



Abergavenny Symphony Orchestra

Newsletter

Issue no.46

November 2017

Next Concert:

Sunday 19th November 2017, 8:00 pm

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

Conductor: Dennis Simons

Programme:

- Shostakovich – Festive Overture
- Berlioz – Benvenuto Cellini Overture
- Rodrigo – Guitar Concerto
Soloist: Giacomo Susani
- Sibelius – Symphony No. 5

Tickets available in advance from the Tithe Barn or online at www.abergavennysymph.org.uk



Our soloist this term is **Giacomo Susani**. He is an Italian guitarist (Padua, 29 April 1995).

He started playing the guitar at the age of 7 and eventually studied under the direction of Stefano Grondona at the Conservatorio *Arrigo Pedrollo* in Vicenza where he graduated with the highest marks and honours in 2013. He is currently continuing his studies at the *Royal Academy of Music* in London, in the class of Michael Lewin, where he has completed his Bachelor of Music, gaining First Class Honours and the discretionary *Bache Fund Prize*, and is now studying for his Master's degree. On his entrance to the Academy he was awarded the prestigious *Julian Bream Trust Scholarship*, after an audition with Julian Bream himself.

One recent review of his playing describes “a sound immediately recognizable, warm and immediate. Listening to him is really impressive,

he strikes, with his absolute mastery in musical lexicon, the total technical ease and a sense of immediacy that is able to convey, managing to put the spotlight on expressiveness and emotions.”

We look forward to meeting and performing with him. You can learn more about him from his website:

<http://www.giacomosusani.com/en/home/>

Concert for Children



Sunday 10th December 2017, 4:00 pm
King Henry VIII School, Abergavenny.
Guest Conductor: Michael Bell

This year our theme for the concert is pirates and mermaids. We will be playing music from the films 'Pirates of the Caribbean' and 'The Little Mermaid' along with other pirate, mermaid, sea (and Christmas) themed music.

We are encouraging children to dress up for the event, and we will be offering face-painting again for a small donation. As usual, you can expect audience participation – staff from Dance Blast will lead dancing and everyone can join in with some carol singing, as our very own lestin Harding is arranging 'I Saw Three Ships' for full orchestra.

Michael Bell has agreed to conduct and compere the concert this year. The event is free to all but refreshments will be on sale, and we are inviting The Children's Trust at Nevill Hall Hospital to bring their collecting tins once again.



New Leader

We were very sorry to have to say goodbye to Sophie Silverstone at the end of last term as she had been leading the orchestra for two years and was well-liked. Her brilliant performance of the solo in Tchaikovsky Suite No. 3 enabled her to go out in memorable style. We hope that her professional career flourishes and look forward to seeing her again if we need to call on her to boost numbers on a concert day.

At this point we need to express our deep thanks to Ruth Brown for stepping into the breach and leading the orchestra until we could find a replacement for Sophie.

We had two applicants for the post who were both interviewed, auditioned and who came to lead the orchestra and we were more than happy to offer the position to **Heidi Forde**. Heidi will be with us for one year before she leaves South Wales to gain experience further afield. She is a graduate of the RWCMD and currently works as a tutor for the Gwent Music Service and at Ffynone House School.

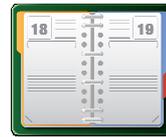
Members and Other Players

We are delighted to welcome several new members to the orchestra – mostly string players! **Selina, Asia** and **Gemma** have swelled the ranks of the violins. **Gavin** has joined the viola section for the first time and **Lucy, Clare** and **Angi** have returned, meaning that anyone else wishing to join the viola section will have to go on a waiting list. That must make us the envy of many an orchestra! A full cello section too has led to a waiting list from which we have selected two players – **Helen** and **Hannah** – to join in some rehearsals in order to give them a chance to play. **Will** has joined us on double bass and **Rod** has just joined the horn section. Phew! Hopefully no-one has been left out.

Many people have asked after **James Joseph**, who was diagnosed with an inoperable brain cancer in May, and has been greatly missed. Having now returned from hospital in Cardiff, James wants all his friends to know that he is enjoying life back at home, and feels very lucky to have had such a full and rich life, and is now able to get out and about a bit more, so keep an eye out for him.

Muncaster Shield

This year the Muncaster Shield was given to **Diana Turnbull**. As measured by the calendar, Diana is not by any means the youngest player in the orchestra (in fact she may be the opposite, although it would be impolite to enquire exactly), but she is certainly young at heart, and showed her appetite for new things by putting herself in for the Grade 8 violin examination in the spring. She not only passed but was awarded a Merit. As Dennis put it, "She is singing my song of being a 'life long learner' and, by her achievement, I think is an inspiration to young and old alike."



Calendar

Concert for Children 2017:

Sunday 10th December 2017, 4:00 – 5:00 pm
Guest Conductor: Michael Bell

Orchestral Workshop:

Sunday 4th February 2018
Clarence Hall, Crickhowell
Mahler's 5th Symphony
Conductor: Dennis Simons

Spring Concert 2018:

Sunday 18th March 2018, 8:00 pm
Our Lady & St Michael's Church, Abergavenny.
Conductor: Dennis Simons
Programme:

- Rossini – Overture to William Tell
- Schubert – Symphony No. 8 (Unfinished)
- Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto
Soloist: Cristian Grajner de Sa

Summer Concert 2018:

Sunday 17th June 2018, 8:00 pm
Our Lady & St Michael's Church, Abergavenny.
Conductor: Dennis Simons
Programme:

A collection of summer 'shorts' including familiar favourites and neglected gems by the likes of Smetana, Liszt, Herold, Johann Strauss Jr., Massenet, Beethoven, and Raymond Warren.