



ISLE OF MAN
Symphony
ORCHESTRA
NEWSLETTER



December 2023

www.iomso.im

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS!

Greetings to all Members and Friends. What a splendid afternoon we had in the Villa Marina on Sunday! Yulia's performance of the Emperor concerto was wonderful and Scheherazade was magical, especially Juliet's violin solos. (photos on p.3 & 4) Now we've embarked on the Spring repertoire with Graham Kirkland at the helm. Read on for more details.

A Message from Maurice

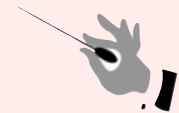
The audience has left the concert hall; the musicians have departed; the dust has settled on another fine Gala Concert, perhaps the best we have ever presented, and we can be forgiven for feeling a mild sense of anticlimax. Yet there is much to look forward to in the new year, and indeed we have had a first look at music by Mendelssohn, Debussy and Beethoven for our Spring programme under Graham Kirkland's sympathetic guidance. Later in the year we have two major works of Brahms to prepare for: the German Requiem with the Isle of Man Choral Society under Mandy Griffin, and the rugged first symphony under Nigel Harrison.

Is it too early to speculate about next year's Gala Concert? We know already that it will include Elgar's wonderful 'cello concerto with Evva Mizerska, so an all Elgar programme is possible. However, I have been considering other major pieces never before performed by the orchestra: Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*; Delius' *Brigg Fair*; Tchaikovsky's 6th symphony; a Vaughan Williams symphony. An all-English music programme might draw a large crowd. Suggestions on a postcard please.

Once again, thank you each and everyone for your magnificent playing on Sunday and for your continued commitment to providing interesting and challenging programmes for the enjoyment of our audiences.

With very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Maurice



Concert Dates for your Diaries.

Saturday 9th March : Spring Concert
(Conductor Graham Kirkland)

St.Ninian's Church : 7.30pm

Sunday 24th March : Concert with
IOMCS (Conductor Mandy Griffin) :

Villa Marina : 3pm

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

Venue t.b.c. : 7.30pm

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

Villa Marina : 2.30pm

(Rehearsal schedule p.2)



Rehearsal Schedule 2024

***Dec 20th, 27th & Jan 3rd : NO REHEARSAL ***

Jan 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st : St. Johns : 7.30

Feb 7th, 14th : St. Johns : 7.30

***February 21st : NO REHEARSAL ***

Feb 28th : St. Johns : 7.30

March 6th : St. Johns : 7.30

March 8th (Fri) : St. Ninian's Church : 7.30

March 9th (Sat) : CONCERT St. Ninian's : 7.30

[Choral concert rehearsals see right]

March 27th : St. Johns : 7.30

***April 3rd & 10th : NO REHEARSAL ***

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



Choral Concert, 24th March, Villa Marina. 3pm

The Isle of Man Choral Society is well into rehearsals for the joint concert next March, under the direction of Mandy Griffin. The chosen works are Brahms : A German Requiem and John Williams : Hymn to the Fallen, from 'Saving Private Ryan.'

As usual IOMSO will play with them. I will give out the music after Christmas. In the meantime here's the list of rehearsals.

Sat Feb 17th : Bemahague : 2.30 (t.b.c.)

March 13th : St. Johns : 7.30pm

Sat March 16th : Bemahague : 2.30pm

Thurs March 21st : Bemahague : 7.30pm

Sat March 23rd : Villa Marina : 2.30pm

Sunday March 24th Concert : 3pm

Spring Concert, St. Ninian's Church, Saturday 9th March, 7.30pm

The poster for the Spring Concert 2024 features the Isle of Man Symphony Orchestra logo at the top, with the patron's name Charles Guard MBE. The main title is 'Spring Concert 2024' in a large, bold font. Below this, the venue and date are listed: 'St. Ninian's Church, Douglas Saturday 9th March : 7.30pm'. The program includes Mendelssohn's Overture 'The Hebrides', Debussy's Petite Suite, Strauss's Serenade for 13 Wind Instruments, and Beethoven's Symphony no. 5. The conductor is Graham Kirkland and the leader is Victoria Hope. A portrait of Beethoven is shown on the right side of the poster. Ticket information is provided at the bottom, including prices for adults and children, and contact details for purchasing tickets. The poster also mentions that the orchestra is a Manx registered charity.

We've just started work on the repertoire for our Spring Concert on Saturday 9th March, in St. Ninian's Church, Douglas at 7.30pm, conducted by Graham Kirkland.

The chosen works contain a variety of pieces familiar and less well known. I'm sure this is a concert to delight both orchestra and audience.

Mendelssohn's Overture 'The Hebrides' (also known as Fingal's Cave) was inspired by the composer's visit to the Isle of Staffa. Surely a familiar introduction to the concert.

Beethoven's 5th Symphony must be one of the best known of all symphonies, but one we have not performed since 2007. We come to it with the fresh approach of a new conductor!

Less familiar will be Debussy's Petite Suite, a delightful set of pieces, which features many flourishes on the harp.

The wind will delight us with another less well known piece : Serenade for 13 wind instruments in E flat major by Richard Strauss.

Look out for further information on our Facebook page as to when tickets go on sale.



Gala Concert, Villa Marina, Sunday 3rd December 2023



All photos courtesy of Frank Warburton





A few memories of a brilliant concert!



Bannaghtyn y nollick as BLEIN VIE NOA