

Founded October 1999 Charity registration no. 1082431
Founders & Vice-Presidents - John Lennox, Mark Greenfield,
Winifred Lundgren
Musical Director – David Milner

Newsletter – Spring 2019

This Newsletter is published later than originally planned, owing to pressure of work in other directions. It will bring you up to date with the orchestra's activities, since the previous Newsletter in the Autumn of last year.
Activities are listed in chronological order, with future events following.

Nissan Christmas Concert Wednesday 12th December 2018.

The orchestra had been invited to perform for Nissan families at their annual Christmas musical evening. Unfortunately, circumstances at Nissan caused them to cancel the event at short notice.

Nissan Promenade Concert Saturday 25th May 2019.

Circumstances at Nissan again caused the cancellation of this planned event.
It is hoped that collaborative events with Nissan can be progressed in the future.

The Christmas concert on Saturday 15th December, again welcomed the East Herrington Primary Academy Choir, with their musical director Mrs. Nicola Hair and accompanist Graham Brown. In addition to singing their own selections, the members joined with the orchestra in 'Walking in the Air', and also performed the dance from 'The Snowman Suite'. There was an attendance of about 200 people.

The atmosphere inside the church was greatly enhanced by the superb decorations supplied by the owner, Mr. Barnaby Blacker, who also had his grand piano tuned especially for the occasion.

Four hands on the piano during the playing of 'The Snowman Suite' was a first for the orchestra and generated a lot of complimentary praise from the audience.

Mr. Ron Ferguson of Washington was the winner of the e-mail prize draw in December.

New Springs City Church Christmas Carol Service at Fulwell, Sunderland.

Ten members provided accompaniment for the Christmas Carol Service at the church on Sunday 16th December, led by David Mills. The new music stand lights were used for the first time on this occasion.

A substantial bequest was received from the estate of **Mr. Albert Amiss**, of Sunderland.

This is greatly appreciated.

The Sunderland City Council again supported the orchestra by means of a grant from The Community Chest, St. Michael's and Millfield Wards.

This is to fund the purchase of music storage bags for our library of music.

Donation

Many thanks to Ward Hadaway, a Newcastle based firm of solicitors for a generous donation to facilitate the purchase of music. We are most grateful.

Musical instruments

A tuneable tambourine and a stand for the glockenspiel were purchased.

An 'A' clarinet was donated to the orchestra, by a friend.

Annual General Meeting of the Orchestra

The AGM was held on Wednesday 27th March 2019 at 7.30pm in West Park Church.
The existing committee members were re-elected for another year.
Membership subscriptions were held at the same rate as the present year, for year 2020.
The constitution was modified by the addition of the membership category of 'Helper'.

Collaboration with the Music Department of the University of Sunderland

A link was developed with John Kefala-Kerr of the Sunderland University Music Department, and a competition launched for students to write a new piece of music for the orchestra.
The winner and runner-up have been determined, and the winning composition will be performed at the orchestra's Promenade Concert in October 2019.
The winner is Andreas Poupazis, with his piece 'Wearmouth Stories'.

Orchestral Workshops in Sunderland Schools and a Big Orchestra Day for Young Musicians

As a feature of SSO's "Coming of Age" project, which celebrates the orchestra's 18th year and is supported financially by Arts Council England and the Sunderland Music Hub, orchestral workshops took place in four Sunderland schools during February and March.
Orchestra members provided tuition and guidance.
Altogether, pupils from twenty-three schools participated in the programme of workshops and Big Orchestra Day. Southwick Community Primary School hosted the Big Orchestra Day on the morning of Saturday, 9th March, at which a mixed orchestra of 96 players performed Grieg's *In The Hall of the Mountain King* from *Peer Gynt*, and Mussorgsky's *Night on the Bare Mountain*.
Emma Mapplebeck, took the orchestral workshops and the Big Orchestra Day was led by SSO Musical Director David Milner.
A further series of workshops were held in April and May, at six of Sunderland's Primary Schools, at which the instruments of the orchestra were demonstrated in the context of the story of Sergei Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, before a total of over one thousand Primary School children.
Small groups of pupils from each of these six schools will take part in the orchestra's summer concert in July, *Peter and the Wolf and Friends*, designed to be attractive to young people and families.

Next concert

Sunday 14th July 2019 3.00pm

'Peter and the Wolf and Friends' Children's matinée concert

Empire Theatre, Sunderland. Free entrance.

In the first half of the concert, small groups of pupils from the six schools (see above) will perform stories of their chosen themes with orchestral instruments, song, puppetry, masks and dance.
After the interval, The Sunderland Youth and Community Orchestra will play *In the Hall of the Mountain King* by Grieg; and the Sunderland Symphony Orchestra will conclude the programme with *Peter and the Wolf* by Sergei Prokofiev.

Saturday 12th October 7.00pm

Proms at The Point

Venue – 'The Point' – Park Lane, Sunderland. SR1 3JE.

This concert will première two new compositions:

A composition for orchestra and choir, specially written by our own member Phil Jackson (Trumpet), including a choral part sung by the Jarrow Choral Society.
and:

The winning composition from the University Composition Competition, which has been sponsored by our orchestra. (See above).

This is a FREE concert.

Tickets for this event are only available from our website www.sunderlandso.org.uk,
or via an orchestra member.

Saturday, 14th December 2019 4.00pm

Christmas by Candlelight

Christmas music and carols

Guest choir:

St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy

at West Park Church, Sunderland SR2 7AQ

Adults £5.00, Under 16 & students (NUS card) £3.00

Saturday, 14th March 2020 7.30pm

Spring Concert

Marching and Waltzing

West Park Church

Adults £8.00, Under 16 & students (NUS card) £5.00

Honorary Patron

The Right Worshipful, the Mayor of Sunderland, Councillor David Snowdon, has agreed to be the Honorary Patron of the orchestra, for the duration of his year of office.

We thank him for his patronage, and look forward to seeing him and the Mayoress, Councillor Dianne Snowdon at future events.

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