



50
YEARS
RHONDDA
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

The Planets

By Gustav Holst

“Revelling in The Present”

7pm

December 1st 2018

BBC Hoddinott Hall, Cardiff

Musical Director
Edward John

Leader
Becci Goss

Featuring
Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda Choir

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The Rhondda Symphony Orchestra

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in their 50th Year.



Welcome to this evening's concert, the finale in a series celebrating the Rhondda Symphony Orchestra's 50th Anniversary year. In our first concert in March we looked to the future of the RSO and were delighted to be joined by the young, talented musicians of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Youth Orchestra. Our second concert in July celebrated the past as former conductors of the orchestra joined us on the stage once more. Now, to finish our year of celebration we are revelling in the present as we acknowledge the fine ensemble the RSO has become.

The RSO prides itself on being a high calibre ensemble and a place where members of the community can come together and share their passion for playing and performing music. Our musicians come from across the age spectrum and from a rich and diverse background, which is what our founder, Mr Jeff Lloyd always intended when he created the orchestra back in 1968.

So from all of us in the Rhondda Symphony Orchestra, we hope you will enjoy our final concert of 2018 and we look forward to another 50 years of music making and friendship!



Rhondda's only orchestra —its fame is spreading

By DAVID BARNES

BEFORE THE LAST WAR, when the orchestra and concert in the Rhondda...
Although the orchestra has been...
The orchestra has been...
The orchestra has been...



JEFFREY LLOYD rehearses the Rhondda Symphony Orchestra.

PLANNED

As he stands in the...
The orchestra has been...
The orchestra has been...

BOYD

Jeffrey Lloyd...
The orchestra has been...
The orchestra has been...



LEADER, WILLIAM BOGERS, in a moment of intense concentration.

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Clarks makes the shoes...
The shoes are made...
The shoes are made...

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ONE entry in the Chamber...
The orchestra has been...
The orchestra has been...



John Hughes, Vernon Lloyd RSO Concert 1978

The History of The Rhondda Symphony Orchestra

The Rhondda Symphony Orchestra was started on a frosty night in March 1968, in Tonypanydy Grammar School hall. Jeff Lloyd had gathered barely a dozen highly regarded musicians to meet together as a group for the first time, with a stack of dusty unused music which had been salvaged from a pile of papers heading for the bonfire (which turned out to contain symphonies by Tchaikovsky, Beethoven and Brahms, also suites by Vaughn Williams, Gustav Holst and many other famous composers). These well known musicians immediately drew the attention of many keen amateur musicians wanting to play along with them. Many of the younger up and coming musicians that joined in those first months and years, went on to play and lead professional orchestras around the country including the Halle Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales and The Welsh National Opera.

Jeff was in no rush to have the orchestra perform in public, but was more focused on playing for the enjoyment. So it took until





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By Audrey Marshall
THE 80 members of the Rhondda Symphony Orchestra will be keeping an anxious eye on their conductor, Mr Jeff Lloyd, when they are in concert at

One-armed bandsman CONDUCTOR IN A SLING FOR CONCERT

Rhondda Sports Centre tomorrow night.

Three weeks ago — after a Tanypany rehearsal for the concert — Mr Lloyd fell in the street and fractured his left arm. It was immediately

clipped into plaster, and although he has just persuaded the doctors to exchange this for a sling he is still going to be handicapped when he takes the baton tomorrow.

"They are calling me the one-armed bandit, he told me ruefully. "It's going to

feel strange not being able to wave my left arm about balance."

The concert (it starts at 7.15pm) features Con-

don callist Sharon McKin-
ley who is callist in resi-
dence at University Col-
lege, Cardiff. Sharon —
born in British Columbia —
came to Britain in 1966 to
study at Guildhall where
she later became professor
of cello, but she has now
settled in Wales and has
homes in Cardiff and
Pumpaint.

She made her debut with
the Rhondda amateurs in
1979 and they have per-

suaded her to make a
return visit to play Elgar's
Cello Concerto.

The rest of the pro-
gramme includes Tchaik-
ovsky's Pathetique Sym-
phony and Handel's Over-
ture in D Minor arranged
by Elgar — all ambitious
stuff for a musical director
with one arm under wraps.

There's one comfort...
Sir Thomas Beecham is
reputed to have scorned
the use of a baton at all.

"He used to conduct
with his eyes — I shall
have to try to do the
same," said Mr Lloyd after
last night's rehearsal.



Wales in dark on rate curbs

WELSH COUNCILS still do not know if they will be affected by Government plans to take tough action against high-spending authorities.

An announcement...

Conducting in a sling — Mr Jeff Lloyd leads a rehearsal of

They're getting to know the score



THE Rhondda Symphony Orchestra are rehearsing for their concert tomorrow, 7.15 p.m. at Rhondda Sports Centre. Pictured are, conductor Jeff Lloyd, at Talbot Green on right, with, from left: Mr. Vernon Lloyd, of Porth, clarinetist; Mr. William Rogers, of Maesteg, violin and leader of the orchestra; and Susan Evans, of Llantwit Fardre, cello.

May 1970 for RSO to have its first concert held in Upper Rhondda Comprehensive School in Treorchy. With such a great success, it was no surprise that this led to the RSO playing many concerts over the following years, many of them with well respected professional soloists joining them for the performance. One for example was the 10th anniversary of the RSO in September 1978, Jeff invited the internationally acclaimed clarinetist Jack Brymer to be the soloist. It was an enormous success, although Jack nearly missed the concert, arriving after the overture with seconds to spare before the start of his performance of Weber's Clarinet Concerto No.2.

Since then the Rhondda Symphony Orchestra has played many concerts, not just in South Wales, but also in touring parts of Europe. Sometimes the concerts have been to support local choirs or Charity organisations, but always performing because of their enjoyment of playing music!



Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda Choir

Trychineb Yr SS Swiftsure - Richard Vaughan

Trychineb Yr SS Swiftsure translated means Disaster of The SS Swiftsure. The SS Swiftsure was part of a fleet of steamships owned by Messrs. Christie and Co and based in Cardiff. It carried goods such as coal and barley, to and from ports all over Europe and Africa and had a crew of 23. It was en route to the Bristol Channel, carrying barley from Odessa in the Ukraine and had stopped for supplies at Gibraltar, where it was last seen. There is no exact known resting place of the SS Swiftsure, but it is believed to have gone down somewhere between the coast of Devon and Cornwall and the Bristol Channel in one of the worst storms on record. The storm on the 15th October 1886 was responsible for the sinking of around 43 vessels, with no known survivors.

O Dduw Rhanna'th Fendithion - John Rutter

This is the Welsh translated version of “The Lord bless you and keep you”, a classical sacred choral composition by John Rutter. It is a setting of a biblical benediction, also known as the Aaronic blessing, from the Book of Numbers in the Bible (Numbers 6:24–26). The blessing, sung or spoken, is used at the conclusion of worship, baptism, ordination, marriage, and other special occasions in the Church of England followed by an extended “Amen”. Rutter scored the piece for four vocal parts and organ in 1981 for the memorial service of Edward T. Chapman, the director of music at Highgate School, London, with whom he had studied when he attended the school.

Sopranos

Megan Sass, Seren Farrup, Ellie Smith, Cerys Swain, Eleri Sass, Katie Wilson, Laura Evans, Phoebe Warburton, Elora Giles, Mia Cradle, Ffion Bevan, Ellie Jones-Parfitt

Altos

Catrin Carter, Kira Davies, Gwen Parker, Holly Frost, Alys Hall, Bronwen Williams, Martha Paige, Lowri James, Morgan Isles

Stewart Roberts - conductor

Ryan Wood - accompanist

Programme

Overture to “The Marriage of Figaro” – Mozart

The Marriage of Figaro is an opera buffa (comic opera) in four acts composed in 1786 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

It tells how the servants Figaro and Susanna succeed in getting married, foiling the efforts of their philandering employer Count Almaviva to seduce Susanna and teaching him a lesson in fidelity. The opera is a cornerstone of the repertoire and appears consistently among the list of most frequently performed opera.

The overture is especially famous, being often performed as a concert piece, but it contains no melodies from the opera itself.



Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda Choir



Pulcinella Suite – Stravinsky

Pulcinella is a one-act neoclassical ballet by Igor Stravinsky which premiered at the Paris Opera on 15 May 1920.

The Pulcinella Suite, derived from the ballet, was written in 1922. The first performance was in Boston, with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Pierre Monteux on 22 December 1922.

The suite consists of eight movements:

1. Sinfonia
2. Serenata
3. Scherzino – Allegretto – Andantino
4. Tarantella
5. Toccata
6. Gavotta (con due variazioni)
7. Vivo
8. Minuetto – Finale

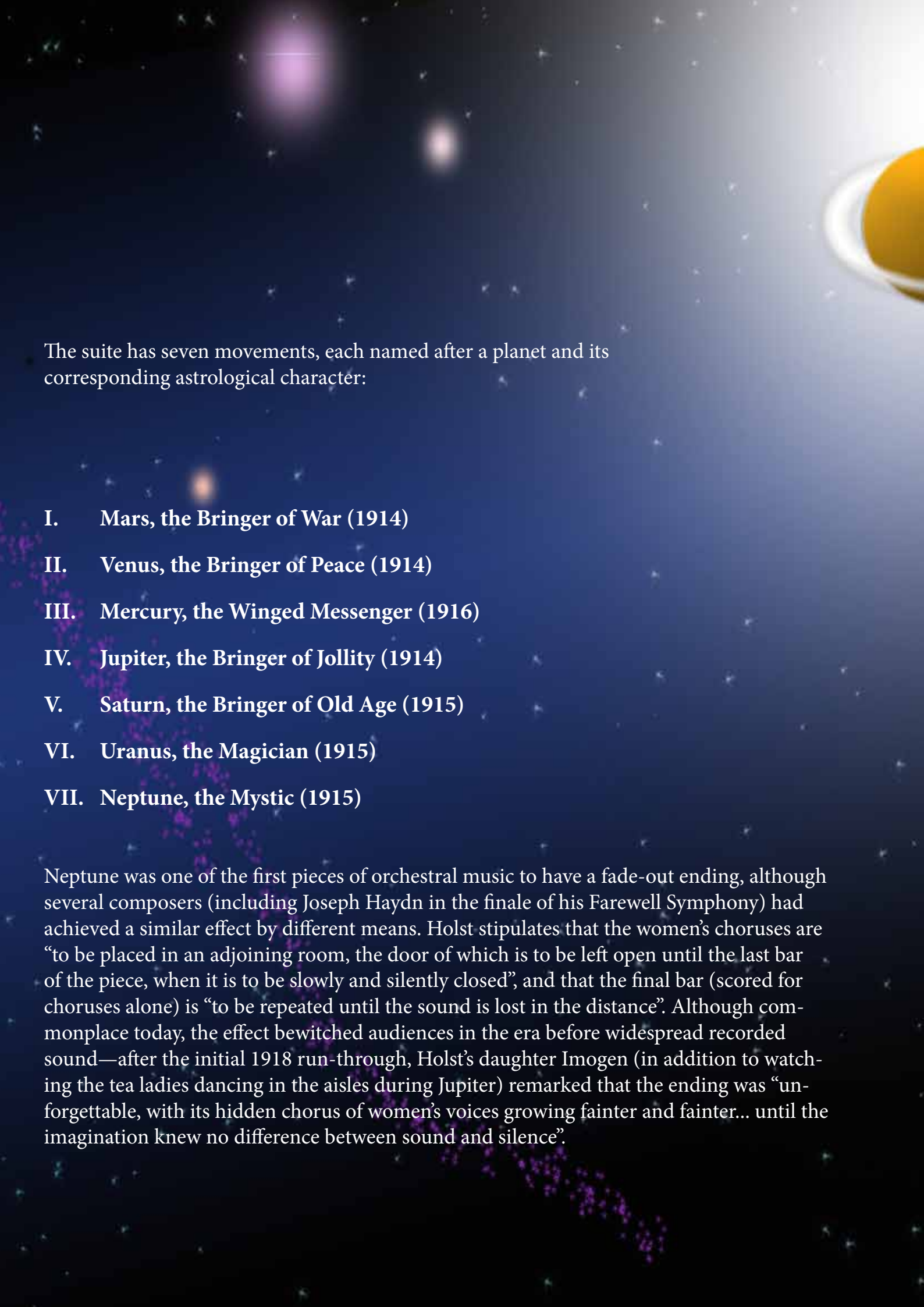


The Planets

By Gustav Holst

The Planets, Op. 32, is a seven-movement orchestral suite by the English composer Gustav Holst, written between 1914 and 1916. Each movement of the suite is named after a planet of the Solar System and its corresponding astrological character as defined by Holst.

From its premiere to the present day, the suite has been enduringly popular, influential, widely performed and frequently recorded. The work was not heard in a complete public performance, however, until some years after it was completed. Although there were four performances between September 1918 and October 1920, they were all either private (the first performance, in London) or incomplete (two others in London and one in Birmingham). The premiere was at the Queen's Hall on 29 September 1918, conducted by Holst's friend Adrian Boult before an invited audience of about 250 people.



The suite has seven movements, each named after a planet and its corresponding astrological character:

- I. Mars, the Bringer of War (1914)**
- II. Venus, the Bringer of Peace (1914)**
- III. Mercury, the Winged Messenger (1916)**
- IV. Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity (1914)**
- V. Saturn, the Bringer of Old Age (1915)**
- VI. Uranus, the Magician (1915)**
- VII. Neptune, the Mystic (1915)**

Neptune was one of the first pieces of orchestral music to have a fade-out ending, although several composers (including Joseph Haydn in the finale of his Farewell Symphony) had achieved a similar effect by different means. Holst stipulates that the women's choruses are "to be placed in an adjoining room, the door of which is to be left open until the last bar of the piece, when it is to be slowly and silently closed", and that the final bar (scored for choruses alone) is "to be repeated until the sound is lost in the distance". Although commonplace today, the effect bewitched audiences in the era before widespread recorded sound—after the initial 1918 run-through, Holst's daughter Imogen (in addition to watching the tea ladies dancing in the aisles during Jupiter) remarked that the ending was "unforgettable, with its hidden chorus of women's voices growing fainter and fainter... until the imagination knew no difference between sound and silence".



5







Edward John - Conductor

Edward John was born in Swansea and educated at Olchfa Comprehensive School and Cardiff University. He presently teaches Rhondda Cynnon Taf music service and works with trainee student music teachers at Cardiff Metropolitan University.

As a trumpet player, he was taught by Brian Buckley, and progressed through the West Glamorgan County Youth system, culminating in becoming a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales and the first ever principal cornet of the National Youth Brass Band of Wales. He was also a finalist in the TSB Welsh Young Musician of the Year. Edward has since played with all the major amateur orchestras in South Wales, as well as the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

As a conductor, he has enjoyed a huge range of experiences over many years. He has directed the Glamorgan Chamber Orchestra and Neath Opera Group at Craig-y-Nos, as well as musicals for Newport Venture Players, Carmarthen Youth Opera and his own school. He has had the unique experience of conducting performances of Bernstein's West Side Story for all three of these companies. He has also conducted Swansea Philharmonic Choir in performances of Britten's War Requiem and Carl Orff's Carmina Burana.

Edward has played concerti with RSO in 2000 and 2016 and has been a member of the orchestra for many years before taking up the baton as the orchestra's conductor. Recent programmes have included Beethoven's 3rd and 5th Symphonies, Stravinsky's Firebird and Copland's Billy the Kid Suite.



Becci Goss - Leader

Rebecca Sian Goss, began playing the violin at aged 10 and made swift progress while having lessons with Wendy Jenkins and Mansel Hughes in West Glamorgan.

At age 14 she started having lessons with Simon Weinmann of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Under his expert tuition Becci was accepted into the National Youth Orchestra of Wales as a 1st violinist and was awarded a music scholarship to study 'A' levels at Repton School in Derbyshire.

Whilst at Repton School, Becci gained extensive solo, chamber and orchestral experience, leading the school orchestra, performing several concerti, also having a master class with Kenneth Sillito.

Becci then studied music at Goldsmiths' College, University of London. In her final year she was co-leader of the University of London Orchestra under the direction of Mark Shanahan, and Leader of the Goldsmiths' College Symphony Orchestra for the final concert under the baton of Edward Gregson.

A few years later Becci completed her teacher training and has been a peripatetic upper strings teacher in Bridgend County since 1999 (except for a few years' living in America). She has regularly tutored in various County Youth Orchestras and Ensembles and whilst overseas, she volunteered at local schools assisting in their Strings Programmes.

Becci chose to put orchestral playing on hold whilst raising her two children, but has returned to it in more recent years. She became a member of RSO in 2015 and was honoured to be invited to lead the orchestra in 2016.



The *Musicians*



First Violin

Kevin Adams
Elizabeth Bryan
Jill Francis
Becci Goss *
Nicole Gravenor
Noreen Harris
Nick James
Ruth Jones
Rhianwen Lewis
Abigail Linforth
Elaine Noden
Richard Pegg
Julia Silezin

Second Violin

Jodie Absalom
Niamh Fish
Nick Francis
Simon Hendry
Nia Honeybun
Wendy Jones *
Gaye Lloyd
Derek Mascall
Sheila Nurse
Jane Roberts
Mair Roberts
Kate Wilde

Viola

Oliver Bown
Catherine Bright
Angharad Croot
James Grindle
Lewis James
Andrew May
Claire Popp
Gareth Tudor *

Cello

Will Davies
Bethan Ford
Eloise Gynn
Bethany Harries
Elen James
Justin Silezin
Bronwen Thomas
Jemma Wells *
Mark Wells

Double Bass

Katey Day
Paula Gardiner
Ursula Harrison *
Jeff Ryan

Flute

Jim Evans
Isabelle Harris
Viv John *
Bethan Rees

Oboe

Candice Dempster
Elin Howard *
Melanie Wilson

Cor Anglais

Sian Crossan

Bass Oboe

Llinos Jones

Clarinet

Chris Beadsworth
Faye Jones
Clare Sandford *
Emma Tanner

Bassoon

Karen Lewis
Karyn Phelps *
Latasha Wade

Contra Bassoon

Rebecca Shipley

French Horn

Charlotte Leeke
Garvin Matthews
Edwin Mead
Colin Preece
Branwen Thistlewood
Carolyn Thistlewood *
Dai Williams

Trumpets

Sian Davis *
Alex Duncan
Dylan John
Max Joseph

Trombone

Chris Kipling *
Richard Thurston

Bass Trombone

Joseph Edwards

Euphonium

Chris Halliday

Tuba/ Tiwba

Bryn Kipling

Timpani & Percussion

Samantha Herman
Sarah Jackson
Joshua Pegg
Gill Ridout *
Ewan Thomas

Harp

Noa Davies
Aisha Palmer

Piano

Michael Graham

Organ

William Reynolds

Denotes section principal *

What RSO Means To A Few Members

Christine Muler

Clarinet

56

Occupational Therapist

I joined the orchestra in 1987 as a very shy clarinet player who went red when I made mistakes or had exposed parts to play. I was possibly a better technical player in those days, as youngsters so often are, but playing with this wonderful orchestra for 31 years has given me the confidence to enjoy solos and appreciate sitting right in the middle of this glorious sound. (I have also been known to be cheeky to the conductor on occasions!)

I have played through pregnancy, taken my children to sit through rehearsals as babies or entertain themselves colouring at the back as toddlers, and they came on our 30th anniversary tour of Brittany in 1998 at the ages of 4 and 8.

I have been treasurer twice and am tempted to take this on for a third time as I approach retirement. I do hope to continue to play as long as physically able, with our secretary as an awesome role model to inspire me!

Oli Bown

Viola

74

Retired

I first played violin, as a student engineer, in an orchestra conducted by my school music teacher, Haydn Davies, in Pontypridd. I moved away to Birmingham to work in chocolate research at Cadbury's and continued to play violin and viola in variety of Midland's orchestras.

On retiring back to South Wales 15 years ago I was thrilled to find such a vibrant orchestra, RSO, to perform with again after a 50 year gap. It's inspiring to play with such talented and musical youngsters and music teachers lead by a dedicated, enthusiastic conductor, Ted John, a relative of my first music teacher 50 years ago.

Richard Pegg

Violin

63

Retired IT Consultant

When I first joined the RSO in 1969 it was in its infancy – and at 14 years of age, so was I! I do have vivid memories of how friendly and welcoming people were and how relaxed I felt under the baton of Jeff Lloyd. It was exciting to play with adults for the first time and was a refreshing change from the youth orchestras I played with at the time – it must be the same for the youngsters we welcome today and I hope they feel the same as I did. After a career in IT and a 23 year break from playing I was delighted to re-join the orchestra in 2008 and continue to really enjoy the challenge of playing with the RSO. The experience is sometimes amazing and I am very proud to be a member.

Sheila Nurse

Violin

Senior Member

Retired Architect

I have been a member of RSO for over 45 years; most of that time as the committee's secretary. Over the years I have seen many changes of personnel, but my overwhelming sense is that of the friendship of so many. I have always told my friends that Thursday nights are for RSO and therefore I haven't missed many rehearsals in all that time.

The variety of music that has been played by the orchestra in its 50 years is amazing and I hope it will continue for many years to come.

Aisha Palmer

Harp

17

Student

After winning the "RSO Young Musician of the Year" I became a member of the orchestra. This has allowed me to learn and improve my skills by working alongside the exceptionally experienced musicians and conductor; such as dedication to practice, self discipline, commitment and communication - all of which I will need for my future employment. It has also given me confidence to go for my own ambitions and since joining, I have been accepted onto the National Orchestra of Wales.



Bradley Associates congratulate the
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