



Welcome to our special 50th Anniversary Gala concert edition of Orchestrate and we are thrilled that one of the most iconic international 'brands' in music locally, Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod and their Friends are partnering with us for this very special evening. You will see their presence in the foyer as they are preparing for their 73rd celebration of music in a week that features world renowned artists and attracts some 4000 performers and over 40,000 visitors from all around the world each year to Llangollen. We are thrilled to welcome Llangollen to our Gala Anniversary Concert and we thank them for all their support and encouragement.

2019 is a particularly memorable year for us as we celebrate 50 years of music making in Wrexham. Local historian, Dr David Jones, himself an accomplished musician, has been looking through our history highlighting particular events and achievements. For our special Anniversary Gala concert edition of Orchestrate, David has prepared a brief synopsis for us to read.

We've all heard people say, 'It seemed like a good idea at the time', but how often do we find ourselves celebrating that same 'good idea' fifty years later? This is the case with the Wrexham Symphony Orchestra, although its present name only dates to 1992. One of the ways in which this milestone will be marked is by the publication of a commemorative booklet which will be available in the autumn.

The project started some months ago since when a number of past and present orchestra members have been interviewed (more are lined up!) and an almost complete run of programmes examined. From these it has been possible to compile the fullest list yet of all those who have played in the orchestra as well as collating its ever-expanding repertoire.

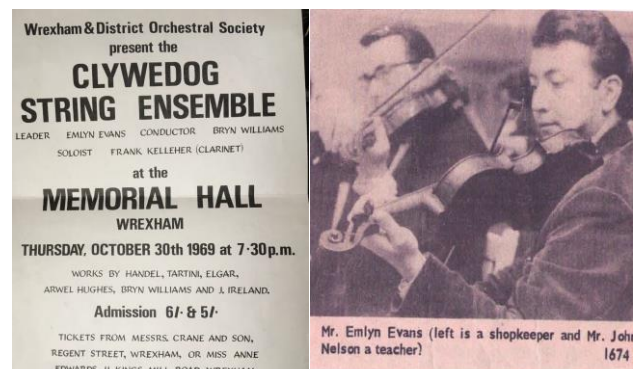
The story starts in the Swinging Sixties with the then recently formed Wrexham & District Orchestral Society. It joined the committee preparing for the Wrexham Arts Festival of 1968, but no performance took place until 30 October 1969 when the strings-only 'Clywedog Ensemble' played at the Memorial Hall.

The credit for the original 'good idea' must go to Bryn Williams, a music lecturer at Cartrefle College of Education, who recruited enthusiastic amateurs, school pupils and local peripatetic teachers to make music together and the

ensemble soon expanded to include players in all sections. Over the years there have been highs and lows, and although it hasn't been possible to chronicle all the twists and turns, it is hoped that a picture will emerge that shows clearly, how a small but dedicated group of mainly amateur musicians overcame all challenges to develop into the full-size symphony orchestra we see perform concerts today.

There is still material to be gathered, including photographs. Have you a story to tell? Perhaps you played in the early days under conductor Keith Dawber in the 1970s or in the 1980s under Andrew Lansom, Eve Armitage or Chris Roberts or later. Perhaps the orchestra premiered one of your compositions, or you gave your first concerto performance with them. It may have been your first experience playing in an orchestra, and one that led to a musical career. You may have simply lost touch with the orchestra and wish to re-establish contact.

If you recall a particular memory about the orchestra that you would like to pass on, or have any interesting information, David Jones would be pleased to hear from you. If you or you know of someone else who may have any information or stories about the Orchestra, please contact Derek Jones either by email jones_derek@btconnect.com or write to him at 26 Park Avenue Wrexham LL12 7AH. Here are images of the first concert poster and an early rehearsal.



'WSO The First 50 years' will be published in the autumn and we will shortly be asking you to order your special copy. We are in contact with Owain Arwel Hughes whose father, Arwel was a first Vice President and whose piece 'Fantasia in A Minor' was performed by the Ensemble in its first concert. Owain will be writing a forward and we are hoping he will be able to join with us for the 50th birthday concert on November 3rd and sign copies of the publication.

The Orchestra - Part of our Community...

In our February edition of *Orchestrates* we highlighted the growing number of organisations with whom we are connected right across the local and regional communities. We are indebted to a number of loyal commercial supporters who provide resources for us to be able to perform concerts to exacting standards. More recently we have received support from the Wrexham Business Professional Network, of which several of our commercial supporters are members and this evening, they are presenting a donation of £830, raised during their annual Christmas Charitable event last November. We thank them for their generosity and pay a special Gala Anniversary tribute to all our commercial supporters.

PROUD TO SUPPORT AND DONATE TO WREXHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
CHARITY TO ENRICH LIVES WITH THE ARTS

Wrexham
BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS



Speakers from the world of culture and the arts including Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM, David Pountney (WNO) and Terry Waite (Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod).

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www.wrexhambusinessprofessionals.com



The Orchestra - Supporting our Communities

A special collaboration with Pendine Park Care Home Organisation...



Arts & Business
Cymru



We are half way through an innovative project in partnership with Pendine Park Care Home Organisation, which is supported by Arts & Business Cymru through their Culture Step programme. Pendine offer a series of engagements through their Enrichment programme which is designed to stimulate, entertain and enhance the lives of their residents. Working with Orchestra member Jacquie Blore and supported by musicians Andrew McCaddon, Craig Clewley, Tim Rowland and Christopher Enston, the project links words and music in a creative and enlightening way. The programme involves 4 'unique' cycles in a year and seeks to relate the topics and subjects to the residents' experiences and memories. Jacquie first holds an interactive 'talking pictures' session at the care home where she encourages residents to come up with ideas for different characters, events, plots and sub-plots, drawn from their own lifetime experiences. Once they agree on an outline for a story from beginning to end, Jacquie takes on the task of writing up their ideas in traditional fairytale format. Then she returns to Pendine to read out the finished story to its talented creators and supports this with carefully selected musical items. Pendine Park Artist in Residence Sarah Edwards who commissioned the storytelling project said it had been a huge success and is greeted with boundless enthusiasm by participants of varying ages. *'All the stories are full of fun, intriguing twists and turns, and fantastical adventures. It's been wonderful watching our residents get involved in this project. They've really interacted well with Jacquie and come up with some brilliant ideas for how the stories develop.'* Resident Tony Ithel, speaking about the programme shares: *"Jacquie is brilliant. We've got to know her as a friend and she's so good at encouraging us to invent interesting characters and unusual journeys for them to go on. She's the best."* Picture: Jacquie Blore with some of the Pendine participants in the most recent workshop.

The Orchestra - Sustaining Music in our Community...

tŷ pawb

LIVE MUSIC
SHOWCASE



glyndŵr

PRIFYSGOL GLYNDŴR WRECSAM
GLYNDŴR UNIVERSITY WREXHAM



Wrexham Music Festival
Gŵyl Gerdd Wrecsam
April 2019

tŷ pawb



glyndŵr

PRIFYSGOL GLYNDŴR WRECSAM
GLYNDŴR UNIVERSITY WREXHAM

Tŷ Pawb, the new Wrexham Arts, Markets and Communities hub, opened its doors on Easter Monday 2018. The former People's Market has been transformed into a modern, dynamic and engaging environment offering a variety of arts related events ranging from exhibitions, workshops, masterclasses, school's art classes and family holiday activities. Part of the offer is music and since Tŷ Pawb opened, we have been supporting a weekly FREE to attend Live Music Showcase recital concert on Thursday lunchtimes at 1pm which attracts a loyal and growing audience, often numbering between 60 and 80. We have enjoyed some memorable recitals by local artists such as Elias Ackerley, Luke Jones, Rachael Marsh, Keiron Connor Valentine, Brian Heald, Elan Catrin Parry, Owen Chamberlain, Achille Jones and Philip Chidell to name just a few. Dr David Jones, who is working on our history project, will be performing on May 9th and will be a piano recital to be enjoyed. From September we are delighted that the Junior Royal Northern College of Music will be joining the Live Music Showcase programme and bringing some of their talented musicians to perform for us. We are working to widen the school's involvement and are hopeful that pupils from Moreton Hall and Oswestry School will also be joining us from the autumn. Morgan Thomas, Tŷ Pawb's Event Officer is pleased with how the Live Music Showcase recital series has evolved *'Whilst music has an important contribution to make to our programmes in Tŷ Pawb, we were unsure of how the Live Music Showcase recital concerts would be received. We have been thrilled at their success in attracting a large and growing audience and bringing into Tŷ Pawb, artists from across the spectrum of genres and styles. We are extremely grateful to the Orchestra and the University for their valuable contribution and support to our programmes and excited by the new opportunities which Live Music Showcase is presenting us for the future.'*

The agreement we signed with the University in 2017 commits both organisations to support each other's educational work. We offer Glyndŵr students' opportunities to work on live projects related to our concerts and a number of students are performing in our concerts. Conscious that we need to do more in creating opportunities for our talented young musicians in the Borough to develop their musicianship through both playing and performance, we are working on some new initiatives and interventions which are designed to satisfy this desire. Firstly, a number of local WCBC students are benefitting from being members of the Orchestra and performing with us in our rehearsals and concerts. More recently, and in another collaboration with the University and Tŷ Pawb, we launched the NEW Wrexham Music Festival 2019 for school pupils and students aged under 19 in the Borough and for those who live in adjacent 'borderland' areas. On Maundy Thursday we held a Festival of Celebration in Music at Tŷ Pawb, when 15 school pupils and students contributed to a wonderful day of music. The Festival also saw Elias Ackerley and Julianna Antczak perform the Live Music Showcase lunchtime recital of Rachmaninov's concerto for Piano and Cello, which delighted a large audience in Tŷ Pawb's Performance Space. The Festival was supported by adjudicators Dr David Jones, Achille Jones, Rachael Marsh, Helen Rayner and Matthias Wurz, all who spoke in glowing terms to the participants about their performances. Daniel Bradford from Ponciau accompanied the performers where this was requested. Each participant received a specially commissioned certificate, (designed by Glyndŵr student Charley Wiles) and an engraved commemorative medal. Eleri Spinks (Victoria CP School), received the adjudicators special nomination in the under 12 age group for her performance on the Flute and Henry Soper (Coleg Cambria) gained the special nomination in the 13-18 age group for his performance on the Saxophone. Jo Marsh, Ty Pawb's Creative Director was pleased with the festival; *'The NEW Wrexham Music Festival offers a fantastic opportunity for our young people and Tŷ Pawb was delighted to host this very special NEW event in the local performance arts calendar. We are already looking forward to the 2020 Festival'*.



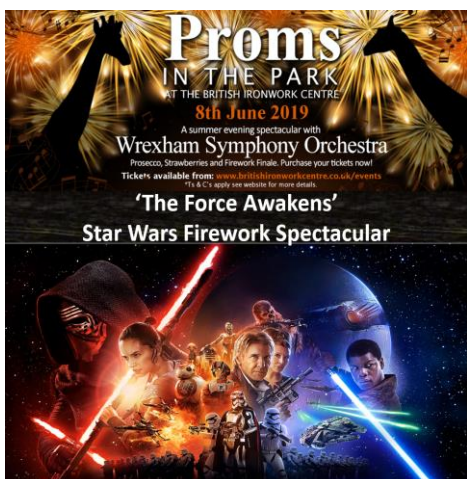
Under 12 age group participants with Mayor and Mayoress of WCBC, Cllr Andy & Mrs. Beverly Williams



13-18 age group participants with Matthew Ellis, Chairman of WSO, and the adjudicators

WSO Concert Diary – 50th Concert Season

<p>Saturday 8th June 2019 7pm British Ironworks Centre</p>	<p>Saturday 20th July 2019 7.30pm William Aston Hall</p>	<p>Sunday 3rd November 2019 3.30pm William Aston Hall</p>
<p>Picnic Proms in the Park ‘Music for a Summers Night’ A whole family spectacular evening of music in landscaped parkland with music and dazzling Star Wars fireworks. Popular Classics, Films incl. Star Wars and the music that goes with a Proms event. Tickets are available at www.britishironworkcentre.co.uk/events</p> <p>Tickets are available at www.britishironworkcentre.co.uk/events</p> <p>Conductor Richard Howarth Leader: Mark Lansom Special Guest: Rachael Marsh</p> <p>Supporting</p>  <p>Nightingale House Hospice Hospis Tŷr Eos</p>	<p>50th Anniversary of Man’s Walk on the Moon in collaboration with</p>  <p>Shostakovich: Festival Overture Sibelius: Violin Concerto Holst: The Planets</p> <p>Conductor: Richard Howarth Soloist: Sophie Rosa (Violin) Supporting</p> 	<p>50th Anniversary Birthday Family Party & Concert Come and celebrate with us in our official 50th birthday party family & concert as we pay tribute to the 2019</p>  <p>and support their charity</p>  <p>Concert Programme to be announced later, but the No. 1 in the 2019 Hall of Fame will be performed</p>



We are thrilled to be invited to perform at the British Ironwork Centre’s summer spectacular ‘Picnic Proms in the Park’. This will be our third Proms concert in a row and this year’s event will be even more spectacular than last year. It has become one of the ‘must go’ events of the summer in the Borderlands. The music programme will offer a taster for our trip around the Universe later in the summer, take us on a memory lane with popular and well-loved songs from the D-Day Landings era sung by local soprano Rachael Marsh; entrance us with music from some of the most popular movies of all time and bring the evening to a spectacular climax in a Star Wars Extravaganza complete with a dazzling lightsabre and firework display. Clive Knowles, of the British Ironworks Centre is enthused by this year’s event *‘Our Picnic Proms in the Park event has become an established and increasingly popular whole family favourite in our summer events programme here at the British Ironwork Centre. Each year we seek to make this evening more spectacular and 2019 will be no exception with Star Wars. I am delighted that the Orchestra is performing again during their 50th Anniversary concert season. Their commitment to helping those in our communities through their charitable work and projects is aligned to our core values and we are proud to partner with them.*



On 20th July 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first men in history to land a Lunar module on the moon and on the following day, to step out of the module and on to the moon surface. For those of us who were watching the live pictures, it was one of those ‘never be forgotten’ moments. Armstrong spoke as his feet touched the surface, *‘That’s one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind’*. In a new and exciting collaboration with Techniquist Glyndwr on July 20th, 2019, we are commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Lunar landing and moon walk in a concert which features Gustav Holst’s ‘The Planets’ and Sibelius’ Violin concerto, performed by highly acclaimed and award-winning violinist, Sophie Rosa from Cheshire. Sophie was a student at Chethams and the Royal Northern College of Music.

With a focus on a whole family event, Techniquist will be offering some ‘hands-on moon related’ activities in the foyer and their Sky Dome will present a rolling 15-minute showing of ‘The Planet’s in the Night Sky’ in one of the classrooms close to the Foyer. This is a memorable year for Techniquist Glyndwr as it embarks on a new and exciting era with plans to bring science right into the town centre and establish itself in the former TJ Hughes building between Henblas Street and Chester Street. We are pleased and proud to be collaborating with them in 2019.

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