



ISLE OF MAN
Symphony
ORCHESTRA



NEWSLETTER

June 2025

www.iomso.im

Summer might be here!

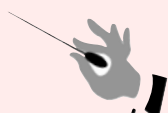
Greetings to all Members and Friends. After our joint concert with Slaithwaite Phil on 17th May, all I can say is 'Wow! What a brilliant concert!' The whole weekend was a great success - as soon as we joined with SPO in rehearsal everything fell into place. The resulting sound was amazing and the audience was suitably impressed (photos p.3&4). I must add a special vote of thanks to our patron Charles Guard who was extremely helpful in planning the project and whose narration in the Britten was splendid. Also to Graham, who guided us through many rehearsals for our Extraordinary Concert. Now we turn to Nigel to prepare for our Summer Concert on 19th July. Read on for more details.

A Note from Nigel

After the mammoth effort of our excellent recent Mahler concert, I am delighted to be able to return to conducting you again.

We have now had a chance to read through some of the repertoire for our July concert. I feel it is so important that we highlight those "forgotten" women composers, not least of whom is Louise Farrenc. Born in France in 1804, she was a highly acclaimed concert pianist and became the first female professor at the Paris Conservatoire, a post which she held for 30 years. Her 3rd Symphony was premiered in 1849 and greatly admired by Schumann and Berlioz who were in attendance. However, it was then rarely performed, not just because she was a woman, but also because symphonies were unfashionable at a time when opera was everything. The symphony is full of energy, life and lovely melodies and I'm sure our audience will appreciate it. This, paired with Wagner's Siegfried Idyll and Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante will make a wonderful concert.

Nigel



Volunteers?

It would be wonderful if one or two of our slightly younger (under 60) members might find the time to join the committee and help in planning our orchestral activities. It's your orchestra, so please think how you can help us make things run smoothly and efficiently.

We particularly need someone to take over the web site. So if you have the necessary know-how, please come forward.

Your orchestra needs you!

Concert Dates for your Diaries.

Saturday 19th July : Summer Concert
(Conductor Nigel Harrison) : Peel
Cathedral : 7.30pm

Sunday 23rd November : Gala Concert
(Conductor Graham Kirkland) : Villa
Marina : 2.30pm

Sat 7th or 14th March 2026 : Spring
Concert (Nigel Harrison) : Venue
t.b.c. : 7.30pm

Sun 5th July 2026 : Summer Concert
with guest conductor Stephen
Threlfall : Villa Marina : 2.30pm



Rehearsal Schedule 2025-26

June 11th, 18th & 25th : St. Johns : 7.30

July 2nd, 9th & 16th : St. Johns : 7.30

Friday July 18th : Peel Cathedral : 7.30

Sat 19th July: CONCERT : Peel Cathedral : 7.30

*** SUMMER HOLIDAYS ***

Sept 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th : St. Johns : 7.30

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

*** October 29th : NO REHEARSAL ***

November 5th, 12th & 19th : St. Johns : 7.30

Sat November 22nd: St. Andrews : 2.30 (t.b.c.)

Sun Nov 23rd: Villa Marina: 10am REHEARSAL
2.30pm : CONCERT

November 26th : St. Johns : 7.30

December 3rd & 10th : St. Johns : 7.30

*** DEC 17th, 24th, 31st : NO REHEARSAL ***

January 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th : St. Johns : 7.30

February 4th & 11th : St. Johns : 7.30

*** February 18th : NO REHEARSAL ***

February 25th : St. Johns : 7.30



Julian Shelley



For those who haven't heard, Julian Shelley died peacefully on 7th May in Ramsey Cottage Hospital at the age of 90.

Julian had played professionally with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, where he led the 2nd Violins in the

1960s. Until 2023 Julian often boosted the forces of IOMSO's 1st Violins. In his quiet unassuming way, he would sit at the back of the section and play anything put before him.

A man of varied musical tastes, Julian also played bass saxophone in the Manx Swing Band.

We send sincere condolences to his family.

A funeral service will be held at the Douglas Borough Crematorium on Thursday 19th June at 11.30 for family and friends. I hope members of IOMSO will attend.

Donations if so desired can be made to The Musicians' Benevolent Fund.

All enquiries to Corkhill & Callow Funeral

Directors www.corkhillandcallow.co.im

Summer Concert : Peel Cathedral, Saturday 19th July



We've just started rehearsing for our Summer Concert on Saturday, 19th July in Peel Cathedral at 7.30pm. It's many years since we last played in the Cathedral and much has changed since then. The building has undergone significant changes ; new underfloor heating has been installed, gone are the fixed pews, the whole of the nave is level, with no pipes to trip over! It will be interesting to see how the new improved space suits us.

The programme starts with Wagner's Siegfried Idyll, composed as a birthday present to his second wife, Cosima, after the birth of their son Siegfried in 1869. It was first performed on Christmas morning 1870. Originally scored for 13 instruments, the orchestration was expanded to 35 players to make it more marketable.

Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante is a fascinating blend of symphony and concerto, featuring the violin and viola as dual soloists in dialogue with the orchestra. In our performance the solo parts will be played by Tom Field (violin) and his son Lucas Hills-Field (viola).

Our symphony will be unfamiliar to most of you; Louise Farrenc's 3rd Symphony. We hope you will enjoy this bright and energetic work.

Tickets will be on sale soon - look out for details on our Facebook page.

*Joint Concert with Slaithwaite Philharmonic Orchestra
Villa Marina, Saturday, 17th May*





*A selection of photos
taken by Frank Warburton*

