



April 2024

ISLE OF MAN *Symphony* ORCHESTRA

NEWSLETTER

www.iomso.im



Easter Holidays!

Greetings to all Members and Friends. I hope you're enjoying the Easter break, with the occasional burst of sunshine. After the break we'll be working on the repertoire for our Summer Concert on Saturday, 13th July at QEII High School, under the direction of Nigel Harrison. Performing with us will be soprano Debbie Gooding and trumpet Clara Falkowska, so some variety there! Read on for more details.

A Note from Nigel

I am very mindful of the honour of being able to conduct our wonderful orchestra again. Bringing seldom heard repertoire to audiences has always been my driver, so I am very much looking forward to welcoming Debbie Gooding, fresh from her successful debut with the IOM Choral Society and IOM Symphony Orchestra in the Brahms Requiem, who is joining us to sing Sir Hamilton Harty's beautiful *Ode to a Nightingale*. This lovely orchestral writing, reminiscent of a fusion of Elgar and Wagner, breathes life into John Keats' poem. It has been very seldom heard since it appeared in the Last Night of the Proms in 1907, although Ealing Symphony Orchestra programmed it in 2019. The programme of Hamilton Harty, plus Hummel's Trumpet concerto with Clara Falkowska, and Brahms 1st Symphony will, I'm sure, provide interest and challenge for us all. I think the audience will be in for a real treat.

Nigel



Homestay?

Looking ahead to next year, we are planning a return visit of Slaithwaite Philharmonic, who came over in 2014 and performed with us in the Villa. It would be really good if any Members or Friends were able to host members of SPO for 2 nights - 16th and 17th May 2025. This would help to reduce the accommodation costs for their visit. If you have a spare bedroom or two and would be willing to help, please let us know.

Concert Dates for your Diaries.

Saturday 13th July : Summer Concert
(Conductor Nigel Harrison)

QEII High School : 7.30pm

Sunday 24th November : Gala Concert
(Conductor Maurice Powell)

Villa Marina : 2.30pm

Sunday 6th April 2025: Concert with IOMCS
Villa Marina : 3pm

Saturday 17th May 2025: Concert with Slaithwaite Philharmonic
Villa Marina : 7.30pm (t.b.c)

(Rehearsal schedule p.2)



Rehearsal Schedule 2024

***April 10th : NO REHEARSAL ***

April 17th & 24th : St. Johns : 7.30

May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd : St. Johns : 7.30

***May 29th & June 5th : NO REHEARSAL ***

June 12th, 19th, 26th : St. Johns : 7.30

July 3rd, 10th : St. Johns : 7.30

July 12th (Friday) : QEII : 7.30

July 13th (CONCERT) : QEII : 7.30

**** SUMMER HOLIDAYS ****

Sept 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th : St. Johns : 7.30

Oct 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd : St. Johns : 7.30

*** October 30th : NO REHEARSAL ***

Nov 6th, 13th, 20th : St. Johns : 7.30

Nov 23rd (Sat) : St. Andrew's (t.b.c) : 2.30

Nov 24th (Sunday) : Villa Marina:

10am Rehearsal : 2.30 CONCERT



A Message from Mandy

Thank you so much for your involvement in the IOMCS concert. We are so lucky as a choral society to be able to perform with a symphony orchestra. I know more and more societies in the UK are unable to sustain performances with an orchestra and we are fortunate indeed that we still can. We are really grateful for the time and effort you gave to rehearsals and to the concert, especially coming so close to your own concert.

On a personal note, thank you for making it so easy for me to concentrate on the choir - I'm very aware that I don't stand in front of an orchestra often enough to really gain any sort of competence at the job, so I am grateful to your combined skill and musicianship that I can just pretty much let you get on with it and focus on the choir. I've known most of you for many years, and I am in awe of the experience and knowledge you bring, and the way that with minimal rehearsal time, things sound really good.

Mandy

Summer Concert, QEII High School, Saturday 13th July, 7.30pm

ISLE OF MAN
Symphony
ORCHESTRA
Patron : Charles Guard MBE

Summer Concert 2024
QEII High School, Peel
Saturday 13th July : 7.30pm

Hamilton Harty : Ode to a Nightingale
Soloist : Debbie Gooding

Hummel : Trumpet Concerto
Soloist : Clara Falkowska

Brahms : Symphony no.1

Conductor : Nigel Harrison
Leader : Juliet Tranter

Tickets : Adult : £15
Child/Student : £5
Email : jw-iomso@wm.im
Tickets also available from
Bridge Bookshops in Ramsey &
Port Erin, Celtic Gold in Peel, and
Morrison Photos, Bucks Road,
Douglas

For more information see
www.iomso.im or
fb.com/iomso

The Isle of Man Symphony Orchestra is a Manx registered charity no: 970

Rehearsals are just starting for our Summer Concert on Saturday 13th July, in QEII High School, Peel at 7.30pm, conducted by Nigel Harrison. Never one to shy away from a challenge, Nigel has chosen an unfamiliar work to start the concert. It will be a new experience to work on Hamilton Harty's 'Ode to a Nightingale' with soloist Debbie Gooding, winner of the coveted Cleveland Medal in last year's Manx Music Festival.

Hummel's Trumpet Concerto was played by Manx Sinfonia many years ago, when Bernard Osborne was conducting. I look forward to revisiting this lovely piece, with soloist Clara Falkowska.

Brahms' 1st Symphony will be more familiar to both players and audience. It's a wonderfully dramatic piece with some splendid tunes. Challenging for the orchestra, but well worth the effort. I'm sure the audience will enjoy this exciting work.

Tickets are not yet on sale. Look out for further announcements on Facebook in a few weeks time.

Spring Concert, Saturday 9th March, St. Ninian's Church



Choral Concert, Sunday 24th March, Villa Marina



*A selection of
photos taken by
Frank
Warburton*



