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GALA CONCERT – A SPECIAL OCCASION

Last September we entered into a more strategic partnership with Wrexham Glyndŵr University and our Gala concert, 'A Night at the Opera', is the first collaboration between us as we celebrate two very special anniversaries. In 1997, the Orchestra took up residence in the William Aston Hall where it has performed nearly 100 concerts; in 2008, Glyndwr were awarded University status; it is very fitting that our first joint concert recognises these very important milestones in our respective histories. We are thrilled that North Wales Opera Studio are sharing this occasion with us for what promises to be, a very special evening of first class Opera in Wrexham.

Speaking about the partnership with Glyndŵr, WSO Chairman Matthew Ellis is pleased to have strengthened the relationship *'The William Aston Hall is Wrexham's premier performance venue and has been our home for over 20 years; being able to reach agreement that secures our position is most welcome. The work we have been able to do with students in the School of Creative Art over the last couple of years has been excellent and this evening's performance will feature backdrop images for each of the Operas which 3rd year students have been working on for several weeks. We are committed to providing exciting and challenging opportunities for Glyndŵr students as part of their studies'. Deputy Vice Chancellor Claire Taylor (Violin), Zoe Harty (Cello), Nathan Davies (Violin) and Kayleigh Mortimer (Violin) are performing in the Orchestra this evening, which is further evidence of the strengthening intent of our relationship'.*

Vice Chancellor Professor Maria Hinfelaar is equally delighted to have concluded an understanding with the Orchestra, *'Having the Orchestra rehearse and perform their concerts in the William Aston Hall is something that we value greatly. I have been most impressed at the standard of their performances since I joined Wrexham Glyndŵr University a couple of years ago. It is also exciting to see the opportunities offered to our Creative Arts students who have been involved in the two WSO projects, designing various pieces inspired by the concert programme and thereby further developing their creative skills and capabilities. I am looking forward to seeing the results of their work on the backdrop images for tonight's Gala concert. I am confident that our relationship will continue to evolve, and I am looking forward to sharing in the Orchestra's 50th concert season'.*

Our special guests this evening is the North Wales Opera Studio which was founded by Anne Williams-King in 2015. Anne is a professional opera soprano and teacher and, her partner, David Bartleet is also an opera singer, teacher and opera agent. Their vision is to give aspiring opera singers and students the opportunity to receive top class training from seasoned professionals. Speaking to Orchestrate about this evening's Gala concert, Anne says *'We are thrilled to be part of this very special concert occasion. The opportunity of performing at Wrexham's premier performance arts venue with the Wrexham Symphony Orchestra offers our students the chance to demonstrate their considerable talent in a live performance with a first-class community orchestra'. It is an exciting development for us, one which we hope will be the first of several future collaborations between us'.*

As part of our Gala concert, our Chairman Matthew Ellis will be extending an invitation to the Vice Chancellor of Wrexham Glyndŵr University to become the 'Honorary President' of Wrexham Symphony Orchestra. In future, one concert in each season will be designated as 'The Presidents Concert' and will be an annual commemoration of our growing relationship. In recognition of this appointment, we will be presenting a uniquely designed piece of artwork, which will be displayed in the foyer during the interval. We have been working with students from the School of Creative Arts since October on a WGU programme based project for the Gala concert. This has embraced promotional materials, VIP invitations and backdrop images for the Opera items in the concert programme. Please take the time to visit the students' displays in the foyer this evening and engage with them about their project.

You can find out more about the orchestra from its website 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. You can also write to us at 26 Park Avenue, Wrexham LL12 7AH.

WSO Concert Diary

Saturday 19th May 2018 at 7.30pm William Aston Hall	Saturday 14th July 2018 at 7.30pm William Aston Hall	Saturday 15th September 2018 6pm Oswestry
<p>Mahler Charitable Concert Series Supporting the work of Wrexham Memory Clinic and Pendine Park Care Organisation</p> <p>Mahler: Symphony No. 9</p> <p>Conductor: Richard Howarth Leader: Mark Lansom</p> <p><i>Our Mahler Charitable Concert Series is generously sponsored by Cobalz Limited</i></p>	<p>Music for a Summers' Evening</p> <p>Tchaikovsky - Violin Concerto Liadov – Kikimora and Baba Yaga Dvořák Trilogy - Nature, Love and Life 'In Natures Realm' 'Carnaval' 'Othello'</p> <p>Soloist: Fenella Humphreys Conductor: Nic Fallowfield Leader: Craig Clewley</p>	<p>Picnic Proms in the Park British Ironwork Centre, Oswestry</p> <p>Bring your family and friends and join us in bringing summer to a spectacular end and welcome autumn with a splash of musical colour and the traditional Proms music and songs.</p> <p>The evening will conclude in a magnificent firework display</p> <p>Conductor: Richard Howarth Leader: Mark Lansom Special Guests TBC</p>

Mahler Charitable Concert – May 19th, 2018

In 2010, with the generous support of Wrexham based medical research organisation Cobalz, we embarked on a ground-breaking project to perform all of Gustav Mahler's Symphonies, a highlight of which was our debut at Manchester's world-famous Bridgewater Hall in May 2015, when we performed his Resurrection Symphony to wide critical acclaim. We continue our Mahler project in May, welcoming back popular conductor Richard Howarth and performing his majestic 9th Symphony which Herbert von Karajan describes as *'music coming from another world, it is coming from eternity'*. Our Mahler project has raised over £15,000 to date for Alzheimer's and dementia charities and as we move towards the conclusion of this demanding project, we are currently planning a return to Bridgewater Hall in May 2020 to perform Mahler's 8th, commonly termed 'Symphony of a Thousand'. The Gustav Mahler Society of the UK will be supporting our concert in May and one of their members, Robin Taylor, will be sharing information about Mahler the Man and his 9th Symphony at a special WSO Afternoon tea event at the Lemon Tree Restaurant from 4pm. If you would like to join us for this event, please contact Derek Jones (jones_derek@btconnect.com or 07889 379591) and he will provide information for you about this event. Our Mahler Charitable project support the work of Wrexham Memory Clinic and will also support a new WSO project at the Pendine Park Care Home Organisation and be led by Jacqui Blore using a combination of words and music in a way which engages residents to have ownership of the content. We are hopeful that Arts & Business Cymru will support our Pendine Park project through their Culture Step programme. We also plan to engage and involve students from Glyndŵr University in this exciting collaboration.



So, we head towards a remarkable 50th concert season. It is such an amazing achievement when we reflect on the humble beginnings of the Clywedog String Ensemble out of Cartrefle College in 1969. The Ensembles first concert was performed on October 30th, 1969 in the Memorial Hall in Wrexham in a programme featuring works by Handel, Tartini and Elgar. The soloist was Frank Kelleher on the Clarinet and we learnt earlier, that Frank passed away in April 2017. We are working on a WSO history project, led by local historian David Jones, which will provide an overview of how the Orchestra has evolved over its first 50 years. There are some wonderful concerts in the 50th season programme and its launch could not be bettered; a spectacular 'Picnic Proms in the Park' concert at the British Ironworks Centre on the 15th September; a 100-year WW1 commemoration with the Royal British Legion in November; a collaboration with Welsh National Opera in February 2019 and a member's choice concert in May 2019. Our 50th season will conclude in July 2019 when we are hoping that a very special soloist will join with us. So, keep watching for some very exciting news, once we can share it with you.

**Make a note of our
Concert Dates
2019/2020**

Saturday September 15th 2018: Picnic Proms in the Park at British Ironworks- Oswestry
Saturday November 24th 2018: WW1 Commemoration with Royal British Legion
Saturday February 23rd 2019: 'In Concert' with Welsh National Opera
Saturday May 4th 2019: Members' Choice Concert
Saturday July 6th 2019: Concert programme yet to be confirmed