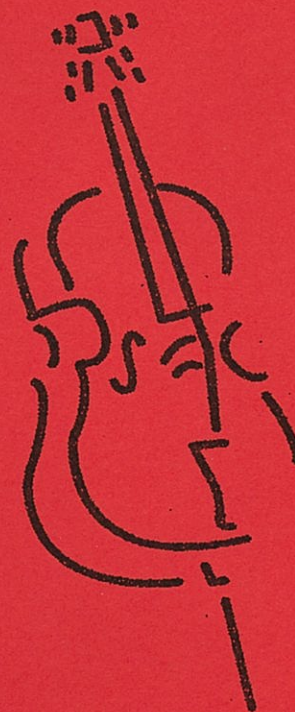


PROGRAMME

139



Wolverhampton
Symphony
Orchestra



WOLVERHAMPTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

CONCERT AT
ST. MARY'S CHURCH,
ALBRIGHTON

Saturday 14th November 2009

PROGRAMME

Mendelssohn

Ruy Blas Overture

Prokofiev

Excerpts from Romeo and Juliet

INTERVAL

Vaughan Williams

Symphony No.2 'A London Symphony'

Conductor – Peter Morris

Leader – Ros Rayner

WOLVERHAMPTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Wolverhampton Symphony Orchestra is a fully independent amateur orchestra formed in 1973 by a group of keen amateur players. The idea behind the formation of the orchestra was to satisfy a need for local players to prepare to as high a standard as possible, interesting works for public performance, and this is still the primary aim of the orchestra today. Membership of the orchestra when at full strength is of the order of 50 players and is drawn from keen competent amateur musicians, students and teachers of music in Wolverhampton and the surrounding areas.

The orchestra meets on a regular weekly basis throughout the academic year and produces on average four public concerts a year. It has been invited on several occasions to perform major choral works with local choral societies, in 1999 performing Beethoven's Choral Symphony to commemorate its Silver Jubilee. The orchestra regularly engages as soloists professional musicians of national and international reputation, as well as local young players of outstanding promise.

The repertoire of the orchestra extends from the seventeenth to the twentieth century, although a symphony orchestra of this type will tend to concentrate on works from the nineteenth century. The orchestra has performed a large number of symphonies by Beethoven, Brahms, Dvořák, Mahler, Schubert, Sibelius, Tchaikovsky, etc. Earlier works are represented by Albinoni, Bach, Boyce and Handel, whereas twentieth century composers whose works have been performed include Barber, Copland, Joubert, Shostakovich, Stravinsky, Meirion Williams (a former musical director of the orchestra) and Rory Freckleton (a former member of the viola section).

The orchestra is managed by a committee consisting of the Musical Director and leader, plus members elected by the orchestra. It is financed through concert receipts and by an annual subscription paid

by the members. It is also affiliated to Making Music (formerly the National Federation of Music Societies).

Peter Morris – Musical Director

Peter Morris, who has been our Musical Director since 2004, began his career as a cathedral chorister in Chester and Manchester, went to Chetham's School in Manchester and read music at Durham University. He came to the Midlands as Director of Music at Bluecoat School, Walsall from 1969 until 1991 and held the same post at St. Peter's School, Wolverhampton from 1991 until 1997. He left St. Peter's School to look after his young family, but has since accumulated a variety of roles. He has conducted Walsall Choral Society since 1977, is Borough Organist at Walsall Town Hall, Director of Music at St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton and the founder conductor of Junction 10 Orchestra. He is also principal examiner for A-level and GCSE General Studies and an A-level Music examiner. In 2000-2001 he was awarded the Medaille d'Honneur of the French National Association of Music and a Master's degree at Keele University. He lives in Wolverhampton.

Ros Rayner – Leader

Ros studied the violin at the Royal Academy of Music. Whilst there she joined the British Youth Symphony Orchestra. Following her PGCE she taught in Bracknell for four years, she moved to Wolverhampton and was appointed leader of the Wolverhampton Symphony Orchestra in 1996. She now teaches at the Wolverhampton Girls' High School and tutors the first violins in the Wolverhampton Youth Orchestra.

was in December 1938 in Brno, the capital of Moravia. Thirteen months later it was danced at the Kirov, with Ulanova as Juliet and Sergeev as Romeo.

INTERVAL

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 - 1958) **Symphony No. 2 - 'A London Symphony'**

Ralph Vaughan Williams was an English composer of symphonies, chamber music, opera, choral music, and film scores. A London Symphony is the second symphony composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams. The work is sometimes referred to as the Symphony No. 2, though not so designated by the composer. First performed in 1914, the four-movement symphony has an interesting history, as it was lost, reconstructed and later modified by Vaughan Williams.

Structure

Vaughan Williams said that while the title may suggest a programmatic piece (and the work includes sounds to be heard in London such as the Westminster Quarters), it was intended to be heard as absolute music. In a programme note in 1920, he suggested that "Symphony by a Londoner" might be a better title. However, he allowed the conductor Albert Coates to provide elaborate descriptions for the 1920 performance. The symphony is in four movements.

1. Lento – Allegro risoluto

The symphony opens quietly, and after a few nocturnal bars, the Westminster chimes are heard, played on the harp. After a silent pause, the allegro risoluto section, much of it triple forte, is vigorous and brisk, and the ensuing second subject, dominated by the wind and brass, is no less so (evoking "Hampstead Heath on an August Bank Holiday"). After a contrasting gentle interlude scored for string sextet and harp the vigorous themes return and bring the movement to a lively close.

2. Lento

Vaughan Williams said that the slow movement is intended to evoke "Bloomsbury Square on a November afternoon". Quiet themes led in turn by cor anglais, flute, trumpet and viola eventually give way to a grave, impassioned forte section, after which the movement gradually subsides into its original quiet dynamic.

3. Scherzo (Nocturne)

In the composer's words, "If the listener will imagine himself standing on Westminster Embankment at night, surrounded by the distant sounds of The Strand, with its great hotels on one side and the 'New Cut' on the other, with its crowded streets and flaring lights, it may serve as a mood in which to listen to this movement." In the definitive score, the movement revolves around two scherzo themes, the first marked fugato and the second straightforward and lively.

4. Finale – Andante con moto – Maestoso alla marcia – Allegro – Lento – Epilogue

The finale opens on a grave march theme, punctuated with a lighter allegro section. After the reappearance of the march, the main allegro theme of the first movement returns, the Westminster chimes strike again, and there is a quiet Epilogue, inspired by the last chapter of H.G. Wells's novel Tono-Bungay: "The last great movement in the London Symphony in which the true scheme of the old order is altogether dwarfed and swallowed up.... Light after light goes down. England and the Kingdom, Britain and the Empire, the old prides and the old devotions, glide abeam, astern, sink down upon the horizon, pass – pass. The river passes – London passes, England passes...."

WOLVERHAMPTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Violin 1	Jean Waller	Horns
Ros Rayner (<i>Leader</i>)	Ian Sumner	Sara Shepherd
Jo Jordan		Jill Brittle
Barbara Carter	Double Bass	Percy Cotterell
Jennie Lewis	David Charlesworth	Robin Hopper
Francis Bunch	Robert Crawford	
James Hamilton	John Mason	Trumpets
Corinne Walters		Chris Cumming
Ann Perry	Flute	Jenny Holt
	Diana Manasseh	Dan Lacey
	Kathryn Russon	
Violin 2	Piccolo	Trombones
Anne Forster	Jane Eminson	Laurence Hopper
Hilary Hurd		Michael Griffiths
Catherine Rayner	Oboe	Jim Rothnie
Rosie Shuttleworth	Richard Anderson	
Margaret Myatt	Rachel Orotayo	Tuba
Ken Hawkins		Joe Barnett
Georgina Crane	Cor Anglais	
David Naylor	Alison Reynolds	Timpani
Samantha Spilsbury		Laura Birch
Philip Ward	Clarinet	
	Di Cotterell	Percussion
Viola	Lynn Curtis	Peter Rayner
David Cope	Lisa Wilson	Owen Muir
Liz Fleetham		Christopher Jones
Alain Anderton	Bassoon	
Sharon Bayley	Jill Sparke	Harp
	Mike Darke	Helen Barley
Cello	Contrabassoon	
Sarah Tulley	Jan Riley	Piano
Roger Hides		Dan Lacey
Sheila Moore		
Margaret Bell		
Tim Forster		

WOLVERHAMPTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

**6th March 2010 - Cranmer Methodist Church, Newhampton Road
West, Wolverhampton**

Shostakovich - Piano Concerto No. 2 in F major - Soloist Alastair Moseley
Wagner - Siegfried Idyll

Beethoven - Symphony No. 3 in E flat major, the "Eroica" Symphony

19th June 2010 - Holy Trinity Church, Heathtown, Wolverhampton

Malcolm Arnold - Tam O'Shanter Overture

Saint-Saëns - Danse Macabre

Humperdinck - Excerpts from the opera, Hansel and Gretel

Ravel - Ma Mere L'Oye (Mother Goose Suite)

Mussorgsky - Pictures at an Exhibition

All concerts start at 7.30 pm

Ticket prices for the 2009-2010 season will be £9 and £7 (unwaged),



Wolverhampton Symphony Orchestra is affiliated to
Making Music
(formerly the National Federation of Music Societies)
which represents and supports
amateur vocal, instrumental and
promoting services throughout the
United Kingdom.

For further details regarding membership or ticket prices,
please visit our website at www.wolsymorc.org.uk
or e-mail us at info@wolsymorc.org.uk

Wolverhampton Symphony Orchestra is a registered charity No. 1040991