



WOLVERHAMPTON
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Rimsky-Korsakov

Scheherazade

Korngold

Violin Concerto

Tomlinson

Suite of
English Folk Dances



Saturday 17 March 2018
7.30pm

Conductor: Peter Morris
Leader: Ros Rayner
Soloist: Zoë Beyers

Wolverhampton Grammar School

Compton Road, Wolverhampton, WV3 9RB

TICKETS: £9 Available on the door

All students in full time education enter free

Email: info@wolsymorc.org.uk Tel: Alain Anderton on 07577 430335

For further information visit us on our website: www.wolsymorc.org.uk

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Saturday March 17th 2018

Suite of English Folk-Song Dances – Ernest Tomlinson

Violin Concerto – Erich Korngold

(Soloist Zoë Beyers)

INTERVAL

Scheherazade – Nicolai Rimsky - Korsakov

Leader - Ros Rayner

Conductor - Peter Morris

WOLVERHAMPTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

WSO was formed in 1973. Membership is around 55 players and is drawn from keen amateur musicians, students and teachers in Wolverhampton and the surrounding areas. The orchestra meets weekly during term time and produces around 4 concerts a year, as well as an annual play-day focussing on a major work and attracting musicians from far and wide. We have also accompanied City of Wolverhampton Choir in recent concerts.

We are financed through subscriptions and are affiliated to *Making Music*, and have a partnership arrangement with the city's Music Education Hub.

WSO is very grateful to Wolverhampton Grammar School for their help with the use of instruments. Thank you to you, the audience, for supporting us tonight.

Peter Morris – Musical Director has conducted the orchestra since 2004. He is an A-level Chief Examiner, Borough Organist of Walsall, chairs the city's Music Education Hub and has degrees from Durham & Keele as well as a fellowship from Wolverhampton University

Ros Rayner – Leader studied the violin at the Royal Academy of Music and was appointed leader of the Symphony Orchestra in 1996. She teaches at Wolverhampton Girls' High School and tutors the first violins in Wolverhampton Youth Orchestra.

Forthcoming Events

June 23rd 2018 **Wolverhampton Grammar School**

Music for the Dance

Arturo Marquez: Danzon no 2
Amilcare Ponchielli: Dance of the Hours
Igor Stravinsky: Firebird Suite
Johann Strauss: Blue Danube Waltz
Carl Maria von Weber: Invitation to the Dance
Alexander Borodin: Polovtsian Dances

November 11th 2018 **Walsall Town Hall 3.30**

The centenary of the Armistice is celebrated with a performance of

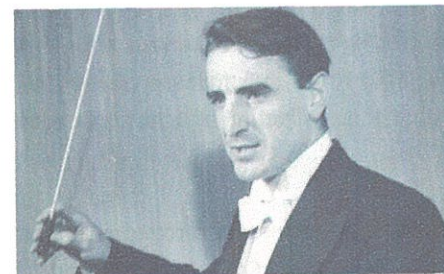
Fauré Requiem and Beethoven's 9th Symphony.

It is planned that the Orchestra will be joined by the following ten choirs:

Jena University Choir (Jena, Germany)
Total Vokal (Dortmund, Germany)
Tregorissimo (Lannion, Brittany, France)
Dudley Choral Society
Walsall Choral Society
Wolverhampton Chamber Choir
Wolverhampton City Choir
Wolverhampton University Choir
St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton Girls' Choir
Sutton Coldfield Choral Society

Suite of English Folk-Dances

Ernest Tomlinson (1924 – 2015)



Ernest Tomlinson's obituary in the Guardian said that he had "exceptional technical skills allied to a rare gift for melody" and that he fought to preserve the light music heritage by founding the Library of Light Orchestral Music and acting as consultant and performer for an important series of CD recordings.

He was born in the Lancashire mill town of Rawtenstall, one of four children of Fred, a factory foreman, and May, a teacher. It was a musical household: Fred was the founding conductor of a local male voice choir and Ernest's younger brother founded the Fred Tomlinson Singers, who featured in the Two Ronnies and Monty Python television series.

At nine, Ernest joined the Manchester Cathedral choir (25 years before our conductor) and later studied organ, piano and clarinet at the Royal Manchester College of Music (now the Royal Northern College of Music) until he was conscripted into the RAF in 1943. On his return to civilian life, he completed his degree before moving to London. There his reputation grew steadily and by 1955 he was working full-time as a composer and conductor of his own light orchestra.

Among his earlier works were Little Serenade, which originated in a 1955 radio play The Story of Cinderella; a Fantasia on North Country Tunes; two Folk Dance Suites, and a Rhapsody and Rondo for the horn player Dennis Brain. Tomlinson also composed Symphony '65, which he conducted in Moscow and was said to be the first piece of symphonic jazz to be performed in the Soviet Union.

In 1966 he became chairman of the Composers Guild and in 1965 he was elected a composer director of the Performing Right Society. He remained on the board of the PRS for almost 30 years and Michael Freeguard, head of the PRS for much of that time, described him as "holding strong opinions about certain things but very gracious about accepting that other views had validity". He was also a stalwart of the Light Music Society, serving as chairman from 1966 to 2009.

In that capacity, Tomlinson fought against what he believed to be the sidelining of light music by the BBC. After 1967, when the Light Programme was abolished, the corporation's hierarchy considered light music not serious enough for Radio 3 and too old-fashioned for the new Radio 2. When Tomlinson discovered that the corporation was discarding much of its collection of light music scores, he launched a rescue mission.

In 1984 he and his wife converted a Lancashire barn to store the material that formed the Library of Light Orchestral Music. Containing thousands of scores, it remains a working library, providing repertoire for ensembles such as the Northern Concert Orchestra, founded and led by Tomlinson in the 70s.

The dances are taken from John Playford's *The English Dancing Master* published between 1650 and 1728. Tomlinson said that he had arranged them 'so as to preserve the spirit of the original dances'.

1. Jenny Pluck-Pears
2. Ten Pound Lass
3. Dick's Maggot
4. Nonesuch
5. Hunt the Squirrel
6. Woodcock

Violin Concerto

Erich Korngold (1897 - 1957)



Austrian Composer Erich Wolfgang

Korngold was an astonishing child prodigy. His ballet *Der Schneemann* (The Snowman) became a sensation in Vienna when he was only 11 years old and his Piano Sonata, written only 2 years later, was played throughout Europe by Artur Schnabel. He composed operas and chamber music, but eventually, in 1934, the Hollywood film director Max Reinhardt, tempted him to move to the USA to write music scores for films. He wrote *Captain Blood* (1935), which starred Errol Flynn and

he won two Oscars for *Anthony Adverse* (1936) and *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938).

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Overall, he wrote the scores for 16 Hollywood films, and was one of the founding fathers of film music. Several Hollywood musical devices can be heard in the Violin Concerto and his evocative music was a huge influence on the textures of such composers as John Williams.

The Violin Concerto was dedicated to Alma Mahler (widow of the composer, to the memory of whose daughter Berg's Violin Concerto was so memorably dedicated), was completed in 1945 and is based on some of his film scores.

The violin solo which opens the concerto is a theme from *Another Dawn* (1937), soaring over two octaves in five notes. *Juarez* (1939) provided the second theme, more expansive and reliant upon the orchestra.

Romanze: A solo clarinet introduces the principal theme of the slow movement, quoted from *Anthony Adverse* (1936) and revisited after a contrasting middle section that seems to have been uniquely composed for the concerto.

Allegro assai vivace: The most demanding movement for the soloist begins with a staccato jig, which leads to a second theme based on the main motif from *The Prince and the Pauper* (1937) and builds up to a virtuoso climax.



Zoë Beyers - Violin Soloist South-African born Zoë Beyers has established herself as one of the UK's most versatile violinists and performs as soloist, chamber musician, director and orchestral leader across the world.

She also has a passionate interest in education, teaching at the Birmingham Conservatoire but also coaching ensembles and violinists at the start of their careers.

Since her solo debut aged eleven with the Swedish Chamber Orchestra under Paavo Järvi, she has performed with many distinguished conductors throughout Europe and Africa. In 2016 she recorded and filmed Vaughan Williams's 'The Lark Ascending' with the CBSO for Sky Arts.

Zoë is the violinist of the internationally renowned *Hebrides Ensemble*, and also performs, broadcasts and records with the *Birmingham Contemporary Music Group* the *Scottish Ensemble*, and *I Musicanti*. Her 2017 recording of Peter Maxwell Davies's late chamber works with the *Hebrides Ensemble*, entitled 'The Last Island' has been featured on BBC Radio 3 and attracted top ranking reviews in The Times, The Guardian and BBC Music Magazine. This year she tours Israel with the *Nash Ensemble* and records a disc of Scottish composer Nigel Osborne's chamber works with the *Hebrides Ensemble* as well performing with the English Symphony Orchestra both as their newly appointed concertmaster and as a director and soloist.

As an orchestral leader, Zoë performs regularly with the CBSO, the BBC Philharmonic and Symphony Orchestras, the Philharmonia, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Aurora Orchestra. She has played as leader on several highly regarded recordings - most recently on discs of de Falla and Ginastera with the BBC Philharmonic. She is dedicated to performing the music of contemporary composers and is involved in the commissioning and premiering of several new works.

INTERVAL

Symphonic Suite *Scheherazade* Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844 – 1908)



Rimsky-Korsakov was one of the famous group of 5 Russian Composers who dedicated themselves to promoting the musical heritage of Russia. He was a naval officer who became the Inspector of Naval Bands. Much of his music was inspired by folk tales and fairy stories and *Scheherazade* is one of the most famous of them. Written in 1888, the composer's introduction says:

'The Sultan Schahriar, convinced of the falseness and infidelity of all women, vowed to slay each of his wives after the first night. The Sultana Scheherazade, however, saved her life by the expedient of recounting to the Sultan a succession of tales over a period of one thousand and one nights. Overcome by curiosity, the monarch postponed the execution of his wife from day to day, and ended by renouncing his sanguinary resolution altogether.'

The first movement is based on the story of the sea and Sinbad the Sailor's ship. The composer's naval experience can be clearly heard. The grim opening phrase is the implacable Sultan, though Rossini's sinuous violin solos represent the charms of Scheherazade the story teller.

The following movement represents The Kalandar Prince, who sails with a fleet of merchant ships. He gets shipwrecked by a Magnet Mountain which attracts all the nails of the ship. On the ship he hears about a bronze horse-man on top of the mountain which needs to be toppled. He succeeds, of course.

The third movement is the tender story of a little Prince and little Princess.

The Finale is supposed to represent a Festival at Baghdad and then the sea again. Finally, the ship breaks against a cliff surmounted by a bronze horseman. But the last story is told and the Sultan has fallen in love with the storyteller.

Wolverhampton Symphony Orchestra

Violin 1	Viola	Flute	Horn
Ros Rayner	David Cope	Jane Eminson	Sara Shepherd
Jonathan Harper	Alain Anderton	Di Manasseh	Jill Brittle
Susan Bellingham	Sharon Bayley-Kitts	Claire Lakin	Percy Cotterell
Jo Jordan	Michael Cooper		Robin Hopper
Jennifer Lewis	Elizabeth Fleetham	Oboe	
Margaret Mascerenhas	Rory Freckleton	Rachel Orotayo	Trumpet
Caroline Meads	Rhiannon	Jane Gledhill	Chris Cummings
<i>Amy Price</i>	Watts-Robinson		
Stephen Shelley		Cor Anglais	Cameron Chin See
	Cello	Ella Pearson	
Violin 2	Sarah Tulley		Trombone
Claire Norden	Margaret Bell	Clarinet	Mike Griffiths
Jenny Bailey	Michael Crockett	Lynn Curtis	Laurence Hopper
Joanne Bircher	Fiona Daniel	Elivinas Reinikovas	
Sarah Chatterley	Sheila Moore	Caitlin Lacey	Bass Trombone
Claire Clarkson	Natalie Reynolds		Jamie Rothnie
Michael Clement	Ian Sumner	Bass Clarinet	
Ken Hawkins	Jean Waller	Lynn Curtis	Tuba
Hilary Hurd			Joe Barnett
Emma Micklewright	Double Bass	Bassoon	
Phillip Ward	Holly Anderson	Michael Darke	Percussion
	Mark Goodhew	Jo Mattinson	Nathan Smith
	William Hollands		Dean Rogers
	Aron Jonasson	Celeste	Simon Arriola Segura
		Miles Swinden	Joanne Bircher
	Harp		Michael Cooper
	Natasha Gale		