



Our year-long celebrations for the 50th anniversary concert season concluded in an amazing concert last November. We were enthralled by a wonderful programme of music, drawn mainly from the 2019 Classic FM Hall of Fame and the performance of two outstanding soloists. Former WSO Young Musician of the Year, Tom Blomfield and Strauss's Oboe Concerto followed by Sophie Rosa's rendition of Vaughan Williams, The Lark Ascending. We have been able to donate £650 to Global's Charity 'Make Some Noise'. The 50th anniversary season was launched at the British Ironwork Centre in the September 2018 Proms in the Park when Terry Waite CBE joined our Honorary President, Maria Hinfelaar and Chairman, Matthew Ellis. Over the course of 15 months we have performed some amazing concerts establishing new partnerships and collaborations. We remembered the Armistice with the Royal British Legion in November 2018, were supported by Welsh National Opera in February, partnered with Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod and their friends for our 50th Anniversary Gala concert in May. The D-Day Proms concert in June saw a 'Thunderbirds cloud formation' flying overhead as we performed music from the iconic series and finally, we joined forces with Techniquet Glyndŵr for the 50th anniversary of the first Moon Landing and Walk concert in July. We were certainly 'flying high' during our 50th anniversary concert season!!!

Once again today we are thrilled to partner with Techniquet Glyndŵr, opening our Musical Picture Book with the master of all Wizards, Harry Potter as we embark on a musical journey, including a guided tour of the Orchestra in Benjamin Britten's masterpiece which was first performed by the RLPO in October 1946. We hope you will enjoy the Harry Potter themed Light Sound and Music Experience which the TQG team have prepared for us today.

2020 will be another magical year of WSO music. Hot on the trail of today's concert, our Presidents Annual Concert on February 29th will welcome the very talented pianist Luke Jones, who was born and raised in Wrexham and who is crafting a growing international reputation as a concert pianist. 2020 marks the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth and Luke will perform his Piano Concerto No. 3 in a programme which includes two works by French composer Hector Berlioz, including Symphonie Fantastique, a self-portrait of the obsession, dreams, tantrums and moments of tenderness in his passion for 'a beautiful woman'.

May 23rd will see us return to the British Ironwork Centre for our annual Picnic Proms in the Park concert during the Spring holiday weekend. We will be joining in the national commemoration of the 75th anniversary of VE Day and performing a range of popular and much-loved music from right across the genres, culminating in a spectacular firework display. The Lucas Costumery Charity will again be present helping us support the Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre Appeal by The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital in Gobowen. Early bird tickets are already on sale via the British Ironworks web site and also through Eventbrite, offering reductions on the standard ticket prices of between 15% and 20% to the end of January 2020.

Our highlight of 2020 will surely be the climax of our 10-year Mahler Charitable concert series when we make a return to the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester on June 20th and, together with a chorus of several hundred voices, perform his majestic choral work, Symphony No 8. This will be another memorable evening and we have outlined some initial logistics and plans in a separate section of the newsletter. We will be sharing more information about BWH 2020 at the February concert, when you will be able to book a 'ticket & travel' package.

We draw the 51st concert season to a close with a concert of music for a summer evening on July 18th when we will welcome a new soloist, Trombonist Ellena Newton, in a programme of music by Dukas, Berlioz, Rimsky Korsakov, Brahms and Shostakovich's suite of romance for 'The Gadfly'. Another full and varied year ahead and in November 2020, Stephen Threlfall (Director of Music at Chethams School of Music) will return to open our 52nd season and conduct a 'Thanksgiving' programme of popular American music. A Happy and Musical New Year to you all.

WSO Concert Diary – 51st Concert Season

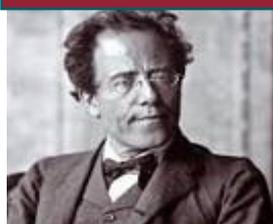
Saturday 29 th February 2020 7.30pm William Aston Hall	Saturday 23 rd May 2020 7pm British Ironwork Centre	Saturday 20 th June 2020 7.30pm Bridgewater Hall
<p>President's Annual Concert 'Classical Innovators'</p> <p>Berlioz – King Lear Overture Beethoven – Piano Concerto No. 3 Berlioz – Symphonie Fantastique</p> <p>Conductor: Mark Lansom Soloist: Luke Jones - Piano</p>	<p>Picnic Proms in the Park Commemorating VE Day</p> <p>An evening of top-class music from across the genres and family entertainment with a spectacular firework finale</p> <p>Conductor: Richard Howarth Special Guests *****</p> <p>Supporting the Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre Appeal at the RJAH, Gobowen *****</p> <p>The Lucasfilm Costumery Charity will be attending the Proms</p>	<p>Mahler Charitable Concert Series</p> <p>Symphony No. 8 'Symphony of a Thousand' *****</p> <p>Conductor: Richard Howarth Chorus Master: Darius Battiwalla Soloists: April Fredrick, Rebecca Afonwy-Jones and others Chorus: Liverpool Welsh Choral, Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus, Moreton Hall Chamber Chorus and members of Chester and Manchester Cathedral Choirs *****</p> <p>Gustav Mahler Society Reception and Mahler 8 Seminar from 6pm</p>

Coming Up Next: Pianist Luke Jones



On Saturday February 29th we welcome one of Wrexham's most talented young musicians to perform in our Annual President's concert. Luke Jones was born and raised in Wrexham and is fast establishing himself as an accomplished international concert pianist. In December 2019 Luke was awarded 2nd place and the Audience Prize at the BPSE Intercollegiate Beethoven Piano Competition in London and in August, he won the coveted 19 and over Instrumental Blue Riband at the National Eisteddfod of Wales and a scholarship of £3000. Earlier, in May 2019, Luke was awarded the RNCM Gold medal. Luke is thrilled to be performing with his hometown orchestra following his debut performance in November 2017 of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21, "Elvira Madigan" in a concert when his father, Classical guitarist Achille, performed the second movement of Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez. Luke will be performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 in the year which celebrates the 250th anniversary of the German composer's birth. Our programme for this concert also includes two works by Berlioz, the overture to King Lear and his romantic self-portrait masterpiece, Symphonie Fantastique. Tickets are already on sale for this concert through Eventbrite which can be reached at www.wrexhamorch.co.uk/tickets.html. They can also be purchased at today's concert.

Mahler Charitable Concert Series Mahler 8 BWH June 20th, 2020.



We are just 5 months away from our return to Bridgewater Hall in Manchester for the climax of our 10 year-long Mahler Charitable Concert Series when we will perform his majestic choral work Symphony No. 8 – Symphony of a Thousand. This is the largest concert undertaking in our history and we have been generously supported by Cobalz Limited, our sponsor for the Mahler Series. In addition to an orchestra that is likely to number in excess of 100, we shall be joined by a number of soloists including April Fredrick and Rebecca Afonwy Jones, who performed Mahler's 2nd Symphony with us in May 2015 at the same venue. The chorus of several hundred voices will come from Liverpool, Sheffield, Chester, Manchester and Oswestry. The North and Midlands Group of the Gustav Mahler Society of the UK are supporting us and will be hosting a reception and information briefing on Mahler's 8th Symphony at 6pm in the Bridgewater Hall. We are finalizing the transport logistics to enable as many of our Friends members and audience to travel by coach to Manchester (and back of course!). We will be publishing the travel and ticket package in February and we will have a separate table in the foyer at the Annual President's concert so Friends and audience members can book their tickets for what will be another amazing night at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester. If you require any information in the meantime please get in touch either by email to jones_derek@btconnect.com, by phone 07889379591 or in writing to the mail address below.

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 11 Eaton Avenue, Handbridge, Chester CH4 7HB