

Langtree NEWS

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- *Adrian King's orchestral ode*
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The importance of counting (blessings)

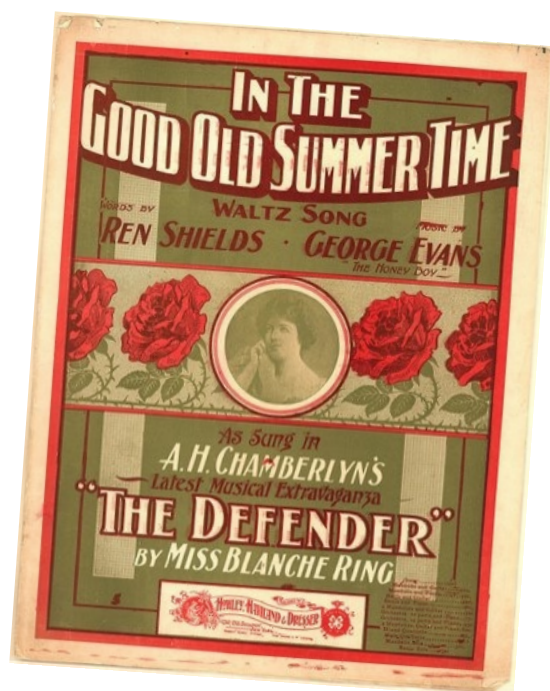
The editor recently reminded me that the time had come again to produce some 'Notes from the chair'. So there I was, once more, wracking my brains for something to say, when an email appeared on my lap top from Nick (Kiff). I believe he circulated it to most of the orchestra and if you haven't had a chance to read it I urge you to do so. He highlights the plight of the people of the Ukraine, including his wife's family. Reading this and listening to recent news from Gaza and Africa,

makes one realise how lucky we are to be able to go about our music making in safety each week. No shelling and gunfire for us to dodge as we travel to Langtree, just the occasional snow flurry, flood, heatwave or roadworks.

Talking of heatwaves, I hope you are all enjoying the weather and having a good summer break.

Look forward to seeing you all next term which starts on September 10th

Chris Winch



FROM POETRY TO SLUGS, YOUR NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU!

Please send your articles, poems, reviews, photographs to janita.clamp@btinternet.com



Memories of Dartington

In August last year I spent a week at the Dartington Summer School that attracts players and listeners from around the world. This was the third time I have attended and it was great to see many familiar faces.

Dartington is in a fantastic location just outside Totnes, Devon. The site, originally a medieval courtyard estate, was rebuilt in the 1920s and since then has had various incarnations including a famously liberal school.

One of the great things about the week is the wide variety of music that you can get involved in. Neville Mariner was the guest maestro and he took the string orchestra through excerpts from Walton's *Henry V* film score (narrated by a very loquacious actor whose name I forget), Elgar's *Introduction and Allegro* and a couple of the suites from Grieg's *Peer Gynt*. When the six of us in the bass section played the Elgar we played with such energy that the stage manager came up to us afterwards saying that she had never heard the Great Hall rumbling so much from the basses – fantastic fun!

The daily 'Chamber Pot' sessions consisted of ad hoc

ensembles running through the *Brandenburg Variations* etc and these were led by the resident professional quartet. It was amazing what could be produced by just opening the pieces up and playing the music and it certainly challenges your sight reading.



During the afternoon tango band rehearsals, where we prepared for the tango ball at the end of the week, there was a chance to make some outrageous noises on my bass that are not normally acceptable in polite company! There was also a folk course and it was great to join them in the garden summer house with my bass to play to an audience sitting there the

grass enjoying the sun.

However, it was a lot easier for the fiddlers than me with my bass when it came to forming a conga around the grounds.

Fortunately the weather was unusually good as I camped, sharing my tent with a couple of slugs who I got to know on first name terms. One of my highlights was sitting outside the tent on a warm evening with a couple of guitarists just drinking wine, playing and singing.

I also managed to ingratiate myself with Leon Bosch, the double bass tutor for the week, and after getting some great tuition while I was there, I have been visiting him once a month to try to raise my playing. Flogging a dead horse comes to mind but he still endeavours to turn me into a virtuoso to follow in his footsteps.

I'm having a year off this summer as they have cut the number of weeks from five to three and there are no bass tutors. Hopefully next year it will be back to full strength and I can pitch the tent and rekindle my relationship with my slug buddies.

Simon Hill



Ode to Langtree Sinfonia

Hail to thee, blithe Langtree
And the music that you make!
You're renowned for all those fortés
That keep Wallingford awake.
(And Dorchester, and Woodcote,
Not that volume is your aim –
Ensemble is the thing for which
You're rightly seeking fame.)

Under Paul's attentive baton,
With Melissa's thoughtful gaze
And as the bows go up and down
(Just mildly out of phase)
The result is quite delightful,
Every audience agrees!
(It's a pity that you have to pay
The trombone extra fees).

The work that all your members do
To make that music sing
Is only ever equalled by
The joie de vivre they bring.
With close attention to the dots
And Paul's incessant swishes,
They're always in accordance with
Composers' dearest wishes!

One thing that is for certain
As you play those lovely tunes
Is the pleasure you impart,
I've seen it written in your runes.
Mendelssohn, Beethoven,
Gustav Holst and Teddy Bears...
Instead of holding raffles
P'raps you should be selling shares!

Adrian King

Raffles and refunds

After our successful application for Gift Aid we have received our first tax refund, £900, from HMRC.

Another welcome boost to the orchestra's funds comes from the weekly raffle which has raised nearly £160 so far this year. Do please let Kate or Fiona know if you would like to see prizes other than wine offered.

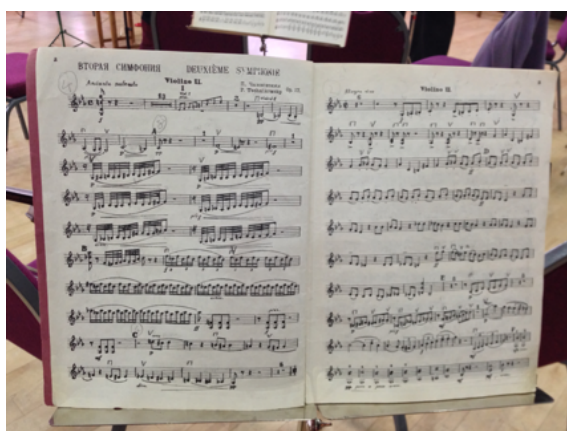
Any other fund-raising ideas would also be very welcome.

If you do not pay your sub by direct debit we would much appreciate it if you could pay subscriptions promptly.

Jane Gray, Treasurer



Many notes, much cake - the February workshop



Just what was Paul demonstrating to Melissa? Send your captions to the editor: janita@clampandgray.co.uk

IT'S A SCARY THOUGHT, BUT THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE THE CHRISTMAS ISSUE!

Please send your articles, poems, reviews, photographs to janita.clamp@btinternet.com



CROWTHORNE
Symphony ORCHESTRA

ANNUAL WORKSHOP

7TH SEPTEMBER 2014

10:15 – 17:00_{HRS}

BRUCKNER: 4TH SYMPHONY

CONDUCTOR: ROBERT ROSCOE

HATCH RIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL,
CROWTHORNE, RG45 6LP

£15 ENTRY

TEA, COFFEE AND CAKE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL:
WORKSHOP@CROWTHORNEORCHESTRA.COM

