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Our Mahler Charitable Series

Now we get to Symphony No. 9 – the last complete work Gustav Mahler wrote prior to his untimely death on May 18th, 1911 at the age of 51. This, along with his unfinished 10th symphony (a number of the great composers seem to have one), were the two compositions Mahler never heard performed.

What started out as a member's challenge and choice concert to perform one their favourite works, Mahler's 1st Symphony, has become our groundbreaking Mahler Charitable Concert series which has seen us perform 7 of his symphony's with just No's 8 and 9 to go. We have yet to decide if we will perform Mahler's 10th as part of the cycle.

We embarked on this ambitious and challenging charitable concert series to perform all of Mahler's Symphonies and through doing so, to increase awareness of the impact Alzheimer's and dementia has across society and raise valuable funds for local organisations who support those in our communities, who are impacted by these conditions. The Mahler series has also contributed to enhancing the repertoire of music we perform and offered many wonderful learning and performance experiences for the whole orchestra, not the least of which was our debut at Bridgewater Hall in May 2015. Our Mahler Charitable concert series is sponsored by local medical research company Cobalz Limited, who specialise in the field of Alzheimer's and supplement development to inhibit the factors which contribute to the development and advancement of these conditions.

The Mahler Charitable Concert series has raised over £12,000, initially for The Alzheimer's Society and more recently, for the Wrexham Memory Clinic, who have invested a portion of the funds we have

been able to donate in a Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (CST) programme, developed by Bangor University in association with the regional Health Board. The exercises and practical activities have added significant value to the work of the Clinic with its clients, both on a one to one basis and in its small group therapy and activity sessions. The use and application of the CST programme has evidenced improvements in self-confidence, responsiveness to different situations and has stimulated mental capacity. The benefit from this investment has been significant for the patients and the CST programme continues to bring real and lasting value to the important work of the memory clinic, who support around 500 patients a year in their work.

In looking to the future, the funds (£1500) raised from the Orchestras' Mahler Symphony No. 5 in July 2016, have been earmarked to create a Sensory garden at the Clinic offering patients and their families the opportunity to spend time together in a safe, environmentally friendly, relaxed and peaceful setting. We will be exploring how we can help the Memory Services team realise this goal by the summer of 2020. One of the ways we may be able to help is to leverage our relationship with the University and see if students in the Northop Horticultural College (which is a collaboration between Coleg Cambria and Glyndŵr University) would be interested in creating a design for the Sensory Garden which can then be implemented.

Perhaps a great way to mark our 50th anniversary concert season is having a season long approach to fund raising and drawing in additional partners who would like to get involved to make this dream a reality. We will keep you updated on how our plans evolve over the next 12 months or so.

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

<p>Saturday 14th July 2018 7.30pm William Aston Hall</p> <p>Music for a Summer 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>Saturday 15th September 2018 6pm Oswestry (Gates open 5pm)</p> <p>Picnic Proms in the Park British Ironwork Centre, Oswestry</p> <p>Bring your family and friends and join us as we bring summer to a spectacular end and welcome autumn with a splash of musical colour including the 1812 Overture and the traditional Proms music and songs. The evening will conclude in a stunning firework display.</p> <p>Conductor: Richard Howarth Leader: Mark Lansom With Special Guests</p>	<p>Saturday 24th November 2018 7.30pm William Aston Hall</p> <p>Commemoration Concert with the Royal British Legion</p> <p>Marking 100 years since the end of World War 1</p> <p>A concert of music and words that reflect the nature of war and the impact it has on individuals, families and communities.</p> <p>Conductor: Stephen Threlfall (Chethams School of Music) Leader: Mark Lansom</p>
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And the Winner is..... Fenella Humphreys



We offer our congratulations to Fenella Humphreys, our guest soloist in July, who has won the prestigious BBC Music Magazine Award 2018 for Instrumentalist of the Year for her performance of ‘2nd Bach 2 The Future’ CD on Champs Hill Records. The awarding panel recorded, "This gutsy and exhilarating disc completes violinist Fenella Humphreys’ laudable project to commission and record six companion pieces to Bach’s Partitas. Featuring splendid new compositions by Sally Beamish, Peter Maxwell Davies and Adrian Sutton alongside works by Bach, Ysaÿe, Stravinsky and Sibelius, the disc is performed with great precision and verve." We are very excited that Fenella will be making her debut with us in Wrexham when she will perform Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto in our final concert in the 49th season – ‘Music for a Summer Evening’. We are in for a special treat as we draw the 49th concert season to a close. Fenella is a violinist who enjoys a wonderful international reputation, and this is one concert that no one should miss. We encourage you to purchase your tickets early and bring your friends to what will surely be, an extra special evening in Wrexham.

Coming Up..... in our 50th Anniversary Concert Season



We will be performing our second **Picnic Proms in the Park** concert on **Saturday 15th September 2018** at the **British Ironworks Centre, near Oswestry**. The programme will feature the 1812 Overture, which listeners voted No 1 in the 2018 Classic FM Hall of Fame, along with music from the world of Opera, Film, Popular Classics, the traditional Proms music and songs. The evening will end in a spectacular firework display. You can purchase your tickets via this link on the Events page <https://www.facebook.com/WSOProms>



Special Commemorative Concert with the Royal British Legion

Saturday November 24th, 2018 at 7.30pm

We are supporting the national commemorations marking 100 years since the end of World War 1 in a very special concert that will include music from across the whole of Europe. Students from the University and some of our local schools will be contributing items during the concert. We are thrilled to collaborate with the Royal British Legion as we recognise the great sacrifice of so many local soldiers between 1914-1918.