

NOVEMBER 2007

WORDS from Chairman Bob

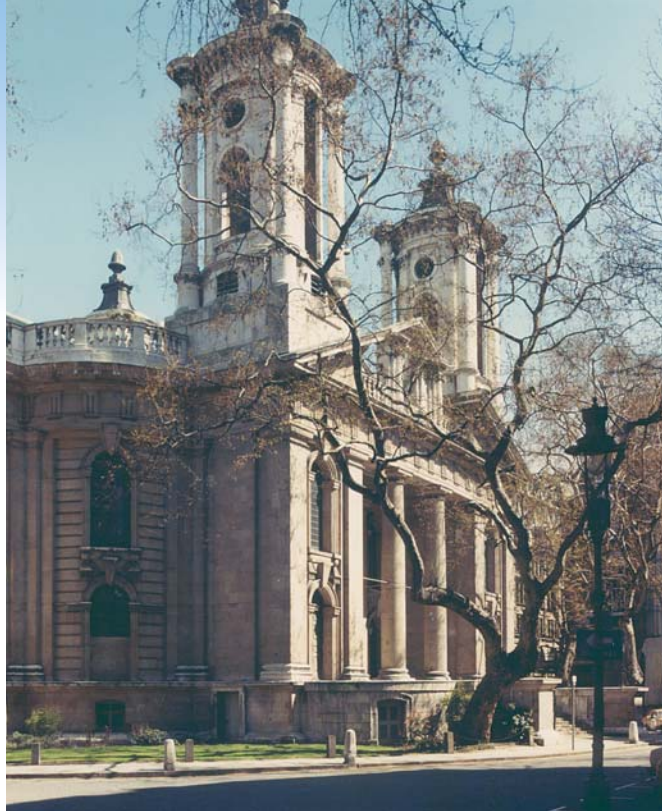
I hope you have all had a good summer and are fired-up for another rousing term at Stoneleigh. Before looking forward, I would like to reflect on the success of the last term and the season as a whole.

The concert at St. John's Smith Square was a triumph. The venue is a well-known and much-loved hall on the concert circuit and SYO excelled to enhance its reputation as much as our own. I would like to thank Marissa Pueschel for her stunning oboe concerto and say how good it was to hear her play with the orchestra again. We are indebted to the Byrne Group, who provided such generous sponsorship. The concert was a fitting climax to an outstanding year.

Congratulations to the winners of the Gough Award – Rebecca Carey and Hannah Reid – and best wishes to them for their futures, both musically and academically. I would also like to fête Jamie Smith, the winner of the first Training Orchestra Award. This is a new award that will be presented annually to the member of the TO who shows the most enthusiasm, commitment and promise.

At the start of the year we had 22 in the TO and 50 in the MO. I am pleased to say that the SYO is proving a popular place to be, as our numbers at the start of this term stand at 33 and 61 respectively. This growth is very encouraging and must be maintained.

Sadly, people do leave and I would like to say goodbye and thank you to: Jenny Lee, Rebecca Minio, Laura Marrion, Abi Hyde-Smith, Harry Crossman, Andy Morales, William Temlett, Rebecca Carey and George Lumbers.



And a very warm welcome to the newcomers: Olivia Edwards, oboe, and Riana Sadrudin, violin; three cellists: Kate Hartley, Ed Morris and Jessie Reeves; and three horn players: Charles Kimberley, Ed Spencer and George Tyler.

Congratulations to our promotees from Training to Main Orchestra: Ju Won Cha, flute; Charlotte Dixon, cello; Josh Donaldson-Colls, violin; Tim Drummond, trombone; Alexander Hardwick and Gregor Reid, both double bass; and Jamie Smith, clarinet.

We still have some way to go to reach our target and in particular would like to enrol players of brass instruments. Can I remind you that the reward for introducing a new player to the TO (who stay for three terms) is a discount of £30 against future subscriptions and £50 for each recruit to the MO.

We are having another 'Bring-a-Friend' day on 16 December, so get thinking who you might bring along.

Looking forward, we have three great concert programmes – see Adrian's Letter for some of the details. Soon, I will be able to announce the venues of the Spring and Summer concerts and I can promise you they will be exciting and new to SYO. We are already planning the 2008 tour to Tuscany, with concerts in Montecatini, Arezzo and Florence. The dates will be 24th July to 1st August – be ready to sign up soon.

Finally, I would like to welcome Dan Shilladay to the orchestra as Assistant Conductor. His special focus will be to work with the Training Orchestra but will also assist Adrian with the MO. See further on in the Newsletter.

Letter from Adrian

Welcome back to what is my 35th season with Stoneleigh!

After such a marvellous spirited tour we can look forward, I hope, to a happy time making music again this year.

Auditions and re-auditions have been held and we have a new group of excellent members, not least three much-needed Horns in the Main Orchestra. As one parent said to me, hearing current members play past orchestral parts shows the fairness of the process.

The Training Orchestra in two years has grown and grown and is already becoming a fantastic source of instrumentalists for the Main Orchestra. I take my hat off to them. But recruitment is still a challenge and I want everyone to play their part! Next year will see a dip in membership with quite a lot of older players leaving, so go out and spread the word even at this stage in the year.

The next exciting news is that after 55 applications we have a new Assistant Conductor, Dan Shilladay. He will work mainly with the Training Orchestra but will be there

to help me with the MO too. He is an intense, superb musician; he impressed me because he has skills to put things right, not just to identify them. As you know, Dan worked with you on the sectionals to great effect. I wish him well in our time with us.

Richard Laing is to return in his capacity as Associate Conductor later in the term and will conduct us again, his engagements permitting, from time to time. I would like to thank him for all his work, particularly on Tour musically and domestically!

On 2nd December we perform Brahms's *Academic Festival Overture* and Elgar's *Cello Concerto*, our main contribution to the 150th Anniversary celebrations of Britain's greatest composer. I have conducted much Elgar this year, not least his *Music Makers* in Snape Maltings a few weeks ago. The *Cello Concerto* is always special and the soloist will be Julian Metzger, someone I have often worked with. Then something rare - Dvorak's *Fourth Symphony* - it's an early work full of Beethovenian influences and some real peasant tunes, and chosen because it gives the orchestra plenty to do.

Next spring we had planned to play Vaughan Williams' *Job* but it was going to be quite a challenge financially. Meanwhile, we were given a brand new set of parts of Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*, one of the most exciting works we could play. I couldn't resist 'doing' my beloved Berlioz again, and along with the Nielsen *Flute Concerto* with Rebecca Carey, and the Training Orchestra ever expanding their repertoire, our Spring plans are complete.

Our first concert day, 2 December, is the actual anniversary, by sheer coincidence, of my first concert with SYO in Rutlish School. Sibelius' *Second Symphony* was the main work; this year to play the finale of that work in the square in Arles was something never to be forgotten. How they cheered us: youngsters doing their best, making music and enjoying it. It is a message for our country that this goes on. Would that our audiences at home sometimes realised, as the French did that day, what we have got. We have all got to go out and do something, not talk about it but act on it, to recruit members and to show the country what a fine and important thing the Youth Orchestra movement is!

If Stoneleigh can play above what is expected of youngsters, that just takes hard work, attendance and inspiration. After all these years I am prepared to give that if you all are.

Friends of SYO

We are always on the look-out for Friends of the Orchestra. These loyal followers currently number 18, and it would be great to have more. Email richard_braithwaite@yahoo.com for further information.



TO NEWS

Our Training Orchestra continues to go from strength to strength. Now 33 in number (6 of them siblings of MO players), the TO, under its new leader, Daichi Yoshimura, welcomes 12 new members this term:

Ella Bannenberg, flute; Lizzie Bishop, trumpet; Eleanor Fallon, Victoria James and Matthew Tyler, all cello; Clara Knowles and Maria Neil-Smith, both viola; Dionne Lawlor, trumpet; Simon Lock, trombone; and Charles Maxtone-Smith, Josephine O'Dowd, and Kamalya Özten, all violin.

Congratulations to our 7 players who have earned their place in the Main Orchestra this year. Inevitably, promotions leave gaps, though, so keep spreading the word, and encourage other players to try us out on Bring-a-Friend Day (16 December).

A big welcome to Dan Shilladay, our new Assistant Conductor, who will be devoting a lot of time to the Training Orchestra. We look forward to our first concert with him in December.

The TO girls' white blouses have been such a success that we have decided to keep them as a permanent item of uniform from now on. All new girl members of the Training Orchestra will buy theirs, new or second-hand, from the SYO, and will be offered a partial refund when returned.

Both Orchestras will be voting this term for their new player representatives on the SYO Committee, so start thinking about whom you would like as your representative, and, if you fancy the job yourself, start campaigning now!



Welcome to Dan, our new Assistant Conductor!

Dan Shilladay read music at the University of Birmingham before completing a masters degree in contemporary music and conducting at the University of York, where he founded and directed the Schönberg String Orchestra. During a further year at the Royal College of Music, he studied modern and baroque viola with Susie Mészáros and Annette Isserlis. Now a freelance musician, Dan plays for, among others, the OAE, the English Concert and the English Baroque Soloists, with whom he has performed at Covent Garden and the BBC Proms.

Congratulations to Karen and Richard Laing



Highlights from Provence



The sound of the crickets and the heat after rain when we got off the coach that first morning at the Pont du Gard.

Fantastic air-conditioned rehearsal space in the hotel where we could leave our instruments safely. It was even possible to crawl out of bed ten minutes before the rehearsal, grab a croissant and be at the rehearsal on time!

The pool on the roof for that tan top-up and pushing in Izzy, Ed etc., and the town pool that we had all to ourselves.

Pirated Transformers DVD on the coach.

In-Young's face when she realised that Bizet 'in G' wasn't Bizet at all but Happy Birthday!

A packed cathedral and a rapt audience in Aix-en-Provence at 9 o'clock at night, and magical playing all round.

Al fresco meals in Arles, Anduze and Avignon.



5,999 requests to re-set the room keys.

Finding Kate and Catherine again after their little excursion to the beach toilets.

The ice-cream parlour – how about Ferrero Rocher?

Grizzly tales of slave-eating lions in the Amphitheatre, and the realisation that until the 1830s there were 212 houses and 2 churches within that space.

The hugely appreciative crowd at the open-air concert in Arles, including the hippy lady with the dog bedecked all about in ribbons.

Adrian doing the Light Fantastique with Nita Clarke in Anduze.

Great nights out in Arles.

Finding a way into Avignon on our double-decker.

The flamingoes and wild horses of the Camargue, and the mosquitoes if you left your bedroom window open...

That first morning gulp of non-hotel coffee, and that first evening glug of rosé (chaperones!)



Huge thanks to Lizzie and Kerry who did all the organising, to Richard who was so fantastic both as conductor and curfew enforcer, to Sofi, our exceptional tour escort, and of course to Adrian for his mastery and inspiration in getting such vibrant performances out of the orchestra. Thanks also to Keltbray, whose generous donation kept the tour finances afloat!



Chaperones

The Chaperones would like a new title. An HMV voucher for £10 for the winning reply, which must be in by the concert on 2nd December.

Nectar cards

Many parents and others already donate points earned on their Nectar card towards the Stoneleigh account. Cards can be used at Sainsbury's (food and petrol), and also at: Debenhams, Dollond & Aitchison, the AA, Beefeater and Brewers Fayre eateries, BP, EDF Energy, Ford, Gala Bingo, Hertz car hire, Mobile2points, Nectar Wine Club, TalkTalk, Thomson Travel and Thomson Local. For more details, contact Bill Main-Ian on bill_mainian@yahoo.co.uk

KEY DATES

9 December

AGM at 4 o'clock (normal TO rehearsal, MO rehearsal starting a bit late).

16 December

Bring-a-Friend and Party Day – more details to follow.

20 April

Our Easter concert at a venue yet to be confirmed.

NB: the Easter holidays are very different for the various schools, so please make sure this date is in your diary before you fix up holidays!

Parents: if you wish to raise particular issues, whether musical or otherwise, in the first instance email Bob Ogilvie on robert.ogilvie@davislangdon.com
Players: please raise issues with your orchestra rep.

The next tour is Thursday 24 July to Friday 1 August inclusive. Fundraising starts NOW. This might be Busking, Cake-Making, You Name It. Watch out for the Christmas Raffle box which will be out ready to accept donations every Sunday during November. The Raffle proceeds will go to the tour to Tuscany.

Players' Reps

Emily 'Shoreham-by-Sea Just Wait' Benn, Holly Hutchinson, Alex Main-Ian, Sophie Reid, Jamie Smith – tell them of any ideas you want raised at Committee meetings. We'll be holding elections for the reps at the AGM.

Committee

Bob Ogilvie **CHAIR**

Nick Lock **TREASURER**

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

Kerry Reid **DATABASE**

Beverley Smith **MEMBERSHIP/TO REGISTER**

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**

Caroline Scollick, Stephen Peppiatt.

The new Committee will also be elected at the December AGM, so contact Bob Ogilvie if you would like to stand.

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.

And make sure you get the music to the rehearsal.

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

For change of phone number or other membership details, contact Beverley Smith. (Details above).