



ISLE OF MAN
Symphony
ORCHESTRA



NEWSLETTER

October 2018

www.iomso.co.uk

Autumn update.

Greetings to all Members and Friends. The new season is well underway and rehearsals are in full swing for our Gala Concert on 2nd December. You will see there's a change to the programme, but that shouldn't lessen your enjoyment. Read on for more details.

A Message from Maurice.

According to my records, Dvořák's symphony 'From the New World' was last performed by the orchestra in 2003, in one of the last concerts directed by my predecessor Wendy Smith. Brahms' 'Academic Festival Overture' last appeared in one of our programmes in 1997, the year I moved to the Island. Charles Guard's witty take on the life of St. Maughold is an Isle of Man premier, commissioned by the orchestra, and is sure to raise a few eyebrows. Schumann's splendid Konzertstück for four solo horns and orchestra has never been performed here, which is hardly surprising, as this challenging and, for the soloists, scary piece, is seldom performed 'live' anywhere.

Rehearsing Dvorak's wonderful symphony has been something of a revelation. Whilst it is undoubtedly a full-blooded 'Romantic' work, it is surprisingly intimate in feeling (unlike the orchestral music of his contemporaries Tchaikovsky and Brahms), and many of the loveliest passages are 'pastoral' rather than heroic or emotional. I hope we can bring something new to the work and reveal some of its hidden secrets, for, like many hugely popular classical masterpieces, we do not know it as well as we think we do and are in danger of taking it for granted.

Maurice



Illustrated Talk by Maurice

An illustrated talk entitled 'Manxland's King of Music, the life and times of Harry Wood,' will be given by Maurice Powell at the Manx Museum Lecture Theatre at 2.00pm on Sunday, 21st October, 2018, followed by a book signing at approximately 3.00pm of Maurice's new book of the same title, which tells the story of the golden age of the Manx tourist and entertainment industries.

See page 2 for more details of Maurice's new book.

Concert Dates for your Diaries.

Saturday 10th November : Royal British Legion Concert : Villa Marina : 7:30

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

Saturday 26th January 2019 : Ramsey Choral Concert : St. Paul's, Ramsey : 7:30

Saturday 23rd March : Spring Concert : Ballakermeen High School, Douglas: 7:30

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

(See page 2 for rehearsal dates)



Gala Concert 2018



We're busy rehearsing for our **Gala Concert** in the Villa Marina on **Sunday, 2nd December** at 2.30.

After a change to the programme, the concert begins with **Brahms's Academic Festival Overture** full of lively rhythms and effervescent tunes, including the student song 'Gaudeamus Igitur' (Therefore let us rejoice). There's plenty of interest for every section!

The orchestra has at last had chance to play the long-awaited **Legend of St. Maughold** composed by our Patron, **Charles Guard**, who will also be narrator in the piece.

The 4 Horns in **Schumann's Konzertstück** will be Bob Shaw, Judith Stones and Paul Kampen, all from Yorkshire, plus our own 1st Horn, Chris Weeks. I'm sure this will prove a most rewarding discovery, with lots of challenges for soloists and orchestra alike.

The main work in the programme is **Dvořák's Symphony no. 9 : 'From the New World'**. A firm favourite the world over, this will surely be met with enthusiasm by orchestra and audience alike!

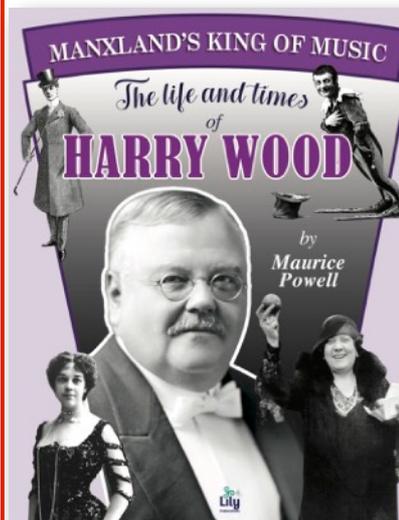
Tickets will be on sale shortly from Villa Box Office, Welcome Centre, ticket hotline 600555 and online at www.villagaiety.com

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

Maurice Powell's New Book

Maurice's latest book 'Manxland's King of Music' has just been published. It relates the story of musical entertainment in the heyday of Manx tourism, between 1880 and the 1930's, largely due to the efforts of Harry Wood (brother of Haydn).

It will be available at museum shops, Bridge



Bookshops in Ramsey and Port Erin and Lexicon in Douglas. Copies may also be obtained from Maurice. Price £16. Get your signed copy at Manx Museum on Sunday 21st October at 2pm.

Programme Adverts

There's still time to take up advertising space in the programme for our Gala Concert in December. Please let me know a.s.a.p. if you wish to advertise. (jw-iomso@wm.im)

The programme will be A4 size and full colour throughout. Costs are : full page £200, half page £100, quarter page £50. I will need advertising copy by the end of October.

Rehearsal Schedule 2018

Oct 10th, 17th, 24th : St.Johns : 7:30

*** Oct 31st : NO REHEARSAL : Half Term ***

Nov 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th : St.Johns : 7:30

Saturday Dec 1st : St.Johns : 2pm (t.b.c.)

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

Dec 5th : St.Johns : 7:30 : with AGM at 9



Chairman's Column

Loving the music

I'm having a real musical feast at the moment, with the Tchaikovsky-fest in Stourbridge recently (Nutcracker, 1812, Pathetique... in 24 hours!) and the beautiful December programme that we are rehearsing now. I hope we are all enjoying the fellowship of the musical family to which we are privileged to belong, and with it the experience of really getting to know this wonderful music.

Villa and Dvořák

With around 8 weeks to go, we want a really good audience to provide the atmosphere and feedback. Who would not want to hear this programme? To that end please remember to spread the information about the concert in all possible ways. I like to send a 'dear friends and relations' email about now to everyone I think may be interested, giving a few details of the pieces and why they might enjoy a pre-Christmas Sunday afternoon at the Villa to relax and enjoy themselves.

We have tailored the prices a little better this year too, starting at £16 for a circle seat down to £5 for students, with a more attractive differential for Friends (who will be contacted personally with details) and concessions.

Have I done my bit?

You can help 'fill the Villa' by using any legal/decent/honest method you can think of!

For example, ask yourself have I:

- taken and displayed posters in my local public buildings and areas, in my car and by email?
- invited my friends and relations by word of mouth, email, phone?
- shared the IOMSO facebook page or linked people to the website?
- set myself a goal (20 ticket sales each fills the Villa)
- publicised the concert to my local music teachers to tell their students?
- offered to arrange to broker a block booking, or even a bus?
- bought a few tickets to sell to friends (that's a great incentive!)

Tickets are likely to go on sale during the week beginning 15th October, so we can all be preparing our audience members with the saved date and information so that they can have a good choice of seats when the tickets go live.

Personally.....

I shall be missing more rehearsals than usual this term due to some family events taking place in different countries. Please do as I say and not as I do, by turning up every week if you can!

Finally - as always, I want to thank all of you for making the music, for the enthusiasm and commitment you all show, and especially those who help every week without being asked (chairs, music, stands, etc) and our committee members who do the work behind the scenes that keep the lights on, the room warm, the music in front of us, the social media/website up to date, the downbeat going, the finances in order, the minutes and correspondence flowing, and all the other small but vital tasks that make the IOMSO possible.

Andrew

Subscription Reminder!

If you haven't yet paid your annual subscription as a member or friend of IOMSO, please try to do so as soon as possible. We rely on this income to pay for our weekly rehearsal venue and concert venues, music hire and publicity - an orchestra is a rather expensive thing to run!