



ISLE OF MAN
Symphony
ORCHESTRA



NEWSLETTER

April 2018

www.iomso.co.uk

Is it really Spring ?!

Greetings to all Members and Friends. IOMSO has had a busy term with 3 concerts under our belt - Fauré Requiem with Ramsey Choral, our own Spring concert of music by Beethoven and the tremendous Verdi Requiem with IOM Choral Society. And we've already started on rehearsals for our Summer Concert of music by Mendelssohn on 7th July. Read on for more details.

Chairman's Column.

As we reflect on the start of 2018 we will all, I am sure, include happy memories of our music making together. In February many of us were involved in Ramsey Choral's rather special concert featuring works by Fauré and Brahms, and conducted by Nigel Harrison. A wonderful start to the music making year.

Maurice wrote in the February Newsletter that 'a Beethoven programme is sure to attract a large audience'. Little did we know that the weather would threaten this reality (or that our soloist would be unwell in the week leading up to the concert). Despite these issues and the resulting cancelled rehearsal I have to thank you all for pulling a successful concert out of the bag! During a lengthened rehearsal on the day we managed to garner most forces, including both guest trumpets and a much recovered Olga. Our audience filled the available space and we even had to put out an extra row of seats. We performed well and enjoyed some beautiful moments of ensemble playing, held together as always by Maurice, who dealt with the unexpected so well!

And then came the Verdi Requiem. It may have been performed before, but it is widely acknowledged that this was an exceptional occasion, with unanimous acclaim by a large audience, brought to their feet by such an emotive performance. Thank you to all our members and guests who did so much to support this combined event, ably conducted by Julian, whose beat was always clear and whose expectations were well founded.

Looking ahead, we enter a new period for the IOMSO as Maurice has retired from the summer concert season in order to pursue his research and writing as well as other interests off-Island. It is easy to forget that Maurice is well into his second decade as our Conductor, and his sustained, successful efforts to develop the orchestra and its wide repertoire do not go unappreciated. Thank you Maurice. We look forward to having Maurice back with us in September as we prepare for the next Villa Concert.

Meanwhile we welcome Bernard again for our summer season with an exciting programme of works by Felix Mendelssohn. We hope that Juliet's bowing health is soon

back to normal and we are very much looking forward to working with her on the concerto.

Our programming sub-group has been working hard to produce an outline programme for the next two years. Thank you for your suggestions, most of which are either already incorporated in the plan or being explored further for use in the next few years. Keep them coming - the suggestions book is in the librarian's music box at rehearsals, or you can email me or any committee member. The draft 2 year plan will be circulated following the April committee meeting.

If you haven't yet signed up for Easy Fundraising, please do so if you can, via <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>. It really is easy. We have 17 supporters, who between them have realised over £500 in donations to IOMSO through on line retail suppliers. If we all take part that could be doubled in just a few weeks!

Finally, thank you as always to everyone involved with IOMSO in any way. You make us what and who we are. Happy music making this summer.

Andrew



Concert Dates for your Diaries.

**Saturday 7th July : Summer Concert :
St. Ninian's Church, Douglas : 7:30**

**Sunday 2nd December : Gala Concert :
Villa Marina : 2:30**

**Saturday 26th January 2019 : Ramsey
Choral : St.Pauls, Ramsey : 7:30**

**Sunday 7th April : Concert with IOMCS :
Villa Marina : 2:30**

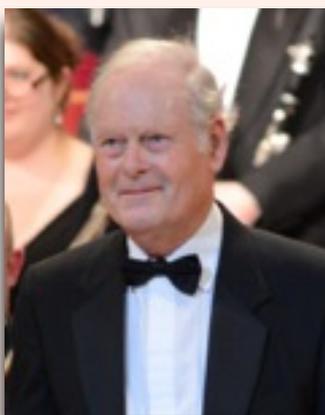
(See page 2 for rehearsal dates)



Summer Concert 2018

Our Summer Concert this year will be in the safe hands of **Bernard Osborne**, who is taking over while Maurice works on other projects.

The concert takes place on **Saturday, 7th July** in **St.Ninian's Church** at 7.30 and features music by **Felix Mendelssohn**.



Our chosen overture is the well-known, but nonetheless dramatic, **Hebrides**, popularly known as 'Fingal's Cave' after the spectacular cave on the Isle of Staffa. You will hear the changing state of the sea, from violent and stormy to calm and peaceful.



We are delighted that **Juliet Tranter** will be performing Mendelssohn's **Violin Concerto** in E minor, full of beautiful melodies and exceedingly fast finger work! It's the first time IOMSO have tackled this

piece, and we are very much looking forward to the challenge. Juliet, who studied music at Royal Holloway College, is a regular member of our 1st Violin section. She also sings with the Tallis Consort.

To complete the programme, we will be playing the **4th Symphony : 'The Italian'**. Again this is a very famous piece and no doubt you will recognise many of the tunes.

All-in-all this is a concert of familiar works, which I'm sure will delight the audience.

Look out for updates in future Newsletters, on our website and facebook page!

Choral Concert Photos

Our most recent concert was the annual collaboration with the Isle of Man Choral Society under the baton of Julian Power BEM. The audience obviously enjoyed the Verdi Requiem, so all our hard work was to good effect. Here are a few selected photos, taken by Frank Warburton.



Rehearsal Schedule 2018

April 18th & 25th : St.Johns : 7:30

May 2nd,9th,16th,23rd : St.Johns : 7:30

May 30th, June 6th : NO REHEARSAL (TT)

June 13th, 20th, 27th : St.Johns : 7:30

July 6th (FRIDAY):St.Ninian's Church:7:30

July 7th (Sat) : CONCERT : St.Ninian's Church : 7:30



RAMSEY CHORAL CONCERT 10/2/18



It was a great privilege and pleasure for me to have the orchestra accompanying us at our recent concert in St Paul's Church, Ramsey. I, the choir and the audience were very appreciative of your playing. The Faure *Cantique de Jean Racine* was so beautiful it made people cry; Mandy Griffin's performance of the Brahms Alto Rhapsody was gorgeous and the Fauré Requiem with Anya Jagus and John Snelling singing the solos was a triumph.

Thanks too to the strings for rising so well to the challenge of the Puccini *Crisantemi*.

I do hope you will be able to join us again next year (**26th January 2019**) when the programme will include the Brahms *Song of Destiny*, *Sanctus* from the Gounod *Messe Solonelle St Cecelia*, movement 3 of the Brahms German Requiem, *Lullaby* from the Elgar *Bavarian Highlands Suite* and finishing with Lars Erik Larsson's *God in Disguise*. We are very lucky that Karen Elliott and Matt Quinn have agreed to sing the Soprano and Baritone solos. Once again thank you all and I look forward to rehearsals starting after the December Gala concert. Best wishes, Nigel Harrison.

Spring Concert 3/3/18 at KWC



Photos courtesy of Frank Warburton



Soloist : Olga Eggert

