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50th Concert Season in View

Matthew Ellis, Chairman of the Orchestra, speaking about the 50th anniversary concert season shares: *'It gives me great pleasure and considerable pride to present an outstanding series of concerts for our 50th anniversary season. There is something for everyone in our programme, from the Proms in the Park in September to our special anniversary Gala concert in May.'*

We launch our season in a spectacular Picnic Proms in the Park concert at the British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry on Saturday September 15th. Set in over 100 acres of parkland and amid some wonderful sculptured artwork, the concert will be a very special evening of top class music from the classical, opera and film genres and concluding in a dazzling firework display. With guest singers Rachael Marsh and Andrew Powis, our Proms concert is one not to be missed.

We are delighted with two new collaborations during our 50th anniversary season. Firstly, in November with the Royal British Legion, we join in the national commemoration marking 100 years since the end of the Great War in 1918. It will be a very special concert with music fit for the occasion, and readings of poems made famous through the Great War. Dartmoor 1912, from the stage and film production War Horse, will draw the evening to a fitting and memorable close.

Then in February, in a collaboration with Welsh National Opera, we welcome back a wonderful soloist in Rebecca Afonwy-Jones who will delight us with Elgar's Sea Pictures. Rebecca has sung with us many times before and in our debut Mahler concert at Bridgewater Hall in May 2015. This will be our Presidents concert.

We celebrate our 50th Anniversary season with a special Gala concert in May and we are thrilled that Vicky Yannoula, Music Director of the Llangollen

International Eisteddfod will join us in a member's choice programme to perform one of the great piano concertos, Rachmaninoff's 2nd, in a concert which includes Stravinsky's magical and inspiring Firebird.

In a fitting close to the 50th season in July, we will take you on a journey across the universe and to the edge of eternity as we perform Holst's Planet Suite in a truly delightful programme which also includes Sibelius' Violin Concerto, performed by outstanding violinist from Cheshire, Sophie Rosa.

We have a full, exciting and diverse concert programme and we look forward to sharing it with you. We have been heartened by a marked increase in our audiences over the last few years and we hope you will be encouraged to join with us as we celebrate our 50th anniversary season.

Return to Bridgewater Hall

Matthew is also pleased to share exciting news about a return to Bridgewater Hall. *'Our long running Mahler Charitable Concert Series, which is generously sponsored by Cobalz Limited of Wrexham, will reach a climax when we make a return to Bridgewater Hall in Manchester on Saturday June 20th, 2020 to perform his majestic 8th Symphony – Symphony of a Thousand. It will be our largest ever concert undertaking, and we shall be joined by a chorus of several hundred voices.'* Our Mahler project has been transformational for the Orchestra, offering us some of the most challenging works of music ever written. We were delighted with the feedback we received about our recent performance of Mahler 9. Here is one comment *'The concert was really inspiring... the orchestra got better and better as the work progressed and I am not sure they could have been surpassed by many professional ensembles'*. Robin Taylor, Gustav Mahler Society. More information about BWH 2020 will follow in due course. Keep reading Orchestrate!!!!

WSO Concert Diary – 50th Concert Season

<p>Saturday 15th September 2018 6pm Oswestry (Gates open 5pm)</p>	<p>Saturday 24th November 2018 7.15pm William Aston Hall</p>	<p>Saturday 23rd February 2019 7.30pm William Aston Hall</p>
<p>Picnic Proms in the Park British Ironwork Centre, Oswestry Sat Nav: SY11 4JH</p> <p>1812 Overture 633 Squadron, Dambusters March La Bohème, Turandot, ET, Sorcerer's Apprentice, Nimrod and more... Proms music and songs Dazzling Fireworks</p> <p>Conductor: Richard Howarth Leader: Mark Lansom Soloists: Rachael Marsh and Andrew Powis</p>	<p>Commemoration Concert with the Royal British Legion Marking 100 years since the end of World War 1</p> <p>Walton: Spitfire Prelude and Fugue Hindemith: Trauermusik Butterworth: A Shropshire Lad Elgar: Nimrod Panufnik: Sinfonia Sacra Williams: Dartmoor 1912 (War Horse)</p> <p>The evening will include an act of commemoration and readings of poems by Wilfred Owen & others.</p> <p>Conductor: Stephen Threlfall (Chethams School of Music) Leader: Mark Lansom</p>	<p>The Presidents Concert In collaboration with</p>  <p>Beethoven – Egmont Overture Elgar – Sea Pictures Prokofiev – Symphony No. 5</p> <p>Conductor: Leon Bosch Soloist: Rebecca Afonwy-Jones (Welsh National Opera)</p>

The Launch of our 50th season at the Picnic Proms in the Park



We make a return to the British Ironwork Centre for another spectacular Proms in the Park concert on Saturday September 15th and launch our 50th anniversary concert season. It promises to be a wonderful night of top class music in one of the most magnificent of parkland settings in the Borderlands. With a programme which includes popular classics, opera gems and blockbuster movies, we shall be paying tribute to the 100 years of the Royal Airforce and marking the 75th anniversary of the Dambusters (617 Squadron). We are being joined by soloists Rachael Marsh, who came 2nd in the Pendine International Voice of the Future at the 2018 Llangollen International Eisteddfod and Andrew Powis; they will also lead us in the singing of the traditional flag waving Proms songs. At the heart of the concert will be Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, No 1 in the 2018 Classic FM Hall of Fame, and a dazzling firework display will draw the evening to a spectacular close. Tickets for the Proms in the Park concert are available this evening; they can be purchased on line at www.britishironworkcentre.co.uk (events page) or in person from the sales counter in the British Ironwork Centre (SY11 4JH). They are priced £20 for adults and £10 for children and young people aged 5 to 18. Children under 5 are FREE with an adult. The beneficial charity will be Nightingale House Hospice in Wrexham. who also have tickets for sale on their reception desk at the Hospice.

World War 1 100-year Commemoration with the Royal British Legion



Commemorative Concert with the Royal British Legion Saturday November 24th, 2018 at 7.15pm

We are thrilled to collaborate with the **Royal British Legion** as we pay tribute to the great sacrifice of so many local soldiers between 1914-1918. The concert programme features music from several European countries who were involved in the war, poems by Wilfred Owen, new writings by students at Wrexham Glyndŵr University and some local schools. John Williams' wonderful music from War Horse will draw the concert to a close. The evening will include a parade of RBL standards and banners and a short act of commemoration. This concert will start at the earlier time of 7.15pm.