

# PETERSFIELD MUSICAL FESTIVAL

## NEWSLETTER 13: AUTUMN 2011



Welcome to the 2011–2012 Festival season. With the Olympic Games and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, 2012 promises to be a year of national celebration. Our 106<sup>th</sup> Festival shares this festive mood, featuring the Olympics in its Youth Concerts and the Diamond Jubilee in its closing choral concert. Verdi's *Requiem* and Saint-Saëns' 'Organ Symphony' provide majestic highlights on other evenings, whilst a spirit of entertainment pervades the work of our guests, Carlo Curley, Michael Mates and William Godfree. All looks set for a highly enjoyable year.

Philip Young – *Chairman*

### Programme for Festival Week 2012

#### Friday 9 March

AN EVENING OF CABARET

with Michael Mates and William Godfree

#### Saturday 10 March

VERDI: *REQUIEM*

Denmead, Fernhurst and Petersfield Choral Societies

Soloists: Claire Seaton, Elizabeth Curtis, Andrew Rees, Michael Bundy

Southern Pro Musica

Conductor: Paul Spicer

#### Monday 12 & Wednesday 14 March

YOUTH CONCERTS

Singers and instrumentalists from local schools and music organisations

#### Tuesday 13 March

LUNCHTIME CONCERT in St Peter's Church

The Harris String Quartet

#### Thursday 15 March

THE PETERSFIELD ORCHESTRA

Overture *Carnival*

Music from *Swan Lake*

Symphony No. 3 ('Organ Symphony')

Conductor: Robin Browning

Dvořák

Tchaikovsky

Saint-Saëns

#### Friday 16 March

'The Pavarotti of the organ'

CARLO CURLEY

#### Saturday 17 March

CHORAL CONCERT

Mass in D

Coronation Te Deum

My heart is inditing

The King shall rejoice

I was glad

Dvořák

Walton

Handel

Boyce

Parry

Alton, Denmead, Petersfield and Rogate Choral Societies      Petersfield Chamber Choir

Richard Pearce, organ      Brass and percussion ensemble of Southern Pro Musica

Conductors: Paul Spicer and Ann Pinhey

[www.petersfieldmusicalfestival.org.uk](http://www.petersfieldmusicalfestival.org.uk)

## **The 2012 Festival**

### **Workshop day on Verdi's *Requiem***

Our Festival year started again with an open workshop at Bedales on 1<sup>st</sup> October, this time featuring Verdi's *Requiem*. As we had hoped, this proved quite a draw, with about 150 singers gathering to enjoy a day under Paul Spicer's inspiring direction, greatly assisted by Richard Pearce's brilliant and sensitive accompanying. As well as giving regular Festival singers a substantial vocal work-out and a good overview of this glorious piece, it attracted a large number of singers from further afield. We hope this may lure more singers into our choirs and help us to sell tickets to our concerts. We certainly need to sell all the tickets, as—with four first-class soloists and a very large orchestra—the concert will cost double what it will raise from ticket sales and choir subscriptions, even with the full house that we are expecting.

### **Coronations through the ages**

There is no set form for the music of the coronation. The pieces in our tribute to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee—the second half of our closing concert—all originate in different coronation ceremonies. The Petersfield Chamber Choir will perform two from the eighteenth century, as well as joining the Festival chorus for the works by Parry and Walton. The choice of Handel, a foreigner, to compose new anthems for the coronation of George II in 1727 was controversial, and would hardly have been possible but for an interregnum in the post of Composer to the Chapel Royal. William Boyce, who had been appointed Master of the King's Musick in 1755, set some of the same texts as Handel, including *The King shall Rejoice*, for George III's coronation in 1760. Parry's *I was glad*, composed for Edward VII in 1902, has joined Handel's *Zadok the Priest* in appearing at every subsequent coronation. The Queen's coronation in 1953 included music written by no fewer than eight living composers—among them Petersfield resident Sir William Harris. Walton's *Te Deum* formed the musical culmination of the ceremony, followed only by Gordon Jacob's arrangement of the National Anthem, with trumpet fanfares that we shall be hearing at the 2012 Youth Concerts.

The first half of this choral concert will be in much gentler mode, with Dvořák's pastoral *Mass in D*. Written for the consecration of a country church, this is an intimate work well suited to the original organ accompaniment.

### **A three-day organfest**

Our celebrity recital this year is given by organist extraordinaire Carlo Curley—styled 'the world's favourite organist' and 'the Pavarotti of the organ'. With a larger-than-life personality, a store of anecdotes and illuminating comments on the music, and a virtuoso technique second to none, he plays everything from Bach to folksong arrangements—even including the 'Liebestod' from *Tristan und Isolde*.

### **Saint-Saëns 'Organ Symphony'**

Carlo only plays a top-of-the-range Allen organ, and while it is here we shall put it to good use. Not only will Richard Pearce play it to accompany the final concert, but it will feature in the Petersfield Orchestra's concert, when Robin Browning will conduct Saint-Saëns' 'Organ Symphony'. How little did we ever expect to hear this splendid work in the Festival Hall!

### **From Parliament to nightclub**

Michael Mates and William Godfree have been entertaining audiences and raising money for charity for many years with their Flanders and Swann performance—heard at the Festival in 2006. Since Michael's retirement from the House of Commons they have been more active than ever, and return this year with a new programme of cabaret songs which are sure to be delivered with their typical panache.

### **Lunchtime at St Peter's**

Following last year's successful inaugural lunchtime concert, given by award-holders from the Michael Hurd Memorial Fund, this year's lunchtime recital will again feature talented young musicians with a local connection. The Harris Quartet is a group of young string players who met at Cambridge University and are led by ex-Churcher's College student Nicola Olle. Their programme will take us beyond the normal fare of the classical string quartet, to include some of the lighter arrangements which they often play at corporate receptions and weddings.

## Michael Hurd Memorial Fund

The Michael Hurd Memorial Fund continues to widen its scope, in support of young musicians in the Petersfield area. The 2011 Festival saw the first lunchtime recital by young musicians who had received awards from the fund. Just a few weeks ago, thanks to a generous donation to the fund in memory of the late Betty Sayer, pupils from four local schools—Steep, Harting, Herne and The Petersfield School—took part in lively singing workshops led by the inspirational vocal coach Kate Woolveridge.



Kate Woolveridge in action with pupils at Steep Primary School

The fund has made one individual award this year, to help a young flautist buy a new instrument, and has launched a second 'Festival of Young Composers', leading to a performance day next February at the Studio @ TPS and an opportunity to hear the winning compositions at the 2012 Youth Concerts.

Details of how to apply for an individual award or enter for the Festival of Young Composers can be downloaded from the Festival website, [www.petersfieldmusicalfestival.org.uk](http://www.petersfieldmusicalfestival.org.uk)

## Festival accompanist

After playing for several hundred combined choral rehearsals, in preparation for more than 20 Festivals, David Groves has decided to retire from the post. We are very grateful indeed to David for all his work over the years. Mark Dancer has kindly agreed to take David's place for the 2011-12 season, except on Fridays, when he is busy at St Peter's Church and Richard Pearce will accompany the rehearsal.

## Festival stall at the Christmas market

Sue Upton is again running a bric a brac stall on 10<sup>th</sup> December for Festival funds, and would appreciate any contributions of good quality saleable items that members might be able to make. Please bring them to the combined rehearsal on 12<sup>th</sup> November, or telephone her on 01730 302492. We are very grateful to Sue for the time and energy she puts into these events.

## Combined rehearsals

Although singers in our participating choirs are learning the music week by week, the combined rehearsals are, equally, an essential part of the preparation of the concerts, and all are expected to attend. A register is taken for all rehearsals. Please make sure you are signed in. If you cannot attend a combined rehearsal please let Sally Maybury, the Choir Secretary know – preferably in advance – either directly or through your choir representative. Anyone who misses two consecutive combined rehearsals for a concert without explanation may be ineligible to sing in the performance. Any singers who have particular personal difficulties about attending combined rehearsals should discuss this with Sally.

Combined rehearsal dates for 2011-12 are as follows:

<b>Verdi</b>		<b>Dvorak/Walton/Parry</b>	
<i>At Petersfield Methodist Church, Station Road</i>			
Saturday 12 Nov	10.30 am–12.30 pm	<i>Saturday 12 Nov</i>	<i>2.00–4.00 pm</i>
Friday 20 Jan	7.30–9.30 pm	<i>Saturday 21 Jan</i>	<i>10.30 am–12.30 pm</i>
Thursday 2 Feb	7.30–9.30 pm	<i>Friday 10 Feb</i>	<i>7.30–9.30 pm</i>
Saturday 25 Feb	2.00–4.00 pm	<i>Saturday 25 Feb</i>	<i>10.30 am–12.30 pm</i>
<i>At Petersfield Festival Hall</i>			
Thursday 8 March	<u>7.00</u> –9.30 pm	<i>Tuesday 13 March</i>	<u>7.00</u> –9.30 pm
Saturday 10 March	2.00 pm	<i>Saturday 17 March</i>	<i>2.00 pm</i>

## Friends of the Festival

Could you recruit a new Friend of the Festival? Friends make a huge contribution to the stability and viability of the Festival through their regular financial support, which can be enhanced by Gift Aid. Depending on the level of their subscription, Friends enjoy a number of benefits to supplement the warm glow of benevolence, including free concert seats or relief from the choir subscription. All Friends are entitled to priority booking and can attend and vote at the AGM. As we all know, personal contact is the biggest spur to action, so do work on your friends to become Friends—or give them a year's subscription for Christmas!

Further details and membership forms can be obtained from the Friends' Secretary, Nancy Buck ([nancy.buck@btinternet.com](mailto:nancy.buck@btinternet.com) Tel. 01420 85994).

## Committee and helpers—could this be your moment?

If you enjoy the Festival, please remember—no one is paid to run it! We are proud to report annually to the Charities Commission: “All the Festival events are organised by volunteers, led by the voluntary committee, who undertake the artistic planning, financial control, engagement of professional musicians, co-ordination of rehearsals, advertising and publicity, ticket sales and the supervision of the stage and auditorium throughout the week.” The next 12 months will see some changes in committee responsibilities for hall and front of house management, and we are also currently looking for volunteers for fund-raising and publicity distribution. There has never been a better time to take the plunge. If you feel nervous about coming forward as an individual, why not find a friend and volunteer together?

## Festival Annual General Meeting

The Festival AGM was held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September at St Laurence's Church Hall and was attended by a total of 26 people, of whom 14 were committee members. We hope more will come next year!

The Treasurer reported a net loss of £1587 for the year, largely accounted for by the Youth Concerts commission of *South Downs Way* by Jonathan Willcocks. However, the Festival continues to hold reserves roughly equivalent to the cost of one year's concerts. The Arts Council had supported the commission, but local authority funding had fallen. It would be necessary to repeat this year's sell-out, to offset the very low interest rates and the likely further drop in external funding.

The Chairman paid tribute to Beryl Jones, whose distinguished contribution to Petersfield's music had been recorded in this year's programme. Commenting on the success of the concerts, ranging from the *Sea Symphony*, the *Mass in B minor* and Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* to the Petersfield Theatre Group's evening of musical theatre and the London Community Gospel Choir, complete with audience participation, he said the 2011 sell-out showed that the programme was right for the town, and – since our performers are also our most important ambassadors – that our participants had clearly enjoyed what they were doing.

The Chairman thanked the committee warmly for their work during the year. All the existing trustees were re-elected, and Marcia Fielden was newly elected to the committee and as a trustee. Trustees of the Festival and their responsibilities are:

Chairman & Director of Music	Philip Young ( <a href="mailto:philip._young@virgin.net">philip._young@virgin.net</a> Tel. 01730 263539)
Secretary	Laurie Redstone ( <a href="mailto:laurie.redstone@ntlworld.com">laurie.redstone@ntlworld.com</a> Tel. 01730 260952)
Treasurer & website	Alastair Stewart ( <a href="mailto:alsterw@gmail.com">alsterw@gmail.com</a> Tel. 01730 263869)
Choir secretary	Sally Maybury ( <a href="mailto:cmaybury@btinternet.com">cmaybury@btinternet.com</a> Tel. 01730 821541)
Vice-chairman & Hall manager	Ken Burrage ( <a href="mailto:kpburr@psfd.fsnet.co.uk">kpburr@psfd.fsnet.co.uk</a> Tel. 01730 264343)
Friends' secretary	Nancy Buck ( <a href="mailto:nancy.buck@btinternet.com">nancy.buck@btinternet.com</a> Tel. 01420 85994)
Press officer	Marcia Fielden
Front of house manager	Ruth Firth
Soloists' manager	Elizabeth Gotto
Box office manager	Roger Vincent
Michael Hurd Memorial Fund	Wendy Wilshin
Assistant hall manager	Richard Woodhams

**Festival website: [www.petersfieldmusicalfestival.org.uk](http://www.petersfieldmusicalfestival.org.uk)**

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