



Orchestrate



We are delighted to extend a warm WSO welcome to pianist Luke Jones who was born and raised in Wrexham and is establishing himself as one of the UK more foremost young musicians. Luke has shared some reflections and thoughts with us ahead of his performance today.

**Can you tell us a little about yourself – background, family and how you got into music in the first place.** I grew up in

Summerhill and attended primary school there. My father took up music professionally teaching Classical Guitar whilst he worked at the steelworks in Brymbo. We had a piano at home and as my father is an avid CD collector, I naturally heard music regularly and began picking out tunes. It was then that my father encouraged me to take piano lessons and treat the piano seriously. I was very fortunate to have this environment and have a father who understood the necessity of high-quality teaching and he took me to Eva Warren and then Andrew Wilde who advanced my studies very quickly and taught me many important musical ideas at a young age

**What were your early years' experience of performing music?** I remember attending concerts by my then teacher Andrew Wilde who is himself a highly accomplished concert pianist. I was also fortunate that my father took me to see Maurizio Pollini in London and Jazz pianist Oscar Peterson in Liverpool both at the highest level in their respective fields. These experiences gave me an idea of what performing music is about and it was altogether a positive one. My first concert in Wrexham Library at the age of 10 will always remain in my memory as it was the first time I had put together a 45 minute programme and performed it in front of the public.

**What aspects of music are you currently involved in both performance and education?** I have performed solo recitals and concertos with orchestra all over Europe. But outside of this I have also worked extensively in Duos, Trios with violinists and cellists. Additionally, I have had experience accompanying singers, choirs, playing in orchestras; working as a repetiteur in opera and working on television. All of these experiences inevitably inform my solo work, which is most important to me.

**Do you have a particular favourite piece of music or composer; has a particular conductor/musician helped and influenced you?** It is quite impossible to have favourites; every day I am discovering something new, sometimes in quite unexpected places. I suppose if I had to choose, Bach is very close to my heart as his works remain timeless and form some of my early experiences playing the piano. Besides my father and fiancée, there are several

people to whom I am immensely grateful to have known and learned from, some who are not musicians and many who are.

**If there was one a memorable occasion in your career to date you would please share it with us?** There are several such moments, but I count performing Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No.1 in Barcelona at the Palau de la Musica Catalana at the final of the Maria Canals International Piano Competition as probably one of the most memorable. It was at the end of an exhausting two weeks competing abroad. I still couldn't believe that I was gifted this opportunity as I had not expected to advance past the first round. At that moment I ceased to think about even competing and just lived in the moment, living and breathing music in such a beautiful and glorious venue

**Looking to the future, what is in the 2020 diary and how would you like to see your career in music develop over the next few years?** This year I will be performing recitals at the Cowbridge Music Festival, Llandeilo Music Festival, TokarevFest in Germany, Erin Arts Centre on the Isle of Man as well as Schumann Piano Concerto with the Liverpool Mozart Orchestra. This year I have been also named Honorary Ambassador for the Bromsgrove International Musicians Competition which I won 1st Prize at two years ago as well as developing a relationship with the Keyboard Charitable Trust whom I will be working with on securing engagements in the UK and abroad. In terms of career development, naturally I have various plans that I intend to execute, but the nature of the music business is patience and tenacity. There is a famous quote which is ascribed to various musicians but nevertheless holds true: "It takes fifteen years to become an overnight success". Ultimately, I would like to perform as widely as possible and in the distant future turn my eyes also to education, but as with many endeavours, success should not be the aim of the journey but merely the result.

**If you were to offer any aspiring young musician a piece of advice on a career in music what would it be?** Be open-minded, curious and sensitive to the world around you. There is no greater inspiration for artistic creativity than things which you will see every day of your life. Sometimes there may be moments in your life which you ought to savour, but you can't wait for these things to happen as they may never do so. Also knowing yourself and knowing how to self-critique in a constructive manner is essential, you can't improve unless you are able to see what needs improving. Simply put, you can't find the answer unless you know how to ask the question. So, work hard and keep searching, enjoy the process and don't allow idle gossip or negativity pervade your work.

# WSO Concert Diary – 51st Concert Season

Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2020 7pm British Ironwork Centre	Saturday 20th June 2020 7.30pm Bridgewater Hall	Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 7.30pm William Aston Hall
<p>Picnic Proms in the Park with Fireworks Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of VE Day</p> <p>Supporting the RJAH Veterans Orthopaedic Appeal</p> <p>The music programme will include Popular Classics; Film and TV Music; Wartime and Proms Songs Spectacular Firework Finale</p> <p><b>TICKETS FOR THIS CONCERT</b> www.britishironworkcentre.co.uk and search the Events button Adult: £25 Young Person U17: £10 Family Ticket (2A + 2YP's): £60 Also through Eventbrite Search Wrexham Symphony Orchestra</p>	<p><b>Mahler Charitable Concert Series</b> <b>Symphony No. 8</b> <b>'Symphony of a Thousand'</b> *****</p> <p><b>Conductor: Richard Howarth</b> <b>Chorus Master: Darius Battiwalla</b></p> <p>Soloists: April Fredrick, Rebecca Afonwy-Jones and others Chorus: Liverpool Welsh Chorus, Sheffield Festival Chorus, Moreton Hall School Chorus and members of Chester and Manchester Cathedral Choirs *****</p> <p>Gustav Mahler Society Reception and Mahler 8 Seminar from 6pm</p>	<p><b>Music for a Summer Evening 'The Gadfly'</b> <b>Dukas:</b> Fanfare from La Peri <b>Berlioz:</b> Roman Carnival <b>Rimsky Korsakov:</b> Trombone Concerto <b>Brahms:</b> Variations on a theme by Haydn <b>Shostakovich:</b> The Gadfly Suite</p> <p><b>Conductor: Richard Howarth</b> <b>Soloist: Ellena Newton (Trombone)</b></p> <p><b>Next Concert</b> <b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020</b> <b>3.30pm including</b> <b>Dvorak's New World Symphony</b></p>

Wrexham Symphony Orchestra  
www.wrexhamorch.co.uk  
Orchestra in Residence at Wrexham Glyndwr University

# MAHLER

**Symphony No. 8**  
**"Symphony of a Thousand"**

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2020, 7.30pm  
Bridgewater Hall, Manchester M2 3WS



We are now less than 4 months away from our return to Bridgewater Hall in Manchester to bring our 10-year Mahler Charitable Concert Series to a fitting and majestic climax when we perform his great choral work – Symphony No. 8. This has been a number of years in the planning and is the largest concert we have ever undertaken featuring a cast of several hundred performers. Tickets for the concert are now on sale and can be pre-ordered this evening at a special Mahler 8 Ticket desk. Friends of the WSO are able to secure a combined discounted ticket and travel package from Wrexham to Manchester (and return!). There is a separate leaflet which provides all the information you will need to enable you to share this experience with us. Our Mahler Charitable Concert Series has raised some £15,000 for Alzheimer's and dementia charities, particularly in supporting the work of the Wrexham Memory Clinic. The Gustav Mahler Society of the UK are supporting us through a pre-concert reception and information sharing event from 6pm in the Bridgewater Hall. We do hope as many of our Friends and local audience will come and join us in what is sure to be another amazing night in Manchester.

**Picnic Proms in the Park**  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2020 at 7pm  
British Ironwork Centre, Oswestry SY11 4JH



**75**  
**VE DAY**  
75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Before we get to Bridgewater Hall we have our annual Picnic Proms in the Park concert at the British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry. This has become a very popular addition to our concert season and this year the Proms event is supporting the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Veterans Orthopaedic appeal which will provide a range of medical services for all members of the Armed forces from across the UK. Tickets are now on sale (If you are very quick you can secure discounted Early bird tickets until Midnight on Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>) through Eventbrite (search for Wrexham Symphony Orchestra). UK Garrison, the Lucasfilm Costumery Charity will be again attending the event and our music programme will include popular items from the classical, film and war time songs genres, with a spectacular fireworks finale. So, come gather your friends and family and join us on the Spring Bank holiday weekend

<p><b>Forward Planning Diary</b> <b>Dates for 52<sup>nd</sup> Concert Season</b></p>	<p>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 3.30pm - Dvorak's New World Symphony Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2021; Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021; Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021 All these concerts are in the William Aston Hall at 7.30pm (except where stated)</p>
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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 11 Eaton Avenue, Handbridge, Chester CH4 7HB