



ISLE OF MAN *Symphony* ORCHESTRA



NEWSLETTER

February 2025

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The New Year ages quickly - it's February already!

Greetings to all Members and Friends. With Graham in charge, rehearsals are well under way for our joint concert with Slaithwaite Phil in May. Plenty of challenges for all sections of the orchestra! We'll shortly be starting rehearsals for the concert with IOM Choral Society in April, so no chance of getting bored. Read on for more details.

A Greeting from Graham

First of all, a warm welcome to those who have become members of the orchestra over the past few weeks. I hope you have a long and rewarding association with us. You join us as we prepare for what is probably the most ambitious programme for many years.

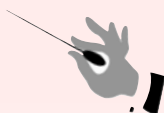
Usually we wouldn't consider the inclusion of a Mahler symphony in our concerts, partly due to the large musical resources needed for a performance, but the visit of Slaithwaite Philharmonic Orchestra makes it all possible.

Mahler's First Symphony is a remarkable piece of music, full of challenges but a wonderful expression of late Romanticism. Rehearsals are going really well. We have the time to make it a memorable performance. Equally, we've made an excellent start with the Mussorgsky, Chabrier and Haydn Wood pieces.

Later this month we'll start work on the final piece of the programme, Britten's Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra. Some of you will remember this from school days, but it has something for everyone to enjoy. It has charm, wit and innovation in abundance. We're delighted that our patron, Charles Guard will devise and deliver a new narration.

Exciting times, and I'm looking forward to working with all of you in the weeks ahead.

Graham



Welcome!

We're delighted to welcome quite a few new members into IOMSO this season.

The violins have been boosted by the return of Macy Tyrer and the arrival of John Mann, Eva Griffiths and Angela Dixon, and Hilary Gale has joined the violas.

Meanwhile we now have a new oboist, Nathaniel Bentley-Garcia. (Andrew Cole is still not fully recovered, so isn't back with us yet. We miss you Andrew!)

It's great to have an influx of new players. Let's hope you enjoy the experience and stay with us!

Concert Dates for your Diaries.

Saturday 15th Feb 2025: Ramsey Choral Concert : St.Paul's Church, Ramsey : 7pm

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

Saturday 17th May : Concert with Slaithwaite Philharmonic : Villa Marina : 7.30pm

Saturday 19th July : Summer Concert : Peel Cathedral : 7.30pm

(Rehearsal schedule p.2)



Rehearsal Schedule 2025

Feb 12th : St. Johns : 7.30

*** February 19th : NO REHEARSAL ***

Feb 26th : Wind & Percussion: St. Johns : 7.30
Strings : St. Andrews : 7.30

Mar 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th : St. Johns : 7.30

Choral Concert Rehearsals

Saturday 22nd February : Bemahague : 2.30

Wednesday 12th March : St. Johns : 7.30

Sunday 16th March : Bemahague : 2.30

Thursday 3rd April : Bemahague : 7.30

Saturday 5th April : Villa Marina : 2.30

Sunday 6th April : Villa Marina : Concert 3pm

*** April 9th & 16th : NO REHEARSAL ***

April 23rd & 30th : St. Johns : 7.30

May 7th & 14th : St. Johns : 7.30

Friday 16th May : Villa Marina : 7pm

Sat 17th May: Villa Marina: 2pm

CONCERT : Villa Marina : 7.30

May 21st : St. Johns : 7.30

*** May 28th & June 4th : NO REHEARSAL ***

Ramsey Choral Concert

Ramsey Choral's main concert is on Saturday 15th February at 7pm in St. Paul's Church, Ramsey, directed by Nigel Harrison, with some members of IOMSO. The chosen music is most enjoyable - choral pieces by Elgar, Brahms and Larsson, plus a movement of Mozart's Flute and harp concerto, with soloists Amoré du Plessis (flute) and Georgina Graham (harp).



Do come along and listen. (Wrap up warm - the heating is not terribly efficient!) You can pay at the door (only £12).

The post-concert refreshments are always rather delicious too!

Concert with Isle of Man Choral Society Villa Marina, Sunday, 6th April : 3pm.



This year's concert with IOMCS, once again under the expert direction of Mandy Griffin, contains a slightly unusual combination of pieces. All of the music is by French composers – Fauré's Requiem, Poulenc's Gloria and a selection of pieces from Bizet's Carmen.

We are all familiar with the Fauré, having played it several times before. The Poulenc is not so well known, though we have performed it with IOMCS some years ago. I'm sure everyone knows Carmen! We'll be playing the Prelude and the Entr'acte between Acts 2 and 3, plus 3 pieces : Habañera, Je dis, and the Toreador's song.

The rehearsal schedule is in red on our full schedule on this page. Please make a note of these dates now. We've kept rehearsals to a minimum, so please try to attend all of them.

Tickets are already on sale from all the usual Villa Marina outlets. Adults £15, Child/Student £3.

Joint Concert with Slaithwaite Philharmonic Orchestra Villa Marina, Saturday, 17th May : 7.30pm.

As you know, we are busily preparing for our forthcoming joint concert with the Slaithwaite Philharmonic Orchestra (It's pronounced 'Slawit' by the way!). Obviously bringing an entire orchestra over to the Island is a very complicated, not to mention costly, undertaking. So we are extremely fortunate to have been awarded generous funding towards the costs. The IOM Arts Council has awarded us £6,000 from its Extraordinary Events Fund, celebrating its 60th Anniversary. We have also received £2,000 from the MS Dickinson Trust and £2,000 from the Gough Ritchie Charitable Trust. We are very grateful for these grants, which will enable us to pay for travel, accommodation, music hire and hire of the Villa Marina for rehearsals and concert.



The programme contains some very challenging repertoire : Chabrier's España, Britten's Young Person's Guide, Mussorgsky's Night on a Bare Mountain and Mahler's Symphony no.1, plus a piece by Haydn Wood (born in Slaithwaite, brought up on the Isle of Man). The membership of the combined orchestras should add up to over 100 players!

We are also delighted that our esteemed patron, Charles Guard MBE will be acting as compère and narrator in the Britten - his own updated version of the narration.

We've made a good start on tackling the music with Graham, and so far all is going very well. Graham will conduct the first half of the concert and SPO's conductor, Benjamin Ellin, will conduct the Mahler Symphony.

Please put the date in your diary. Tickets will be available from 10th March. Look out for updates on our Facebook page.

New Arrival!



I'm delighted to report the safe - if rather early - arrival of the baby daughter of Chris and Ellen Sullivan. Florence Mary Sullivan entered the world on Friday 13th December weighing 4lb 4oz. She is growing rapidly and is a beautiful little girl. Hearty congratulations to Chris and Ellen - we look forward to seeing Chris back with us very soon!

