

Hampshire County Youth Orchestras



The Anvil - Basingstoke

**Saturday 30 April 2016
7.30pm**

Welcome...

On behalf of Hampshire County Council's Music Service I would like to welcome you to today's concert by some of Hampshire's outstanding young musicians. Each performer has shown great commitment and dedication to their music and put in many hours of practice to reach this standard. They are amongst 55,000 young people who are now learning to play and sing with Hampshire Music Service every year.

Today's concert is one of many similar events that take place, featuring some of our 60+ area and county ensembles. In addition we organise and co-ordinate special musical events in schools and at prestigious venues across the county and beyond, which have recently included:

- 500 young singers performing Handel's "*Zadok the Priest*" at the BBC 10 Pieces Promenade Concert at the Royal Albert Hall
- Over 200 ensemble members undertaking international concert tours to Austria, Belgium, Germany, Holland and Italy
- The Hampshire Swing Trio entertaining delegates at the TUC Conference in Brighton
- A percussion day with 50 players learning marimba, cajon, drum kit and timpani from a range of visiting specialist professional players
- The *Hampshire Unplugged Festivals*, for acoustic rock and folk bands
- Nearly 800 musicians and dancers presenting Martin Read's "*The Mary Rose*" at the Music for Youth Schools Prom, again at the Royal Albert Hall.

There are also many exciting events to come this year, including:

1. World Music Festival, Sunday 1 May, Kings' School, Winchester showcasing world percussion music.
2. Britten's "*Noye's Fludde*" - Saturday 9 July, Winchester Cathedral, as part of the Winchester Festival.

Hampshire Music Service is proud to promote the highest quality learning opportunities through:

- Small group instrumental and vocal tuition in schools
- Our ensembles and orchestras
- Classroom support for teaching staff
- World music, rock, pop and jazz
- Workshops and special projects,
- *Listen2Me* – a whole-class instrumental and vocal teaching programme for all primary school children.

We recently celebrated the third anniversary of our appointment as the lead partner in the Hampshire Music Education Hub, which has gone from strength to strength. Partnership working has always been a keystone of the HMS provision and we now work with over 100 partner organisations to improve the breadth and scope of our music activities and performance opportunities.

We are committed to giving every child and young person the chance to *participate, enjoy and achieve* by *making music together*.



Head of Hampshire Music Service



For more information about Hampshire County Youth Orchestra and future events please visit the Hampshire County Youth Orchestra website www.hcyo.co.uk or simply scan:

Programme

Hampshire County Youth Orchestra

Conducted by David Scott

Gallop from the musical comedy *Moskva, Cheryomushki*

Dmitri Shostakovich

Admirers of Shostakovich are likely to be unaware that the composer wrote a very substantial quantity of lighter music as well as film scores, never scorning the possibility of creating a hit song. The title *Moskva, Cheryomushki* refers to a region in the city of Moscow and was the title of a full-scale musical comedy premiered in 1959 to substantial success.

Hampshire County Youth String Orchestra

Conducted by Brian Lloyd Wilson

Chacony in G minor

Henry Purcell

Arr. Benjamin Britten

Purcell wrote instrumental music early in his career, partly as a way of teaching himself the rules of counterpoint. On September 10, 1677 (the date we now believe to have been his eighteenth birthday), he took his first adult job, that of composer for the court violin band known as the Twenty-Four Violins, replacing the esteemed Matthew Locke, who had died that August. The G minor *Chacony* for strings is probably one of the pieces he wrote in his new position. We know little about the work, not even why Purcell called it a chacony rather than a chaconne, the common French title for a piece written over a repeating bass line, for Purcell's term – perhaps his own creation? – appears nowhere else in the literature.

Remembering Lennox through Michael

John Tavener

Michael Berkeley was director of the Cheltenham International Festival for 10 years. *Remembering Lennox through Michael* was commissioned as a farewell tribute to him as he retired from this role in 2004. It is a very brief contemplation of Sir Lennox Berkeley, calmly remembering him through his son Michael. It was whilst studying with Lennox Berkeley at the Royal Academy that John Tavener decided to give up the piano and concentrate entirely on composition and this beautiful meditation is a tribute to his former teacher.

From *Serenade Op 12: Vivace*

Lennox Berkeley

Of the many works Berkeley has written for orchestra, two stand out as being particularly popular, the *Divertimento* and *Serenade for Strings*, which was composed in 1939 and perfectly demonstrates Berkeley's love and understanding for string writing. The first movement, *Vivace*, has the sparkling elegance of Mozart and the driving force of a Bach Brandenburg Concerto, both composers whom Berkeley idolised.

Hampshire County Youth Percussion Ensemble (HYPE)

Trio per Uno - 1st movement

Nebojša Jovan Živković

Played by: Connor Lyster, Callum Clausen and Paul Lovegrove (HCYO percussion tutor)

Composer and percussionist Nebojša Jovan Živković is recognised as one of the world's top marimba and percussion soloists. His *Trio per Uno* requires a shared bass drum, bongos, and cymbals – a really exciting and demanding piece, which should really be viewed from above.

Hampshire County Youth String Orchestra

Conducted by Brian Lloyd Wilson

Brook Green Suite

Gustav Holst

- Prelude
- Air
- Dance

Holst wrote the *Brook Green Suite* for the St. Paul's Girls' School Junior Orchestra in 1933, twenty years after he had written the St. Paul's Suite. During 1933 he had to spend a good deal of his time in hospital. There were very few weeks when he was not too ill to go on composing and it was during this time that the Suite was finished. He was able to direct the dedicatees in their first informal try-through of the suite, in the school hall, in March 1934, two months before his death. The cheerful tune half-way through the last movement is one that he remembered hearing played in a puppet show when he was on holiday.

Interval

Hampshire County Youth Orchestra

Leader: Helena Mole

Symphony No 5

Dmitri Shostakovich

- Moderato
- Allegretto
- Largo
- Allegro non troppo

In the 1930s, the Soviet Union reeled under the purges of Joseph Stalin. Every person knew the terror of losing a family member to the gulag, or to a death sentence. Official government decrees defined truth and beauty. Traditional composers were declared decadent and their music forbidden. Only Beethoven survived the ban.

In this environment Dmitri Shostakovich, the greatest Soviet composer, found himself heavily scrutinized. Shostakovich was only 26 when he completed *Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District* (1934). The opera featured a racy plot set to avant-garde music and premiered to critical and popular acclaim. Two years later, three different productions were running in Moscow. Then Stalin himself went to a performance. The next morning the state newspaper, *Pravda*, condemned the work, saying it corrupted the Soviet spirit. The opera disappeared overnight and every publication and political organisation in the country heaped personal attacks on its composer.

Shostakovich lived in fear, sleeping in the stairwell outside his apartment to spare his family the experience of his imminent arrest. Unsure about its reception, Shostakovich rejected his own Fourth Symphony while in rehearsal. Instead he premiered Symphony No. 5, obsequiously subtitled "A Soviet Artist's Response to Just Criticism." As required, the work displayed lyricism, a heroic tone and inspiration from Russian literature. Still, many hear a subtext of critical despair beneath the crowd-pleasing melodies. Although a great success with the general public, Shostakovich was still viewed with suspicion by the Soviet regime. At the premiere the public filled the hall of the Leningrad Philharmonic to bursting and at the end demonstrated their enthusiasm for over half an hour. This was viewed with suspicion. Immediately, two high-up officials from the committee responsible for the arts were sent to Leningrad. They were present at the next performances with the specific brief of trying to find out if the organisers had hand picked their audience in order to fabricate such a success, or worse still, the public was using the 5th Symphony as an act of rebellion against the state. Approval by the Communist party took a long time. A special performance for party officials was arranged, to which newspaper critics were invited. With typical meddling, party officials insisted some Tchaikovsky had to be performed at the same event – the story goes that one of the most loved and read newspaper editors attended the performance. Shostakovich, too nervous to sit in the hall where his symphony was being performed, paced up and down the corridor during the performance. Suddenly, half way during the first half of the concert, the newspaper editor came out and embraced Shostakovich saying 'I always knew you were able to write such beautiful and melodic music', Shostakovich did not have the heart to tell him he had just been listening to Tchaikovsky!

Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 reflected his situation as an artist who would be judged by politics as much as by talent. Although some audiences heard condemnation of the government through inflections of despair, Stalin found the politics of the music acceptable and Shostakovich won a reprieve – at least for another decade.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 3 July 2016 – The Anvil, 6.00pm

The Friends of the Hampshire County Youth Orchestra 45th Anniversary Celebration

Hampshire County Youth Orchestra – Carl Clausen

Hampshire County Youth String Orchestra – Brian Lloyd Wilson

Programme to include:

- Arvo Pärt – *Cantus in Memoriam Benjamin Britten*
- Gustav Holst – *The Perfect Fool*
- Shostakovich – *Gallop*, from the Musical Comedy
- Scores from film and stage, including *West Side Story* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

Tickets: £12 and £8 including £1 booking fee, from the Anvil box office: 01256 844244

Saturday 9 July 2016 – Winchester Cathedral, 7.30pm

Winchester Festival – A performance of Benjamin Britten's community Opera, *Noye's Fludde*.

Hampshire County Youth String Orchestra – Carl Clausen and Brian Lloyd Wilson

Tickets available from the Winchester Festival box office: 01962 857276

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.org.uk

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