the brilliant young violinist, **Mathilde Milwidsky** as soloist, who Maxim Vengerov describes as 'an exceptionally talented violinist' – not to be missed.*



*For our grand finale and I do mean 'grand', we are presenting the Symphony No. 3 by Saint-Saëns known as the 'Organ Symphony'. First performed in London in 1886, Saint-Saëns apparently was very proud of this work. Music lovers everywhere have certainly confirmed his opinion and have been eternally thrilled by the experience of hearing this mighty work. I am truly excited about this concert and look forward to seeing you all there on November 20!"*

## Concert for Children:

ABERGAVENTNY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
Present:

# Jungle Bells

a Winter Concert for Children



**Sunday 11th December 2016, 4:00 pm**

**King Henry VIII School, Abergavenny.**

**Conductor: Dennis Simons**

Following the huge success of last year's children's concert, we are proud to announce this year's event: Jungle Bells. We will be playing music from the film 'Jungle Book' along with other animal (and Christmas) themed music. We are encouraging children to dress up as an animal and/or bring a toy animal for the event, and there will be audience participation again. We hope to decorate the hall with a jungle theme, including artwork by local pupils. The event is free to all but refreshments will be on sale, and we are inviting The Children's Trust at Neville Hall Hospital to bring their collecting tins.

## FYI

**Easyfundraising** – total raised is now £215.70.



**Ticket prices** have changed. There will be no fee for students and children. Tickets bought in advance - online, from Abergavenny Music, or from Simon at rehearsals - will cost £8.50. Those paying at the door will be charged £10

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## String Orchestra Workshop

On Sunday 9th October we held our first ever string orchestra workshop in the Dance Blast studio in Abergavenny. We hoped to attract string players from the region so that they may join with our members for a day of playing and then spread the word to others. Dennis came up with an exciting choice of pieces to work at which drew in a variety of players – mostly upper strings – and made a string orchestra of 35 people. One participant contacted us to thank us for organising the event and said, *“It was a very jolly and welcoming atmosphere and an exciting programme with a really personable, clear and supportive conductor through some challenging moments!”* She has now circulated details of our February workshop to the orchestras with which she plays.

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## Orchestra Workshop

Don't forget to sign up for our workshop on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February when we'll be spending the day on Mahler's 2<sup>nd</sup> Symphony.

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## Members and Other Players

**Alice Cox** was this year's recipient of the Muncaster Shield, which was awarded again according to its original intention of recognising the society's Young Musician of the year. Dennis thanked Alice for her strong and musical playing at the front of the seconds, and also for her dedication, commitment and all-round helpfulness to the orchestra.

**Alan Lodge** recently celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and to celebrate, invited members of the orchestra to join with other friends and family in a 'Come and Play / Sing' performance of Mikado. A number of us did so and had a most enjoyable evening. Trina and Alan are now planning similar event next summer ... get ready

for The Pirates of Penzance. We would like to welcome Trina formally as a member of AOS.

Welcome also to new members: **Laura Kostoris** (cello), **Lucy Meredith** and **Rachel Tucker** (viola) and **Sarah Jones** (horn).

**Iestyn Harding** is now our principal trombone player - it is wonderful for the orchestra (and Mike!) to have a regular trombone section. Iestyn is a graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and the University of Bristol, and as well as being an accomplished player he is a composer whose work has been performed by BBC NOW, Welsh Sinfonia, The Cory Band, and many other ensembles. Iestyn is currently working on a composition for us to use in the children's concert!

**Bay TV Swansea** made a programme commemorating the Aberfan disaster, including Neville John's two overtures, performed by Swansea Community Orchestra. They asked if some of our members could join in as they were short of players and so a few of us went down to Swansea on a Monday evening to help out. The programme is available to view on our Facebook page.

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## Calendar

### Workshop Day 2017:

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 10am – 5pm  
Clarence Hall, Crickhowell  
Mahler Symphony no. 2

### Spring Concert 2017:

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017, 8:00 pm  
Our Lady & St Michael's Church, Abergavenny.  
Conductor: Dennis Simons  
Programme:

- Sibelius – En Saga
- Strauss - Horn Concerto No.1  
Soloist: Pete Geraghty
- Tchaikovsky - Symphony No. 6

### Summer Concert 2016:

Sunday \*25<sup>th</sup> June 2016, 8:00 pm  
(\* provisional date)  
Programme: TBA