

Welcome to the opening concert in our 48th season

We are delighted to welcome you to our concert and we hope you will enjoy the wonderful programme of music which we have for you. We are particularly thrilled to extend a welcome to our soloist this evening Tim Gill, who is principal Cellist with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and welcome back to the conductors podium, Nic Fallowfield who is well known to Wrexham audiences. We are in for a very special night of live music. We are very excited by the varied programme we have during the concert season and in a brand new and exciting venture for the Orchestra. We have been invited to headline a **Picnic Proms in the Park with Fireworks** concert which is being held at The British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry. This will be another memorable night in the Orchestra's history and we are sure you, your family and friends will wish to join us for this very special evening. Thank you for your continuing support and please encourage your friends and family to come and enjoy our future concerts. A word of mouth recommendation is very powerful.

High Fives - 'In Conversation with...'



Clive Knowles is Chairman of The British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry. In June 2017, the WSO will be headlining a 'Picnic Proms in the Park' concert at the Centre and Sculpture Park. In a conversation with Orchestrates, Clive talks about his background, his family, the Centre and his interest in performing arts.

Clive, can you share a little about yourself, background and your family? 'I was born into a working class family in Wolverhampton, the youngest of 4 children. My father was an engineer who designed and developed automation solutions for industry. I completed my schooling without any formal qualifications and fell into engineering through a vocational youth training scheme. I soon realised that I wanted to work for myself and started a small engineering business making window fittings. In response to customer requests, we broadened the type and range of products we made, which eventually gave birth to The British Ironworks Co. I am married to Tracy and we have 3 children Ben, Sophia and Charlotte.'

Why did you establish the British Ironwork Centre and Sculpture Park? As my business grew, I spent a lot of time travelling and felt that it would be better for the family if we moved out of the Black Country to somewhere more rural. Around 2000, I saw Whitehall Farm for sale and felt that this would be a good place for us. Initially, my family did not agree and it took us several years to fully relocate and settle here. In 2011, The Ironbridge Sculpture Park was closing down and a friend introduced me to the owners - a deal was agreed to purchase the exhibits and bring them to Whitehall. This saw the birth of the Centre and Sculpture Park which now attracts tens of thousands of visitors per year. I am deeply patriotic and our efforts are focused on promoting all that is creative and good about Great Britain.'

What motivated you to launch the Knife Angel project? 'I wanted to do something which had real meaning for society. A few years ago we saw a TV documentary about knife crime and the amnesty that UK Police Forces were offering to make our cities, towns and streets safer places. The Knife Amnesty bags were very expensive and we offered to provide them for free if the knives collected would be donated to the Centre. We started to receive knives in 2014 and over the last 2 years have used 100k of them to create a 26ft high sculpture. The Knife Angel will be officially launched in Q1 2017. My hope is that it will take a national tour visiting major cities to raise awareness of the impact that knife crime has on families and our communities.'

How does the Centre support local Charitable and Arts organisations? 'I have a deep sense of 'community belonging' and a heart-felt desire to help local Charities raise awareness of and vital funds for their work. Hope House is a mainstay of the charitable work we do and over the last few years we have embraced other local charities. It is deeply satisfying to see how they benefit from the support and encouragement our customers provide for this important commitment. In terms of the arts, Tracy has her own local theatre company and Charlotte is forging a professional career in theatre. She is Cinderella in the Pantomime at the Stiwit Community Theatre in Rhos this year and she will be opening Santa's Grotto at the Centre. 'Arts' is for everyone and we work hard to embrace a wide range of creative and performance arts in our activities and events programmes at the Centre.'

How have the personal events of the last 9 months impacted you? 'Around Easter time I was diagnosed with an unexpected life threatening condition which required several months of hospital treatment in Shrewsbury and Manchester. Through this experience I have come to realise how fragile we are and how precious spending more time with family and friends is. These events can happen to anyone at any time. I was a workaholic and used my time and energies at the expense of my family. I have also come to recognise the people who matter to me most by their love and support for us as a family through this sobering experience. My family has been wonderfully supportive.'

Mark the Date for a Brand New Concert

We are very excited by a new venture in partnership with one of our commercial supporters, The British Ironworks Centre which is located alongside the A5 close to Oswestry. On Saturday June 10th 2017, the Orchestra will be headlining a Picnic Proms in the Park concert at the Ironworks Centre. This promises to be a fabulous evening with wonderful music and a spectacular fireworks display. Tickets for this stirring concert will be available for purchase during our February and May concerts and can also be bought on line at www.britishironworkcentre.co.uk. Why not make this concert a whole family affair and book your tickets early to avoid disappointment? Further details will be available throughout the concert season and also from the WSO web site and Facebook pages

2016 WSO Young Musician of the Year

Rhiannon Collins is pictured with WSO Leader, Mark Lansom



Rhiannon Collins, our 2016 'Young Musician of the Year' is 17 and studying for her 'A' levels at The Maelor School in Penley. She first joined the WSO in 2014. Rhiannon, who plays in the viola section, comments about the award, 'It means a lot to me because WSO has really allowed me to grow and improve as a musician. I have met so many lovely musicians during my time with them.'

Orchestrates is published periodically during the concert season to provide up to date information about the Orchestra. For more information please visit our website www.wrexhamorch.co.uk or send an email to our Friends email address (overleaf)

Future Dates for your Diary

(All our concerts start at 7.30pm and are performed at the William Aston Hall, Glyndwr University, Mold Road, Wrexham LL11 2AW unless otherwise stated)

Saturday 25th February 2017

Elgar - In the South
Grieg - Peer Gynt Suite No. 1
Bizet - Carmen Suites Nos.1 and 2
 (selection)
Nielsen - Symphony No 3 - Espansiva

Conductor: Mark Lansom

Saturday 6th May 2017

Liadov - The Enchanted Lake
Tchaikovsky – Piano Concerto No. 1
Rachmaninov – Symphony No. 3

Conductor: Jonathan Small
Soloist: William Bracken (Piano)

Saturday 10th June 2017 @7 pm
 (Gates open at 5pm)

Picnic Proms in the Park & Fireworks
British Ironwork Centre, Oswestry
 A summer evening concert featuring classical, contemporary, stage & film music and concluding with traditional Proms music & songs with spectacular fireworks.

Conductor: Richard Howarth
Soloist: Lily Whitehurst (Violin)

The WSO Mahler Charitable Project is 'Making a *Real* Difference'



Our two most recent Mahler Charitable Concert Series performed in 2015 and 2016, which seeks to raise awareness of and funds for organisations who work with those who are affected by Alzheimer's and dementia, has raised £4,500 for the Wrexham Memory Service. Rowenna Spencer, Memory Service Nurse Lead has shared with us about how they are starting to use the funds in support of their work: 'In discussion with our patients, carers and memory service staff, we have decided to use the funding to further develop our work of Cognitive Simulation Therapy. The funding has enabled us to buy the 'Making a Difference' manuals for individual patients and their carers so they can continue the therapy in their home, which we are able to support. We have purchased an initial batch of 30 workbook manuals, together with training in their facilitation and use with our patients. We are very excited that we have been able to do this for the benefit of those in our care.'

How to keep in touch with the WSO and benefit through our attractive Friends of WSO Scheme

Website and Social Media Communications

You can keep up to date on all WSO news and events through our website www.wrexhamorch.co.uk
 You can also purchase tickets for our concerts through the web site.

We have a public Facebook page
 (www.facebook.com/wrexhamorch), a Facebook group
 (<http://tinyurl.com/na9rtdv>) and a Twitter feed @wrexhamorch

Become a 'Friend of the WSO' and enjoy great benefits

The 'Friends of WSO Scheme' offers you discounted tickets and other attractive benefits such as complimentary programmes, priority booking and seat reservations in your favourite part of the William Aston Hall. You will also be the first to learn about our new season's programme. Pick up a Friends of WSO leaflet during tonight's concert or send an email request to wrexhamso@gmail.com

News from some of our Affinity Partners

Peoples Market Art Centre Development

Oriel Wrecsam's Welsh Government-funded Capital project, to develop Wrexham's People's Market, is due to commence work in early 2017.

As we prepare to head into an exciting new chapter for the arts in Wrexham, Oriel Wrecsam will continue to provide opportunities for all ages and abilities to engage with contemporary arts practices. Amongst a number of activities, life drawing classes and our weekly 'Make Shift' will continue, whilst Criw Celf will restart its workshops for secondary school pupils from January onwards.

Our PERICLO exhibition programme will continue with Paul Eastwood, whose work has developed from research into Welsh cultural identity.

Pop into OW in Chester Street to find out more about their programmes and events.

Rhyl Music Club – Celebrating 70 years of Music

On January 25th 2017, Rhyl Music Club will welcome the winner of the 2016 BBC Young Musician of the Year competition, Sheku Kanneh-Mason to perform in concert with his sisters Braimah (violin) and Isata (piano) in their family trio. RMC concerts are performed in Rhyl Town Hall and start at 7.30pm. Details about Rhyl Music Club and its fortnightly programme of concerts is available at www.rhylmusic.com

TWIG – The Wrexham Independent Gallery

Pay a visit to the TWIG gallery in the People's Market to see exhibits from a number of local artists. TWIG is a local charity which offers artists the opportunity to display their work. For more information about TWIG go to www.wrexhamindependentgallery.wales

The Sound of Christmas and New Year

St Giles Church in Wrexham has a full and varied programme of Christmas and New Year music throughout December and into January.

Here are some highlights

Thursday 8th – Victorian Christmas Market
 Friday 9th - RNCM Students/Manchester Male Voice Choir

Friday 16th - Carol Concert with Glyndwr Community Choir

Sunday 18th – Service of 9 Lessons and Carols
 Monday 19th - Wrexham Youth Orchestra and Choir

Monday January 2nd - Annual New Year Concert

Details of the December/January programme are available from St Giles Church or on their web site stgiles.wrexhamparish.org.uk

Our next Newsletter will be published in time for the February 2017 concert and will also be available through our website and Facebook page. If you have any comments about the Orchestra's concert programme or have any suggestions for items you would like to see in Orchestrate, please speak with us at a concert or send us an email to friendsofwrexhamsymphony@yahoo.co.uk. We would love to hear from you.