



ISLE OF MAN
Symphony
ORCHESTRA



NEWSLETTER

October 2017

www.iomso.co.uk

Welcome to the New Season

Greetings to all Members and Friends. I hope you had a good Summer break. The orchestra has been rehearsing the new (pretty challenging) repertoire for a few weeks already, preparing for our Villa concert in December. Time to buy your tickets to get the best seats! Read on for more details.

A Message from Maurice.

A family celebration, not to be missed.

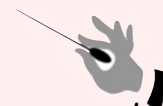
I hope you all agree, that the programme we have put together for our Centenary Gala Concert at the Villa Marina in December, has the widest possible appeal to all ages, and should prove to be a wonderful afternoon in the presence of some of the most famous and exciting orchestral works in the repertoire. There are many challenges for us in these well-known and not so well-known works, but I hope you agree, that already, a significant number of pieces are already beginning to sound like 'performances' rather than rehearsals.

The programme is a very varied one. I am pleased that we are able to welcome Karen Elliott, soprano - an old friend of the IOMSO - and Matthew Quinn, baritone - making his debut with us - to sing two of the operatic highlights that appeared in the first concert at the Villa Marina of our predecessor, the Douglas Amateur Orchestral Society, in November 1918. The Glazunov saxophone concerto is a rarity, and a richly lyrical one, that I am sure will appeal to our audience, especially in Chris Sullivan's skilful hands. The selections from the world of the musical are great fun to play, and are guaranteed to bring forth loud applause.

Our resourceful committee have deliberated long and hard over this programme, especially in the

matter of sourcing the music and engaging the guest players we need. All arrangements are nearly in place now, and my heartfelt thanks go to them, and to each of you for tackling some challenging music in your usual positive way.

Maurice



'A Little Light Music', Manx Radio's new classical music hour, hosted by our musical director, Maurice Powell, returns for a second series on Wednesday, 1st November, at 9.00pm. Popular pieces rub shoulders with lesser known works by composers familiar and unfamiliar, together with a good helping of light music classics.

Concert Dates for your Diaries.

**Sunday 3rd December : Villa Marina :
2:30 : Family Gala Concert.**

Monday 18th December : RGS : Mill Ensemble (with members of IOMSO).

Saturday 10th February : St. Paul's Church, Ramsey : Fauré Requiem with Ramsey Choral (small group)

**Saturday 3rd March : QE2 (tbc) : 7:30 :
Spring Concert**

**Sunday 25th March : Villa Marina :
2:30 : Choral Concert**



Gala Concert 2017



Rehearsals are in full swing for our **Family Gala Concert** in the Villa Marina on Sunday, 3rd December at 2.30pm. As Maurice says, it's a 'family celebration not to be missed'.

This year our chosen charity is **Manx SPCA**, so we hope to be able to give them a generous donation. We can only do this if we have a big audience, so please support the event!

The programme includes Rossini's Overture 'The Thieving Magpie', Prokofiev's 'Entrance of the Montagues and Capulets' (famous as the theme tune of 'The Apprentice'), 'La Calinda' from Delius' ballet 'Koanga', Tchaikovsky's Rose Adagio from 'Sleeping Beauty', Capriccio Espagnol by Rimsky-Korsakov and many more.

Also featured are soprano **Karen Elliott** and baritone **Matthew Quinn** singing some well-known arias and saxophonist **Chris Sullivan** in Glazunov's Saxophone Concerto.

As it will soon be Christmas, we've also added a couple of Christmas favourites to get the festive season off to a good start!

Tickets are now on sale from the Villa box office and Welcome Centre, online at villagaiety.com or via the Hotline : 600555.

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

Susie's wedding!

Congratulations to Susie Cooper (cello) and Paul Heckles, who were married on Friday 18th August at Rushen Abbey. Manx Camerata (string quartet consisting of Juliet Tranter, Roy Baker, Barbara Thomson and Janet Warburton) were lucky enough to have been asked to play for the ceremony, and it was indeed a lovely occasion. Very best wishes to Mr & Mrs Heckles. Here's a photo of the happy couple with Manx Camerata after the ceremony.



Programme Adverts

We are keen to learn of anyone who might be interested in taking advertising space in the programme for our Gala Concert in December, which will be A4 size and full colour throughout. Full page £200, half page £100, quarter page £50. Adverts to be sent to jw-iomso@wm.im by 1st Nov.

Rehearsal Schedule 2017

October 11th, 18th : St. Johns : 7:30

Oct 25th : St. Johns : 7:30 : with AGM at 9

****Nov 1st : No Rehearsal (Half Term)****

Nov 8th : Strings only : St. Johns : 7:30

Nov 15th, 22nd, 29th : St. Johns : 7:30

Saturday Dec 2nd : St. Johns : 2:00 (tbc)

**Sunday Dec 3rd : Villa Marina : 10:00
(Concert : 2:30)**

Dec 6th : Ramsey Choral group



A Message from the Chairman

Welcome to a now well established new season of music making (the 101st year of orchestral music making in the Isle of Man). A warm welcome to our new playing members Tabitha and Sarah, and welcome back to Anna. We send our best wishes to Juliet who is working hard to regain full and pain-free movement for her violin playing. She reports that she is playing a little every day and plans to re-join us nearer to the concert date when she had made sufficient progress.

I hope you agree that we have a lovely and varied programme to play in December. A special thank you to Chris Sullivan for his fine playing as we start to wrestle with the challenge of the beautiful Glazunov Saxophone Concerto; and very well done to all the string departments for the great strides already made with this and other pieces in the programme. It is a pleasure to come to rehearsals and to go home feeling a sense of achievement and enjoyment in making music together. Thinking back to my comments last year in preparation for the Tasmin Little concert, we learned a great deal about being 'professional amateurs' as we concentrated on listening carefully to instructions during rehearsals, listening carefully to each other in ensemble passages, tuning precisely and emphasising all dynamics, particularly when marked 'p' and 'pp'. Let's continue to work at these aspects so that we leave audiences amazed!

Your committee members have all been working extremely hard and my thanks go to them for all that is accomplished. We recently approved the purchase of some new percussion kit, which Jane used for the first time on October 4th. The professional-standard tambourine, triangle and beaters will make a real difference to our ability to provide the right kind of sound.

We have our social evening at The British on November 4th so please come to that if you can, along with your guests. It will be a very pleasant and relaxing evening with a hot buffet and wine tasting, along with the chance to chat with supporters of the orchestra.

The programme planning meetings that have taken place after Christmas during the past two years are really starting to pay dividends. We have a clear idea of dates, times and key repertoire for the full year ahead so please take note of these and let me know if you need a further copy. One specific development has been the inclusion of GCSE and A Level set works in as many concerts as possible so please do encourage any music students you know to attend these.

We look forward to concentrating on Beethoven's 3rd Piano Concerto in March, Verdi Requiem in April and the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in July. Note that we have responded to feedback about having too many concert dates last year by reducing all concerts in the 17/18 season to a single performance.

We will again have a 'countdown' schedule for the December concert very similar to last year. We know by now that the way to fill the Villa is through a combination of good programming and word of mouth. Advertising on its own does not work, so think in terms of trying to encourage 25 people each to attend, and we will be full.

Now for my annual plug.....Easyfundraising continues to be an excellent way to support our funding. Could you spare a few minutes to sign up if you have not yet done so? <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

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 autumn.



Andrew

