

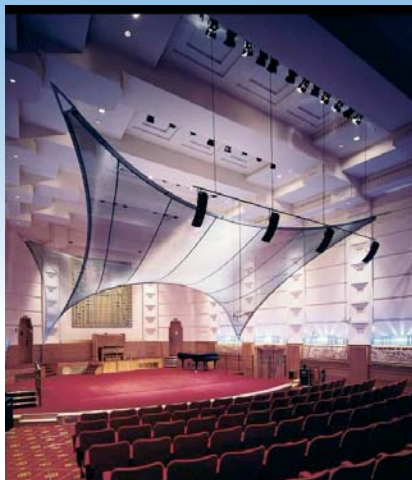
MAY 2007

## WORDS from Chairman Bob

The Summer term is upon us and soon another successful season will be behind us – and what success! Our membership of the orchestra has increased from 75 at the start of the season to 90 now. This is still some way off our target of 120, but steady progress has been made.

Recently, I was overwhelmed by the concert at the BBC Radio Theatre. It was a real privilege for SYO to be the first to perform there since its closure five years ago, and the performance was outstanding. Personally, it was a very special night.

So we can look forward to the next concert on 15th July which will be at St John's Smith Square. This is a famous venue for classical music near to the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey. The building is also rather special, dating back to 1728, when it was



a church built for Queen Anne. It has a large auditorium capable of seating 800. We will work hard to fill it, dedicating the performance to 'Friends of SYO', both old and new.

The tour to Provence is now finalised with more than 50 SYO players taking part – making this the largest party for some time. Elizabeth Hutchinson and Kerry



Reid have made a second visit to Arles to make the final arrangements at the hotel and to plan your free time – see later. I am convinced this tour will be a resounding success.

We are looking at the calendar for 2007/8 and will very shortly fix the concert and tour dates. We hope to carry on the tradition of playing in different, uplifting venues and will try to generate larger audiences. As for Tour 08 – any bright ideas where you would like to go?



## Letter from Adrian

Can I begin by offering my congratulations and thanks to both orchestras for their performances in our last concert? The whole day was a happy and successful event – not least your attitude, good humour, musicianship and the astonishing help from parents and friends. I was especially delighted with the Training Orchestra's ability to rise to the occasion and with the Main Orchestra's accompaniments to the concertos. Many congratulations to our soloists. The end of the Sibelius was incredibly moving.

So on we go, and thanks to Bob's enthusiasm, to a concert in St John's Smith Square, an important London venue, and to the preparation for our Tour to Provence. In addition to our current repertoire in the summer we shall learn some French music by Bizet and Saint Saëns to give variety especially to our out of doors performance. Kathryn Rutland will return to play the Dvořák Concerto in Aix Cathedral.

Bob has mentioned our membership – everyone must try to help to 'spread the word'. It is in all our interests to have the

widest scope of music possible for the maximum number of players, since variety of experience is of the greatest importance. For all the brochures and websites we might have, it is still best to 'bring a friend' and to interest them in your own experience of Stoneleigh – persuading them that playing all sorts of music in the orchestral field can be fun, stimulating and often life-enhancing. I passionately believe this. Orchestras are much under-valued, and playing in one is still the best 'team game'!

We will always go down 'interesting roads'. This term we play a much neglected yet beautiful Oboe Concerto by Boughton with Marissa Pueschel – there is much interest in this piece among the English music fraternity. In the autumn we will be celebrating Elgar's 150th birthday with the Cello Concerto played by the very talented Julian Metzger, along with Dvořák's early Fourth Symphony, youthful and exciting. 2008 will see a commemoration of Vaughan Williams 50 years after his death with his *Masque for Dancing*, 'Job', a work inspired by Blake. We

will be studying many of Blake's engravings and writings, with a 21st century take on some of this art. Rebecca Carey and Victoria Rule will join us in concertos during the year and we will finish our season with a summer Prom Night, performing lighter more famous music, perhaps, and this is where you most certainly come in! Let us know what you would like to play!

In 1977 Margaret and I had our first daughter, Stoneleigh broadcast for the first time ('Job') from the Radio Theatre at the BBC, and we went on our first Tour ever, to Aberdeen to the International Festival of Youth Orchestras. I left the nappies!! All we needed to raise for the trip was £5,000 for 14 days!

How times have changed. It means just as much to me now as it did then to be preparing 'Job', working with fine young soloists from our ranks, relishing a fine new committee and chairman, and working for and with you all. We need your support, especially in an exam term!, your ability to find new members and your...practice! Let's have a great summer.

## Friends of SYO

Our next concert on 15 July at St John's Smith Square is dedicated to Friends of SYO. Please be thinking now of who you know might be interested in becoming a Friend, and watch out for more details.



## NEW STONELEIGH 100 CLUB

The Stoneleigh Lottery 100 Club is a new fun way to help Stoneleigh raise funds, where you have a chance to recoup what you have put in. Every month, half of the total Lottery takings will be distributed as winnings in three prizes in the proportion: First Prize wins 50%, Second Prize wins 35% and Third Prize wins 15%. The remaining sums will be retained as orchestra funds. One ticket costs £2 per month, three tickets cost £5 per month and eight tickets cost £10 per month. You will need to establish a standing order that will debit your account each month into a new Stoneleigh 100 Club account. The first draw will take place on Sunday 1 July just before 4 o'clock between the TO and MO rehearsals, and then on the first Sunday rehearsal of each month. There won't be a draw in August but a rollover in September. Contact Bill Main-Ian at [bill\\_mainian@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bill_mainian@yahoo.co.uk) to sign up.

## PROVENCE, HERE WE COME! Arles, Anduze, Avignon and Aix

The 2007 Tour will be based in the ancient town of Arles, which lies on the River Rhône in the heart of Provence. The Orchestra will stay at the centrally located Atrium Hotel, which will allow players the freedom to explore the town during free time. The rooftop 'swimming pool' is very small – more like a paddling pool – but there is an open air public pool only 10 minutes' walk from the hotel – the perfect place to cool down and relax.

The first concert in Anduze (an hour from Arles) will take place in the early evening, followed by alfresco dining in one of the many open air restaurants, before returning to our base. Arles will be the next concert venue and here the Orchestra will play outside in the Place de la République, only minutes from our hotel. The final concert will be in the cathedral at Aix en Provence, which frequently hosts concerts throughout the summer period.

Time will be available to explore the old part of Aix, which is truly one of the most picturesque towns in the area. We would really recommend exploring the Old Town, which offers a wealth of



beautiful buildings steeped in history. The narrow streets are home to many stunning courtyards, and pleasant squares including the Place de l'Hôtel de Ville with its charming old clock tower. The Old Town is bordered in the south by a wonderful shady promenade, the Cours Mirabeau, planted with old plane trees and certainly worth a visit.

Other excursions will include a trip to the seaside, so don't forget to pack the suncream and a hat! We will spend some time at Les Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, a beach resort in the extreme west of Provence. This area, known as the Camargue, is particularly flat with marshland and lagoons housing an array of wildlife. We will also fit in a cultural visit to Avignon, where we will have a guided tour of the magnificent Papal Palace, view the famous bridge and generally enjoy strolling around the town.

All in all this should be a fantastic tour! [EH and KR]



## HOW TO BE A CHAPERONE

The Stoneleigh chaperone system works to support Adrian and Richard's work as conductors, with as little interruption to the rehearsal as possible. If a player isn't feeling very well, they can slip out of the room and one of the chaperones can help them, or the conductors may need help, for example with finding music.

One chaperone remains in the rehearsal room, one sits in the lobby to keep an eye on the door, the third prepares tea and squash for the interval. One of the three chaperones is always a member of the Committee.

Debra Levy organises the rota of chaperones. You should find yourself on duty for only a couple of Sundays each year, but if your allocated days are inconvenient contact one of the people on a day you can manage and let Debra know of the change [debralevy@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:debralevy@blueyonder.co.uk).

- Make sure the Stoneleigh cupboard in the kitchen is unlocked – ask one of the committee if it isn't. In it you should find SYO mugs, paper cups, squash and biscuits.
- Before the rehearsal, fetch squash jugs, spare paper cups and a couple of tea towels from our box behind the stage, which is to the right of centre along the back wall.

Please, girls, keep those low necklines and micro-minis for other occasions – they're not quite the thing for Orchestra.

- Put out biscuits on paper plates – three or four packets.
- Make up squash in jugs, enough for 50, and pour out at least half to be ready for the break.
- Have the urn boiling for 5.30.
- Clear up, wash up and Hoover the lounge (the Hoover lives in the alley between the lounge and the rehearsal room, on the church side).
- (Committee member) Bring a list of the current orchestra, plus phone numbers in case of emergency.
- (Committee member) Bring a pint of milk, and take the tea towels home for washing.

This is your chance for a private concert from the Orchestra (or time to read a book). Please don't whisper in the rehearsal room or talk loudly outside.

### IMPORTANT

**Players: don't leave the premises during the rehearsal without letting one of the chaperones know – we are responsible for your safety and welfare.**



## WEDDING BELLS!

Richard Laing will be marrying his bride, Karen Wise, on 24 May in Kent, where they both grew up. Richard says: '*Karen's a singer – indeed she sang Elgar's Sea Pictures with Stoneleigh on tour to Barcelona my first year with the orchestra – and also a psychologist, studying for a Ph.D in Music Psychology at Keele University. We met while we were both postgraduate students at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.*' Stoneleigh's warmest congratulations and good wishes to both of them!

## SMALL ADS/ PLAYERS' NEWS

**Nectar Points** Ideal for anyone who shops or buys petrol at Sainsbury's all or just some of the time!

Ask for your Nectar points to go into the SYO account.

Details from Bill Main-lan,  
[bill\\_mainian@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bill_mainian@yahoo.co.uk).

Ideas for future newsletters/copy for small ads/players' news: send to [sarah@christopherherrick.org](mailto:sarah@christopherherrick.org)

## TO NEWS

This has been an exciting year for the TO. We have grown from 22 to 34 players (including 4 members of the MO on a second instrument), have a more demanding but more rewarding repertoire, and have had our own moment of glory at the BBC.

The girls' new white blouses, although potentially only an interim measure, have been a

successful replacement for the maroon T-shirts, which will be kept for more informal occasions. Please remember that these blouses are the property of the Orchestra – and guard them with your life, there are no spares (and other designs will not be acceptable).

Rosie and Charles won HMV vouchers this term for successfully introducing new players to

Stoneleigh through the Bring-a-Friend Day, and we are hoping for more winners this term. Don't forget, if you manage to encourage a horn, trombone or tuba player into either orchestra, you will get double the reward.

Finally, 12 of our TO players will be joining the Stoneleigh Tour to Provence in August, which promises to be one of the best yet.

## KEY DATES

Saturday 23 June, 6.30 pm  
 Claremont Outdoor Concert and Picnic

Sunday 1 July  
 First SYO 100 Club draw!

Sunday 22 July  
 Re-auditions for those who can't make a September date  
 Pre-tour rehearsal and briefing

Saturday and Sunday  
 1 and 2 September  
 Re-audition weekend

Sunday 9 September  
 First rehearsal of autumn term  
 100 Club Rollover draw

Sunday 16 September  
 Re-auditions

### Provisional concert dates:

Sunday 2 December 2007

Sunday 20 April 2008

Sunday 20 July 2008

### Players' Reps

Emily Benn, Holly Hutchinson, Alex Main-Ian, Sophie Reid, Jamie Smith (TO) – let them know of any ideas you want raised at Committee meetings.

### Committee

Bob Ogilvie **CHAIR**

Nick Lock **TREASURER**

Alex Rhodes and Irina Hoble-Aldersley **JOINT SECRETARY**

Kerry Reid **MEMBERSHIP**

Clare Wright **PUBLICITY/MARKETING**

Bill Main-Ian **FUNDRAISING**

Richard Laithwaite **WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR/FRIENDS CO-ORDINATOR**

Elizabeth Hutchinson **TOUR ORGANISER**

Sarah Herrick **MO REGISTER/NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Beverley Smith **TO REGISTER**, Caroline Scollick, Stephen Peppiatt.

### Non-Committee

Debra Levy **CHAPERONE CO-ORDINATOR**

Anne Morris **CHILD PROTECTION**

Elena Woods **WARDROBE, MEDICAL**

Jenny Bishop, Lucinda Hitchings, Lizzie Hosker **LIBRARIANS**

### Key contact details

If you aren't able to attend a rehearsal please let Sarah Herrick (MO) or Beverley Smith (TO) know as soon as you can, and certainly by lunchtime on the day. sarah@christopherherrick.org 020 8546 8966, b.starkey@btinternet.com 020 8878 3578

Any last-minute wardrobe panics, call Elena Woods 020 8873 2507

For change of phone number or other membership details, contact Kerry Reid

k-reid@audit-commission.gov.uk 020 8941 2079