



ISLE OF MAN
Symphony
ORCHESTRA



NEWSLETTER

August 2024

www.iomso.im

Relax - it's Summer!

Greetings to all Members and Friends. Our Summer concert on 13th July was a great success (photos p.3) Now enjoy a well-deserved Summer break, but don't let your instruments feel neglected. In just a few weeks it'll be time to dust them off and get back to rehearsals! We'll be preparing the challenging programme for our Gala Concert in the Villa Marina on Sunday, 24th November. Read on for more details.

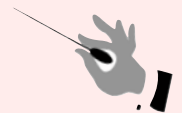
A Message from Maurice

It seems an age since we performed *Scheherazade* together at the last Gala Concert, and much has happened since, not least two excellent and well-supported concerts under the batons of Graham and Nigel. The forthcoming Gala Concert in November will be the last occasion on which I shall have the enormous pleasure of conducting the orchestra, as I am relinquishing the position of Musical Director the moment the final chord has faded after twenty years in order to spend more time researching and writing about the Island's musical story.

The main work - the crowd puller if you like - is Elgar's 'cello concerto, one of the most highly emotional and expressive works in the repertoire, and we shall endeavour to allow the music to speak for itself, without any intrusive histrionics from either myself or our superb soloist Evva Mizerska. The principal work in the second half of the concert is Elgar's *In the South*, in my opinion his finest stand-alone orchestral work, and a *tour de force* in every sense. Our concert opener, Walton's *Spitfire Prelude and Fugue*, is the perfect upbeat to our afternoon of English music, and the beautiful Vaughan Williams' piece for strings and harp after the interval will interject an interlude of peace and calm before Elgar's rampaging evocation of Italy bursts into the Royal Hall.

The programme demands the very largest orchestral forces we can muster, including a full brass section, triple wind including bass clarinet, cor anglais and double bassoon, a large percussion section, and as many strings as possible, and harp. The sound in the spacious Royal Hall promises to be luxurious and exciting. I look forward to seeing you all again in a few short weeks.

Maurice



Concert Dates for your Diaries.

**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**

Saturday 19th July 2025 : Summer Concert : Venue t.b.c. : 7.30pm

(Rehearsal schedule p.2)



Rehearsal Schedule 2024-25

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

Nov 27th : St. Johns : 7.30 (AGM at 8.45)

Dec 4th, 11th & 18th : St. Johns : 7.30

*** Dec 25th & Jan 1st : NO REHEARSAL ***

Jan 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th : St. Johns : 7.30

Feb 5th & 12th : St. Johns : 7.30

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



Holiday Fun!

All IOMSO string players (and friends!) are invited to meet at the Ebenezer Hall in Kirk Michael on Saturday 17th August from 2-5pm for an afternoon of fun playing through some lovely music for strings which we don't often get the chance to play - Grieg's Holberg Suite, Britten Simple Symphony, Elgar's Introduction and Allegro amongst other things.

This is being organised by Karen Field, who asks for a small donation of £2 to pay for the use of the church hall.

Please let Karen know if you can make it - k.mcmullan@manx.net

I hope to see lots of you there - and there will be cake!



Gala Concert, Villa Marina, Sunday 24th November, 2.30pm.



On 4th September we will start rehearsing for our Gala Concert in the Villa Marina on Sunday, 24th November at 2.30pm, conducted for the last time by Maurice Powell. The whole concert is devoted to music by British composers.

The programme starts with Walton's stirring composition 'Spitfire Prelude and Fugue', originally written for the WW2 film 'First of the Few'. Next comes the featured piece, Elgar's Cello Concerto, with soloist Evva Mizerska, who played with us in 2019 in Beethoven's Triple Concerto. This is perhaps the best-loved of all cello concertos and I'm sure this will be a favourite with the audience.

Other works in the programme are Five Variants of Dives and Lazarus by Vaughan Williams, (strings only), La Calinda from the ballet 'Koanga' by Delius and finally Elgar's exotic concert overture 'In

the South'. Plenty of notes for us all to get to grips with!

Tickets will go on sale from 1st October. Meanwhile, please put the concert date in your diaries!

Farewell and Thank you!

I would like to say a big thank you to bassoonist Hannah Elphick and clarinettist Maeve Tong for their contribution to IOMSO during their time with us. To Hannah - all the best for your new job in Cambridge. To Maeve - good luck for the future as you leave for University.

Summer Concert, QEII High School, Saturday 13th July



*Photos by
Frank
Warburton*

