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## WELCOME TO OUR 49<sup>TH</sup> CONCERT SEASON

### A NEW ERA AT GLYNDŴR

We have recently formalised our arrangements with Glyndŵr University in a new Memorandum of Understanding which offers us greater opportunities to engage with their students and support their studies. The agreement enables to further develop plans with confidence. We have made a positive start in attending the Freshers Fair where we met several students who have orchestral experience and wish to continue to play music alongside their studies. We have also been able to offer students in the School of Creative Art a project related to our joint Gala concert in February 2018 – A Night at the Opera - when we join with the University to celebrate Glyndŵr's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary since gaining independent status and our 20<sup>th</sup> year as the Orchestra in Residence. We have a very special concert that evening as you will read about later in Orchestrate. We are also engaging with other faculties to extend our reach and offer students real life projects related to our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert season in 2018-19. We will share more about these projects during the concert season. Pictured below are Vice Chancellor, Professor Maria Hinfelaar and Orchestra Chairman, Matthew Ellis, signing the MoU.



### Wrexham Hospital League of Friends

We are delighted to welcome the Trustees, Members and Volunteers from the Wrexham Hospital League of Friends to our concert today. We are thrilled to open our new season with a special and popular concert which recognises and supports their outstanding contribution to the Maelor. We have been amazed at the scope of work the Friends do supporting the Maelor Hospital on a day to day basis and in raising funds that enable the purchase of new, state of the art equipment. It is entirely fitting that our opening concert is a family affair as we all have need of the range of healthcare services from the Maelor. Please read about their work in the concert programme

### Bedwyn Phillips

#### 'Young Musician of the Year 2017'

Our congratulations to Timpanist Bedwyn Phillips who has been awarded the 'Andrew Lansom Young Musician of the Year' award for 2017. Bedwyn has been with the Orchestra for the last 2 seasons and has made a significant contribution during this time. We wish Bedwyn well in his studies in music and conducting at Birmingham University and look forward to welcoming him back during the concert season. Bedwyn is pictured with Matthew Ellis and Mark Lansom, whose father the award is named after. when he made his debut in conducting in a recent concert at St Mary's Church in Mold.



### VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT THE GALA CONCERT ON 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2018

The front bank of seats will be removed for this concert which will reduce the capacity of the William Aston Hall to around 600. You are strongly advised to purchase your tickets as soon as possible, which will be sold on a seat allocated seat basis only. It is very unlikely that many tickets will be available on the door.

You can find out more about the orchestra from its website [www.wrexhamorch.co.uk](http://www.wrexhamorch.co.uk) and Facebook pages. Please search for Wrexham Symphony Orchestra. We also have a Twitter feed @wrexhamorch. We welcome feedback, comments and suggestions about our concerts and events. Please either speak to one of us at a concert or send them in an email to [wrexhamso@gmail.com](mailto:wrexhamso@gmail.com). You can also write to us at 26 Park Avenue, Wrexham LL12 7AH.

# WSO Concert Diary in the William Aston Hall

<p>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 3.30pm</p>	<p>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 7.30pm</p>	<p>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 7.30pm</p>
<p><b>A Whole Family Concert 'An Afternoon at the Ballet'</b></p> <p>Music from several well-known and much-loved ballets including Nutcracker, Romeo &amp; Juliet, Spartacus</p> <p><b>Conductor:</b> Russell Gray <b>Leader:</b> Craig Clewley</p>	<p><b>Gala Celebration Concert with Wrexham Glyndwr University 'A Night at the Opera'</b> with special guests <b>North Wales Opera Studio</b></p> <p>Staged scenes from 10 of the most well-known Operas including La Traviata, Carmen, La Bohème, Tosca, Turandot, The Magic Flute and more</p> <p><b>Conductor:</b> Russell Gray <b>Leader:</b> Mark Lansom <b>Artistic Director:</b> Anne Williams-King</p>	<p><b>Mahler Charitable Concert Series</b> Supporting the work of Wrexham Memory Clinic and Pendine Park Care Organisation</p> <p><b>Mahler's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony</b></p> <p><b>Conductor:</b> Richard Howarth <b>Leader:</b> Mark Lansom</p> <p>Our Mahler Charitable Concert Series is generously sponsored by Cobalz Limited</p>

## Joint WGU and WSO Gala Concert - 'A Night at the Opera'

We have a very special evening on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 when we join with Wrexham Glyndwr University to celebrate two special anniversaries. 2018 marks Glyndwr's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary since gaining independent status; 2017 marks our 20<sup>th</sup> year as the Orchestra in Residence in the William Aston Hall. It seemed appropriate for our first joint concert to include a Gala Celebration occasion with special guests, North Wales Opera Studio, performing staged scenes, arias and songs from some of the most popular Operas ever written and performed in the world's most stunning of concert settings – the Opera House. We would like to offer an opportunity to members, our audience and friends to dedicate one of the Opera items in celebration or commemoration of someone who is important to them. This could be a family member, a special friend (or friends) or occasion such as a birthday or anniversary, someone in the community who makes a significant personal sacrifice in serving and meeting the needs of others and so on. We are offering each of the 10 staged scenes in the programme for sponsorship at the rate of £150 per item. If you would like to know more about this, please speak to us at the concert, send an email to [wrexhamso@gmail.com](mailto:wrexhamso@gmail.com) or write to us at 26 Park Avenue Wrexham LL12 7AH and we will provide you with all the appropriate information.

Students from the School of Creative Art are busy creating the backdrop images for the 10 Operas in the programme, which will be 'back-projected' onto a fine mesh screen, creating a memorable performance environment and atmosphere. This will be a very special evening for us all and you are strongly advised to secure your tickets early as demand for them will be very high. **Please read the information in the yellow box overleaf in this newsletter.**

### Welcome back to Russell Gray....



We extend a warm welcome to Russell Gray who will conduct our concerts in January and February. His last appearance with us was in 2009 and he is excited to be returning in 2018.: *'I am very much looking forward to reconnecting with the Wrexham Symphony Orchestra. They were the first orchestra to give me a conducting opportunity. The experience gave me the confidence to go on with my studies, and enabled me to gain a lot of experience with other orchestras. I feel that I have a special bond with the orchestra, and seeing them again after so many years will be exciting and fulfilling.'*

### A New Collaboration with Pendine Park...



Residents from Pendine Park in Summerhill have enjoyed attending our concerts over the last 12 months and we are delighted we have been able to work with Sarah Edwards and her colleagues on a new contribution to their Enrichment programme

Led by members Jacqui Blore, Andrew McCaddon and Craig Clewley, our contribution brings words and music together which create story lines that are relevant for the residents. We made a start in October with a words and music workshop and we are now moving to the next stage. Sarah Edwards, Artist in Residence at Pendine was pleased with the first workshop *'We are thrilled with the project which is perfect for us, as the arts and music are central to enriching the lives of our residents and staff.'*

PICNIC PROMS IN THE PARK 2018 AT THE BRITISH IRONWORK CENTRE, NEAR OSWESTY ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> FROM 6PM. TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW AT [www.britishironworkcentre.co.uk](http://www.britishironworkcentre.co.uk)