



ESSEX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Conductor: Tom Hammond

ESSEX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Members' Circular 2018 / 2019

A very warm welcome to the new ESO season. We start on Monday 10th September at St John Payne School with the first rehearsal for the autumn concert. There will be a lot happening this season both musically, as we prepare the excellent programmes for the season's concerts and non-musically, in particular matters arising from this being our last season with Tom Hammond conducting. The Committee will try do their best to keep everyone informed about the progress in finding Tom's replacement but please don't hesitate to ask if you have any concerns.

Concerts this season

For this season Tom was asked if he would like to propose the concert programmes. His top preference was to have another concert in Chelmsford Cathedral so our spring concert will be the highlight of the season. Not only will we be in the Cathedral but we will also have the well known clarinet soloist and former BBC Young Musician of the Year, Emma Johnson.

Here are the agreed concert programmes.

AUTUMN in Christ Church	24th November 2018
Matthew Taylor	Storr
Dvorak	Cello Concerto <i>Soloist</i> : Kristiana Ignatjeva (ex Munster Trust recital scheme)
Beethoven	Symphony No. 5

SPRING in Chelmsford Cathedral	2nd March 2019
Schubert	Symphony No. 8 'Unfinished'
James Francis Brown	Lost Lanes, Shadow Groves <i>Soloist</i> : Emma Johnson
Sibelius	Two pieces from Kuolema Scene with Cranes and Valse Triste
Sibelius	Symphony No. 7

SUMMER in Christ Church	29th June 2019
Glinka	Overture Ruslan and Lyudmila
Lalo	Symphonie Espagnole <i>Soloist</i> : Philippa Barton
Tchaikovsky	Symphony No. 2 'Little Russian'

The last few rehearsals for the Spring concert are awkward, as Emma Johnson is coming for a rehearsal on 25th ie the last Monday before the concert. All her work is with strings only. As half term is 18th, if we don't meet then, the wind brass won't rehearse from 11th February to 2nd March, concert day. So we plan to have a rehearsal on 18th – wind and brass particularly let Stuart/Hilary/me know if this is difficult.

Conductor Succession

Advertising for a new conductor will start later this month. Fiona will be leading a sub-committee to manage the application and appointment process. The process will culminate with three candidates taking audition rehearsals on the Mondays following the AGM with the opportunity for the orchestra members to show their preference.

Outreach Activity

It will not be possible to have the same type of children's concert as last season as we will not have spare Monday rehearsals after the spring concert. Our outreach sub-committee is proposing an event for children to rehearse and perform alongside orchestra members. The event is planned for Sunday 24th March and will be in two parts. In the morning younger children, who are beginners as far as playing with others is concerned, would rehearse and perform very simple music from the classical repertoire. In the afternoon older or more experienced children would rehearse and perform, for example the slow movement from Beethoven Symphony No. 1. Parents and family will be encouraged to attend. The proposal is currently being refined for an application to M&G for funding.



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Last season

It has been good to have maintained the larger number of string players. The larger sections are encouraging for both the individual sections and the whole orchestra. However we must all play our part in the teams to get the best out of the whole orchestra. Please talk to your leaders as well as listening to them. Of course this means that section leaders must listen as well as getting the members playing the right notes/bowing/tempo etc.

It was a huge disappointment that the spring concert had to be cancelled because of the weather conditions; we will try to get the music for this concert into another concert in the near future. Our two remaining concerts were a great success, in particular the summer concert of music from the movies. Having the Children's Concert on the previous Monday and starting the Saturday concert earlier all contributed to its success and you sold it so well to your friends and contacts. The autumn concert was a programme of many people's favourites with a superb soloist.

Members volunteering to help with running the orchestra

Once again thanks to so many of you for getting involved. Attendance at the AGM shows how committed members are. We still need more help with organising interval refreshments as I described in the circular sent to all members following the last Committee meeting. I know of another orchestra that has a rota with each section of the orchestra responsible for overseeing the interval refreshments. We may need to do something similar unless we have more volunteers.

Friends' evening

We are going to have another evening when we invite our Friends to an open rehearsal so that they can be involved in the process of rehearsing for our concerts, meet members and feel involved in the Orchestra. This will be on October 1st. We are suggesting linking it to a MacMillan "coffee morning" where cake is made, brought, consumed in questionable quantities and the remainder sold to raise money for MacMillan Cancer Care. This was well supported last year.

Reminders

Please remember to pay Ian Palotai, our Treasurer, the £120 subscription at the beginning of the season and if possible before the end of September. Ian will supply information for those who wish to pay by bank transfer or to pay in four instalments by standing order.

Please let Hilary know about any changes to your contact details.

Please learn your parts at the start of the rehearsals for a particular concert. It is much more enjoyable for everyone if you come prepared.

Finally

I look forward to seeing you on 10th September. To achieve concerts of the highest standard and to encourage our audience members to return for more, please try to attend most rehearsals. The rehearsal schedule will be on the website as soon as it is finalised. Please let your section leader or a committee member know (well in advance if possible) if you are unable to get to a rehearsal, as rehearsal planning is so much easier when we know who will be attending.

With best wishes for an enjoyable season

Roger
Chairman

Who's who on the Committee

Roger Strange Chairman and programme content
Hilary Cheek Secretary and strings contact
Ian Palotai Treasurer
Fiona Palmer Vice Chairman and librarian

Margaret Shears
Stuart Pinborough
Karen Greenhouse
Haydn Oakey

Friends' secretary
Wind and brass contact
Publicity and social media
Website