

JUNE 2008

WORDS from Chairman Bob

It is hard to believe that it is Summer again as we prepare for the finale at the end of the 2007/08 season. I am looking forward to our concert at the **Cadogan Hall on 20th July**. It is a very special venue and should prove to be a fitting end to the year and, I hope, a rousing send-off to our leavers.

Now this is where I need your help! The Cadogan is a large hall, seating about double our usual audience. I have taken a gamble booking such a place, but I am confident we can fill it and support our players as they attempt to bring the house down. **Tickets** will be on sale at the end of June, both at rehearsals and available directly from the Cadogan via www.cadoganhall.com. We will be offering special deals to encourage you to buy more tickets than usual, so please invite all your family, friends, neighbours, colleagues.

I would like to thank members of the **SYO Committee** and all the many other **parents who help** at concerts, bake cakes and chaperone, without whom the orchestra would not run and my job would be impossible. Alex Rhodes and Stephen Peppiatt have stood down from the committee following their sons' departure, so I would like to thank them for their assistance over the last two years. I would also like to welcome Elena Woods and Marina Hardwick as new members of the committee.

So, what does the future hold? We have a **fabulous tour to Tuscany** lined up - more about that later in the Newsletter. A new Associate Conductor, **Lindsay Ryan**, will start in September and share the Main Orchestra workload with Adrian. We will profile her in the next edition of the Newsletter. **Our concerts next year** will be on 7th December at St Paul's, 29th March at LSO St Luke's

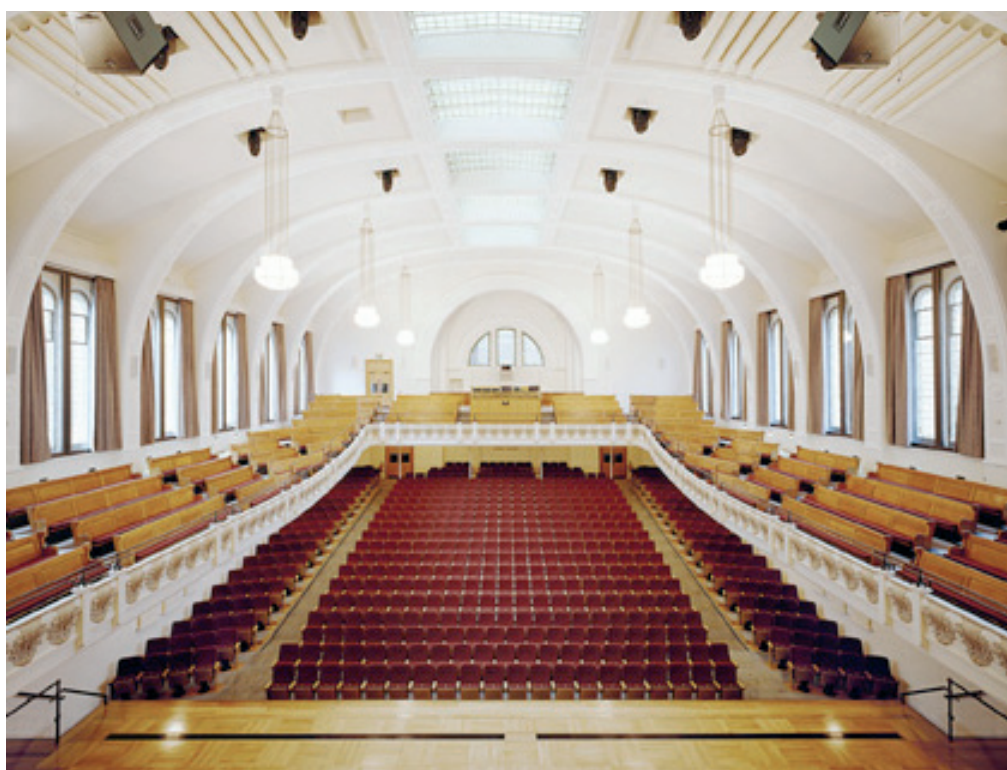
in the City and 12th July at a venue to be confirmed, but rest assured, I am looking for somewhere with a difference!! The **new website** is getting very close to launch - I admit it has taken rather a long time but I hope the wait will be worth it.

Fundraising - sadly this is a fact of life as orchestras do not come cheap. We have a few new ideas to raise money:

log on to www.easyfundraising.org.uk - see elsewhere in the newsletter **busking** - we will arrange a busking afternoon in September, so please look out for the details and sign up if you fancy playing in the town centre **wine tasting** - there will be an evening arranged in September at Laithwaite's in Surbiton for parents and their friends (over 18's only, sorry).

Finally, **auditions for new members** will be held the first week in September. So if you know anyone who is interested and would like to audition, please let me know. Don't forget, we are still offering a £50 (MO) / £30 (TO) reduction of your subscription if you introduce a new player who joins and stays

for 3 terms. We are also looking at offering scholarships/sponsorships for our **missing instruments**, namely trombones and tubas.



Letter from Adrian

I start with the last concert; it was Fantastic. Was there ever a more appropriate name for a piece of music? The acoustics of the Hall suited both orchestras very well and although the sightlines were poor I liked the venue greatly. Rebecca Carey and the Main Orchestra rose to the occasion in the Nielsen concerto, a difficult work at the best of times. The TO played their items magnificently - they were an honour and a privilege to conduct. Thanks to Dan for being there in so many guises, as conductor and assistant; and thanks to the many parent helpers and to Alex for his help fixing extras.

And so we move on. This year **re-auditions** are taking place before we break for the summer. The MO will be asked to play any part of their contribution to Tchaikovsky 5th and the TO a part of the Andante from Beethoven 7. Horns, Trumpets and Trombones will be asked to play another short piece of their choice as the notes in their parts are often more infrequent!! For me the re-auditions are important as I can hear our players concentrate on their orchestral work. Many a star instrumentalist has not always developed the skills needed in an orchestra. In my experience if we have to re-seat players, this is the fairest way of creating a 'level playing-field'. It is also great to hear how youngsters have developed. In previous years, music parts had been collected in, but this year all will be in current use. Many of you share your music, inevitable for strings. However, please make sure you have the relevant copy (photocopied for private use if necessary) to bring into the audition with you, complete with your marks and fingerings; TO particularly should ask Dan for advice. Members who joined in May will not be re-auditioned! Once is enough!



Moving on to our concert in **Cadogan Hall**. I feel I am very lucky to be doing a concert there! We have lost a few key players so, please, we need all the support in rehearsal and attendance we can get. It is a fabulous programme and in Vicky Rule we already know we have a stunning soloist.

We are in the final stages of arranging next year and the major change to Stoneleigh life! And mine! **Lindsay Ryan**, a young Australian, will be joining the music team as associate conductor. She is a pupil of mine, a person of great determination, talent and someone who I know will carry on with the loyalty and musicianship needed to work with you. In the first term she will conduct the main Symphony, the Mendelssohn 'Scottish', and she has many far-reaching ideas for March in St Luke's LSO, perhaps delving into the world of Film Music. This will



also be more inclusive for the TO in our performance. Under yours truly we will work at Vaughan Williams 'London Symphony'. We begin a new era; I am sure you will make Lindsay welcome.

So much we get from Stoneleigh, but the orchestras are only as good as the sum of their parts! So go on the look-out for new members, *now!!* We will hold auditions in the first weeks of September. Let's value SYO as much as we can!



Kate Rudin 1949-2008

I first remember Kate on the fringes of the Committee of SYO in the late nineties. Her kindness was much appreciated in difficult times for me, and it was during this period of crisis for Stoneleigh that suddenly this lady, who was moving back to Exeter, became the orchestra's chair.

Such an arrangement made communication difficult but the two of us bore the problems with fortitude. We needed to; in that first year SYO was threatened on all fronts and her knowledge of employment law, administration and nursing all played a part in keeping this youth orchestra afloat.

Kate was born in Devon, devotedly so. She had worked in many branches of life, many in service, particularly on a cancer ward. From two previous marriages she had at last found deep and admiring happiness with Claudius, her Swiss husband, who often joined us with medical and language expertise on tour. It was fate that his appointment in medicine led him and Kate back to Exeter. Her daughters (and granddaughters), one now nearby, the other, Angharad, a one-time valued SYO violinist, proudly at Oxford, were with her right to the end.

Having, with difficulty and determination, left home at an early age, she was coloured as a fighter. She was determined to work for SYO and to make sure through thick and thin that my music-making could continue. She did not 'take prisoners' and at times, with many calls and emails, it was personally very difficult. But she got things done, she really did believe! Her bravery showed in her fight with cancer. For that belief I am very grateful and desperately sad that she is no longer in this world.

To see her face of joy after a concert, especially on tour, was never to be forgotten. She loved the music. The rows will pale; it was not easy, but to have been asked in a last phone call, with great generosity on her part, to speak at her funeral, was an immense honour. For someone still as young as her it seems cruel, but with her strength I am sure her spirit will carry on. She once said to me that my work was a 'rehearsal' for a big orchestra in the 'blue yonder' of her email address!

One main contribution from her to SYO was the founding of the Training Orchestra; her face listening to such young musicians was ecstatic! We will name the TO award after her as a lasting reminder of a strong lady of passion who saved Stoneleigh.

Adrian Brown

TO NEWS

Very many congratulations to our Training Orchestra, who performed exceptionally well at our concert in Hammersmith. Now numbering 41 players in total, the TO is fast approaching the size of the Main Orchestra, and has 11 new players since January. The TO is currently represented on the Stoneleigh Committee by Hannah Merchant

(cello) and Benjamin Smith (flute), so if you have an idea for the Orchestra, please do discuss it with them. Under Dan's expert guidance, and Daichi's leadership, we look forward to another exciting performance at the prestigious Cadogan Hall in July.

Beverley Smith

Friends of SYO

We are always on the look-out for new Friends of the Orchestra, who get special ticket offers, a copy of all the newsletters, and that warm glow of supporting a really worthwhile organisation. For more information, contact Richard Braithwaite on richard_braithwaite@yahoo.com.

'Easy' Guide to easyfundraising.org.uk

If you haven't yet registered with this website, please do. It is really simple, and free.

Go to easyfundraising.org.uk (please note **org.uk**, not **co.uk**, which is a different site), and 'register as a user'. Under 'charity', search for 'Stoneleigh Youth Orchestra' and choose it. Then complete the registration form with your e-mail address and chosen password. That is all you need to do. Then each time you are thinking of buying online, remember to log in through this site.

You should find virtually every site you need here - they have an agreement with over 500 brand name retailers (e.g. Boden, John

Lewis, British Airways, RAC), and you pay exactly the same price as if you had visited the retailer's site direct. You can search for the retailers of your choice, and keep them as favourites. Each purchase generates a cashback donation to SYO, e.g. spending with WH Smith = 3.5% donation to SYO, Amazon = 2.5%, car insurance with Direct Line = £30 donation.

Please try it - my purchases have already raised over £7, and if we all had a go, it would add significantly to SYO funds. So next time you are thinking of buying anything online, please go through easyfundraising.org.uk

Beverley Smith

Tuscan Tour

In just a few weeks many of us will be setting off on the Stoneleigh coach for our annual tour. Our destination is the Tuscan spa town of Montecatini. (Key info number 1: yes, the hotel has a pool.) Many will want to take a ride up the funicular for great views over the Tuscan hills. One of our three concerts is in town - at the thermal baths.

Our other concert venues are in Florence itself, at the deconsecrated San Stefano church, which regularly used for concerts, while the third concert will be in the beautiful 150-year-old Signorelli Theatre in Cortona. (Key info number 2: yes, we will have a lie-in the morning after concerts.) On our free day we will be visiting Lucca, famous as a beautiful Roman walled town - people still live in houses built into the wall. (Key info number 3: yes, there will be a beach trip - with a musical twist...)

Roll on 24 July, and here's to a relaxed and pleasant time for all!



Joiners and Leavers

A warm welcome to all our new members who have joined since Christmas.

TRAINING ORCHESTRA

So-Young Choi, Rachel Hunt, Isobel Miles, Joshua Neil-Boss and Ophelie Podbielski Stewart (violin), Anna Semple (viola), Neil Baker (cello), Julia Heasman (flute), Emma Fredanus van Gelder (clarinet), Nisha Baker (trumpet) and Rebecca Swanson (trombone).

MAIN ORCHESTRA

Hugh Impey, Emily Jelly, Sara Merchant (violin), Jonathan Cheetham (cello), Ella Cain (clarinet), Zoe Mackenzie (trumpet), Joshua Powell (flute).

It is so good to see that the word is spreading about SYO as we are beginning to reach our targets. There are now 40 members of the Training Orchestra, with the number of missing instruments reduced to just double bass, oboe, horn and (naturally) tuba.

It is sad to say goodbye to any of our members, but we will be hit particularly hard at the end of 2008 with so many A-Level students going off to univer-

sity. Emily Benn, Vicky Rule, Hannah Turnbull, Amy Heggart, Alex Main-Ian, Tammy Sadrudin, Alanna Stewart, Lauren Braithwaite, Andrew Williams, Stephen Lock, Katherine Hartley, Emma Newman, Cathy Rice, Patrick Rutland, Matt Garty and Matt Hitchings - we will miss you and wish you the very best of luck for your futures. Other leavers during the last two terms are: Nick Rhodes, Harry Crossman, Alastair Melrose, Josh Donaldson-Colls, Henry Braime, Alexander Hardwick, Angela Sheard, Harris and Clara Knowles, Holly Smith, Jonny Peppiatt and Dionne Lawlor.

KEY DATES

All dates are Sundays except where stated

29 June Re-auditions

6 July Re-auditions

13 July Re-auditions – make sure you remember the time you have signed up for, and bring your music (see Adrian's letter)!

13 July Compulsory rehearsal – it is especially important that you make this day free for Stoneleigh

20 July Cadogan Hall concert – more details to follow

Thursday 24 July–Friday 1 August – Tuscan Tour – more details to follow

8 & 10 Sept Auditions for potential players

14 Sept–14 Dec Autumn term (half-term 26 Oct)

7 Dec Concert at St Paul's Wimbledon (7 pm)

14 Dec Party

4 Jan–29 March Spring term (half-term 15 Feb)

29 March Concert at LSO St Luke's

19 April–12 July Summer term (half-term 24 & 31 May)

12 July Concert

Players' Reps

Emily Benn, Holly Hutchinson, Alex Main-Ian, Sophie Reid, Jamie Smith – tell them of anything you would like raised at Committee meetings. We'll be holding elections for new reps in the autumn.

Committee

Bob Ogilvie **CHAIR**

Nick Lock **TREASURER**

Irina Hoble-Aldersley **SECRETARY/WEBSITE CO-ORDINATOR**

Kerry Reid **DATABASE**

Beverley Smith **MEMBERSHIP**

Marina Hardwick **TO REGISTER**

Clare Wright **PUBLICITY/MARKETING**

Bill Main-Ian **FUNDRAISING**

Robert O'Dowd **SPONSORSHIP/CD LICENSING**

Richard Braithwaite **FRIENDS CO-ORDINATOR**

Elizabeth Hutchinson **TOUR ORGANISER**

Elena Woods **WARDROBE, MEDICAL ADVISOR**

Sarah Herrick **MO REGISTER/NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Caroline Scollick

Non-Committee

Debra Levy **CHAPERONE CO-ORDINATOR**

Anne Morris **CHILD PROTECTION**

Jenny Bishop, Lucinda Hitchings, Lizzie Hosker **LIBRARIANS**

Contact details

If you aren't able to attend a rehearsal please let Sarah Herrick (MO) or Marina Hardwick (TO) know as soon as you can, particular for a school clash that you know about well in advance. If you are ill on the day, email or phone by 11 o'clock – otherwise it is difficult to let the conductor and register-taker know not to expect you.

Sarah: 020 8546 8966 or sarah@christopherherrick.org

Marina: 020 8946 5096 or marina.hardwick@credit-suisse.com

And make sure you get your music to the rehearsal even if you can't be present!