



## Wrexham Remembers..... A Wonderful Testament in the Borough

Welcome to our Commemoration of the Armistice concert with the Royal British Legion in Wales. We are thrilled to be supporting their work and jointly hosting a concert in North Wales. We thank them for their support. We are also pleased to have made a series of contributions to 'Wrexham Remembers the Armistice', published by the Armed Forces Liaison Office at Wrexham County Borough Council.

Wrexham has done the Commemoration of The Armistice proud, with a large number of events and activities right across the Borough... far too many for us to recall here. The Orchestra's Community Engagement Project which had as its theme 'War – Its Impact on Families and Communities' has enabled us to work collaboratively with a number of local organisations and which has strengthened our community engagement. Over the last few months we have collaborated with students at the University, pupils at The Maelor School in Penley, staff at the Wrexham Archives and also with Wrexham Library. We have also supported some events in Ty Pawb and with Cantorion Rhos.

Maybe we can take time to reflect and ponder on some images that were more impactful, locally and nationally. Locally there were a number such as the display of 10,000 handmade poppies in the Chapel of the Royal Welch Fusiliers in St Giles Church and the Beacon on the tower joining the national commemoration on the evening of the Armistice.



Perhaps it was some of the images we saw from the 'Pages in the Sand' that were drawn on 30 or so

beaches around the country that captured your imagination and were particularly poignant when the tide came in and washed them away... in effect, saying 'goodbye' to them....



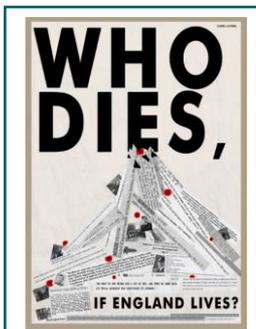
Each of us will have a personal memory and this evenings concert will provide further evidence of those memories. One of the most memorable activities from our Community Engagement Programme has been to meet families of two Wrexham Servicemen who were killed in World War 1- Private Thomas Lloyd and William Arthur Lloyd. Their families are joining us for the Commemoration concert and the great, great granddaughter of Thomas, 17-year-old Teigan Lloyd, will be reading one of the letters that he wrote to his wife Caroline and their 4 children just a few days before he died.

Our creative project with students in the School of Creative Art has produced stunning imagery which is on display this evening; please do take time to look at their work in the foyer. From a project which contributed to our collaboration with Wrexham Library on November 15<sup>th</sup>; please take time to read the work of the pupils of the Maelor School, Penley.

We record the SCA images in this special Armistice edition of Orchestrate. We also share information about our February concert, our 2018 Young Musician of the Year as well as some exciting projects we are involved in delivering. Enjoy reading about them and our concert this evening. Thank you to everyone who has supported us. Please do tell your friends or better still, hand them a copy of this special edition newsletter, which can also be downloaded as a pdf file from our web site [www.wrexhamorch.co.uk](http://www.wrexhamorch.co.uk).

## War and its Impact on Families and Communities

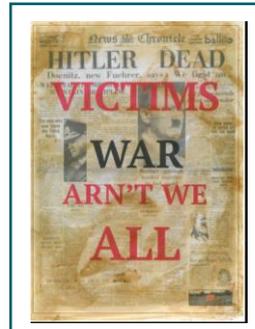
This was the title of our Community Engagement Programme we launched earlier in the year and reaches a fitting conclusion with this evening's Commemoration concert. We have been pleased to have made a significant and valuable contribution to 'Wrexham Remembers the Armistice' events programme across the Borough. We are also grateful for the support of all those who have contributed in so many different ways. Firstly, here is the artwork created by students at the School of Creative Art.



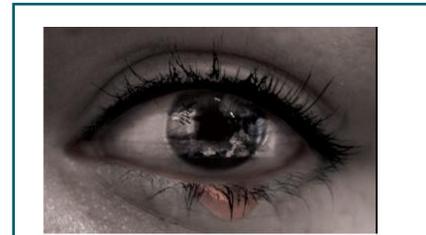
Caira Layden



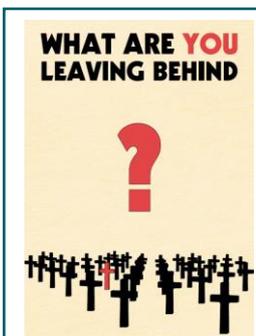
Chen Yunying



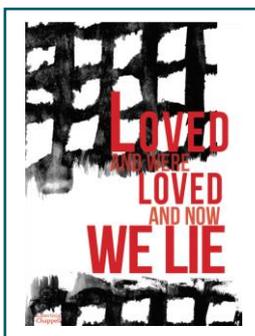
Daniel Evans



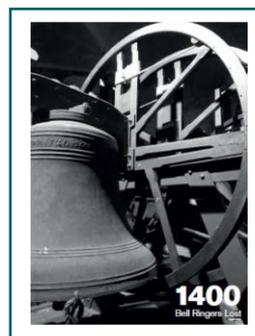
Ellie Sproston



Julian Johnson



Katrine Chappell



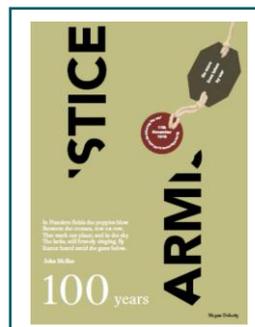
Kaylee South



Josh Schofield



Lisa Evans



Megan Doherty



Zakiya Crofts

The Community event held in collaboration with Wrexham Library on 15<sup>th</sup> November, was a sold-out event with over 100 audience members and participants taking part. There were contributions from Peter Read, Choral Variations, Wrexham Library, Wrexham Glyndŵr University Performance in the Community, Dave Andrews, Teigan Lloyd and students from Penley School when Fiona Baglin facilitated a programme of music and words written and composed by them. Working with the Media students at Wrexham Glyndŵr, we have also been able to record a version of the BBC/British Library Programme, 'The Listening Project' when members of the two Lloyd families came together in a conversation to share about their relatives, Thomas and William and their research into their lives and subsequent sacrifice during World War 1. This recording will be available on the Orchestra's web site shortly.

# WSO Concert Diary – 50<sup>th</sup> Concert Season

Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2019 7.30pm William Aston Hall	Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2019 7.30pm William Aston Hall	Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2019 7.30pm William Aston Hall
<p><b>The Presidents Concert</b> in collaboration with</p>  <p><b>Beethoven</b> – Egmont Overture <b>Elgar</b> – Sea Pictures <b>Prokofiev</b> – Symphony No. 5</p> <p><b>Conductor:</b> Leon Bosch <b>Soloist:</b> Rebecca Afonwy-Jones (Welsh National Opera)</p>	<p><b>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Concert</b></p> <p><b>Stravinsky:</b> Firebird Suite (1919) <b>Rachmaninov:</b> Piano Concerto No. 2 <b>Rimsky-Korsakov:</b> Scherezade</p> <p><b>Conductor:</b> Mark Lansom <b>Soloist:</b> Vicky Yannoula (Piano)</p>	<p><b>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Man's Walk on the Moon</b> in collaboration with</p>  <p><b>Shostakovich:</b> Festival Overture <b>Sibelius:</b> Violin Concerto <b>Holst:</b> The Planets Suite</p> <p><b>Conductor:</b> Richard Howarth <b>Soloist:</b> Sophie Rosa (Violin)</p>

Our President's Concert with the Welsh National Opera - February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019  
We welcome Leon Bosch as our Conductor and welcome back, Rebecca Afonwy-Jones



We are pleased to extend a welcome to Leon Bosch who will be conducting us for the first time in our Presidents concert with Welsh National Opera, Leon, who was born in South Africa, moved to the UK to study music at the RNCM in Manchester.

He is an internationally renowned classical double bass virtuoso. With over a dozen solo CDs to his name, he regularly commissions repertoire for the instrument, making recital and concerto appearances around the world. Leon was appointed principal double bass with the acclaimed Academy of St Martin in the Fields. He left the post in 2014 to devote himself to conducting, his solo career, to teaching and to **establishing his now thriving chamber ensemble, I Musicanti.** Leon has a passion for researching lost or forgotten music for double bass such as by the Catalan Josep Cervera and the Danish court musician, Franz Keyper. Speaking to Orchestrate about the February concert, Leon is excited to be conducting the orchestra in its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season and in also working with Rebecca. In commenting on the concert programme, Leon appreciates the unique structure of Prokofiev's 5<sup>th</sup> Symphony which *'has a strong connection to the South African psychology in its hidden melancholy and is part of my soul; it offers something new and enriches our experiences of life'*. He is particularly looking forward to working with Rebecca in a performance of Elgar's Sea Pictures, *'which is a uniquely British composition from the era of first world war'*. Leon's most memorable experiences of performing Beethoven have been with Sir Neville Martinson at The Academy of St Martin in the Fields, and he is looking forward to performing Beethoven's Egmont overture with us in February.



We are delighted to welcome back Rebecca Afonwy-Jones to perform with us in our Presidents concert. Rebecca made her debut with us in July 2008 when she sang Berlioz's 'Les nuits d'été'.

Rebecca is an accomplished singer who has performed with many leading and international companies. She has performed numerous times with Welsh National Opera, most recently on tour to the new Dubai Opera House and taking the part of Flora in LA TRAVIATA. In September, Rebecca performed at The North Wales International Music Festival with NEW Sinfonia in a wide range of repertoire. Rebecca has sung with us on a few occasions since 2008, most memorably in our debut concert at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester in May 2015 when we performed Mahler's 2<sup>nd</sup> Symphony 'Resurrection' to wide critical acclaim. Rebecca is looking forward to joining us in our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert season and expresses her gratitude for the opportunity which the Orchestra offered on her orchestral solo debut in 2008.

Sea Pictures, Op. 37 is a song cycle by Sir Edward Elgar consisting of five songs written by various poets. The songs are: Sea Slumber Song; In Haven (Capri); Sabbath Morning at Sea; Where Corals Lie; and The Swimmer. We are looking forward to working with Rebecca again and we are sure that our audience will be entranced by her interpretation and rendition of this work by Elgar, which was first performed in 1899.

## Here are some updates on WSO Projects, Events and Happenings

### Louie McIver - Our 2018 Young Musician of the Year



We are pleased to announce that our 2018 Young Musician of the Year is violinist Louie McIver who has performed with us for the past 5 years. An accomplished, all-round musician, Louie also composes music. Some of which we have performed, most notably, Louie's composition 'Arenig' which expresses his experiences when climbing Arenig in the Snowdonian range. Louie, who is pictured with his award from WSO Chairman Matthew Ellis, has also led the Orchestra on several occasions. He has recently progressed his musical education by accepting an opportunity with Cambridge University. Sharing about his time with the orchestra, Louie comments, *'I have enjoyed my time with the WSO and have learnt so much. Having two of my own compositions performed was a real thrill. I will always be grateful for the opportunities I have had with the Orchestra.'*

### Wrexham Memory Clinic Sensory Garden Project



In September we started to collaborate with students from Northop Horticultural College (Coleg Cambria) on an enhancement of a garden area in Wrexham Memory Clinic, with funding from our Mahler cycle. Pictured above are students from the college who have spent several hours improving the environment and painting the fences. New furniture has been acquired and this is being installed shortly. In the New Year we will be embarking on a more ambitious project with students from the School of Creative Art at WGU who will start on the design a music themed sensory garden.

## Date for your Diary - 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day Landings – June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019



We have started to make plans to collaborate once again with the Royal British Legion in a concert to mark the 75th Anniversary of the D Day Landings. The date is **Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019** when we will make a return to the British Ironwork Centre, near Oswestry and perform a concert of music that has relevance to D Day and pay a tribute to those whose heroic efforts turned the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war on its head. We will publish further information in the New Year when we expect to have confirmed our initial plans with our stakeholders and partners. This will be another wonderful opportunity to showcase the Orchestra to a wider audience and continue our support of the British Ironworks Centre and the Royal British Legion. For now, please mark the date in your diary and share it with your family and friends.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season - WSO History Project



For several months, local historian Dr David Jones, who himself is an accomplished musician, has been working his way through a large quantity of programmes covering the majority of our concerts since the first one which was performed on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1969 in the then new Memorial Hall in Wrexham (see the image of the handbill poster for the first concert). As part of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert season, we are seeking to gather as much historical information about the orchestra as possible and to publish this in time for our Anniversary Gala concert in May 2019. This will include some historical photographic images as well as new photographs of the members of the Orchestra in 2019. We have learnt that Arwel Hughes, the father of Owain Arwel Hughes, was our first Vice Chairman back in 1969. David has held the first a number of round table discussions with members to gather anecdotal information and more sessions are planned. If you have any information about the Orchestra from times past please will you share it with us, so we can capture that as part of the history project? Use the contact information below to let us know and share information with us.

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