

Friends of the Philharmonic

June 2018

www.brightonphil.org.uk

Some of you may have noticed that the BPO office was closed for a few weeks in April/May and that this June newsletter has been published a little later than usual. We apologise for any inconvenience caused due to **General Administrator Catherine Stead** undergoing treatment for breast cancer. We are delighted to report that Catherine is now back at work having had the all clear.



Included with your newsletter are those all important Early Bird forms for ordering season tickets, and the 2018/19 season brochure. The closing date for applying for tickets is **Fri 13 July**. Brighton Dome will post your tickets to you in early September, before the season goes on sale to the general public via their Ticket Office on **Mon 10 September**.

Sadly we have to advise that there will be no **Pre-Concert Interviews** this season due to a significant increase in the cost of using Brighton Museum. We are most grateful to **Louise Schweitzer** who took over so ably from **Peter Back** as our Pre-Concert Interviewer, and who very generously donated her time for free, enabling us to continue offering these last season. We are currently exploring the possibility of filming short video interviews with some of our guest artists, to be posted on our website and shared through social media. (An example of what these might be like can be viewed on our website - see page 3 of this newsletter for more details.)

PHILIP'S GIFT TO THE ORCHESTRA

In our last newsletter we reported the sad news that **Philip Wilford**, a sponsor in recent years with his wife **Jane** of the Principal Flute, had sadly passed away, aged 67, after suffering from cancer for four years. Jane writes:



Jane & Philip Wilford

“ We have both had so much pleasure from attending Brighton Philharmonic concerts over many years. Music was part of our life together and we are all very lucky in this town to have such a wonderfully enriching cultural scene, of which the Brighton Philharmonic is an integral part. Philip was very keen for the orchestra to go from strength to strength, and he left a bequest in his will to the Brighton Philharmonic Society of £10,000. ”

The Society is very grateful to Philip for this generous bequest and can report that Jane has chosen to dedicate our concert on Sun 11 November to Philip's memory, as he was a big fan of **Freddy Kempf** and loved Beethoven.

Jane plans to continue attending BPO concerts and will continue sponsoring **Christine Messiter**, the orchestra's Principal Flute.



REMEMBERING BETTY

“ Former local headteacher, **Mrs Betty Fitzsimmons**, a passionate supporter of the Brighton Phil and avid classical music and ballet lover, sadly passed away earlier this year aged 89 after a short spell in a nursing home in Hove. Betty always loved helping out with envelope stuffing, offering some financial support and enjoying her annual season ticket to the Orchestra. She greatly admired the musicians and Conductor Barry Wordsworth and often discussed him over dinner at my house with my stepfather **Russell Gilbert**, Violinist with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Betty was a dear friend and will be very greatly missed. ”

Wendy Knight (her friend of 34 years)

The Society is touched that it was Betty's kind wish to sponsor a Brighton Philharmonic orchestral position from the proceeds of her Estate.



Mrs Betty Fitzsimmons

2017/18 EDUCATION PROJECT A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

Thanks to donations by Friends of the Phil and financial support from the Fonthill Foundation and Sussex Masonic Charities, and working with SoundCity, Brighton & Hove's Music Hub (part of Brighton Dome & Festival Ltd) the orchestra has greatly expanded its education programme over the last four years. We have now provided 28 free interactive music workshops in local schools bringing live music to over 1,500 children, and attendances at our annual Open Rehearsals at Brighton Dome have risen from just 80 in 2015 to 898 in 2018.

On the morning of **Sun 25 March** we welcomed nearly 900 children and their families to the Dome Concert Hall to watch and listen to the orchestra rehearse for that afternoon's concert, including groups from four schools and children on the Furthering Talent programme sponsored by AYM (Awards for Young Musicians). This was the culmination of the season's education project, which saw eight workshops given by the orchestra's **Principal Percussion Donna-Maria Landowski** and **Principal Trumpet John Ellwood** take place in local schools, reaching over 520 children.

In a change of format to previous years, the first part of the rehearsal was structured specifically to give the children an exciting introduction to the different sections of the orchestra and the sounds they can make, with a fanfare by Malcolm Arnold giving the brass section a great opportunity for showing off!



The orchestra also played a waltz from Barry Wordsworth's arrangement of *Coppélia* by Delibes and were joined by pianists **Worbey & Farrell** for the exciting finale of *Carnival of the Animals*.

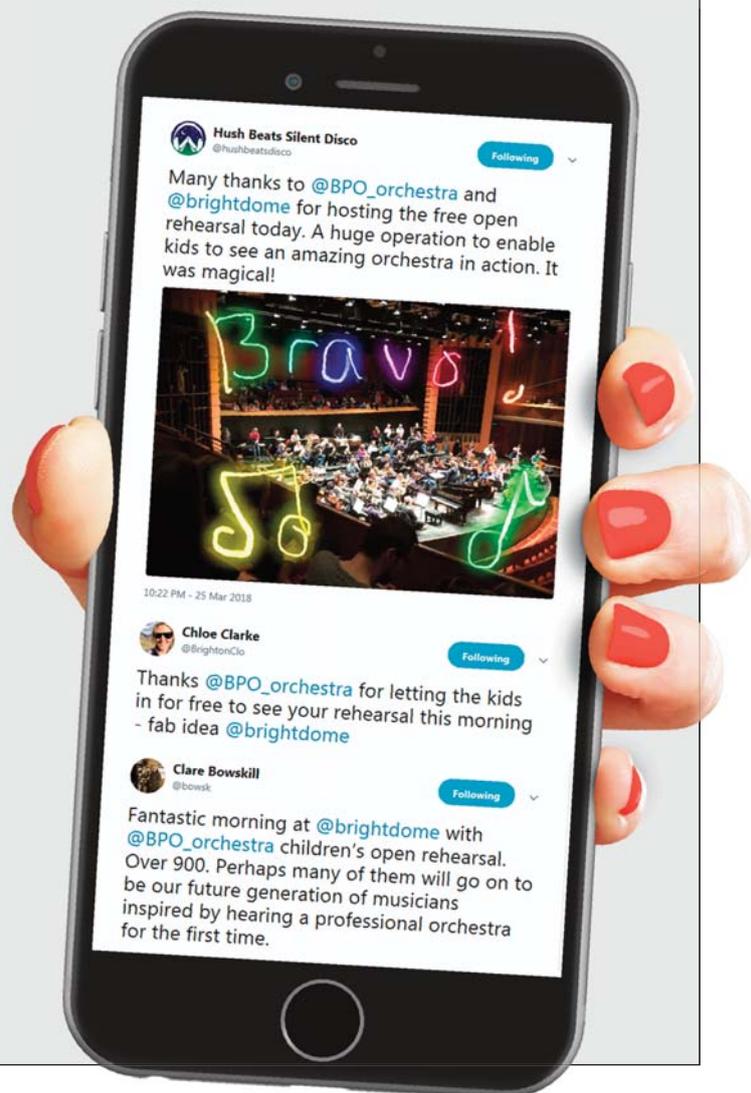
The children left animated and excited by the experience, with many parents taking the time to thank us for such a wonderful opportunity to experience live classical music (which was free of charge to attend), in some cases for the very first time.

Our grateful thanks to the following volunteers (without whose assistance on the day we could not have organised such a huge event) **Friends of the Phil: James Booth, Ruth & Richard Bosworth, Penny Crawley, Ann & Martin Higgins, Cathy John, James Simister, Philip Thompson, Sarah Tobias & David Willingham.** Also **Gemma Seymour, Jacqueline Jones** and **Jools Wood**, our official photographer **David Gerrard**, **BPO Vice-President Karen Platt**, **Chairman Nicolas Chisholm** and **Trustees Ken Childerhouse & Chris Thomson.**



We are particularly grateful to **Brighton Dome** for their kind assistance with the additional costs incurred by such a well attended event, and must also thank **Clare Bowskill**, **Visitor Services Manager**, and the front of house staff, **Jody Yegba**, **Programmes Manager**, and the **Box Office team** who handled the individual bookings.

Below are a selection from the many messages we received on the day:



BARRY'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS PROVIDE THE PERFECT END TO THE SEASON

After a busy morning that saw 900 children and their parents/teachers attend the Open Rehearsal for Children, the Brighton Phil was in party mode for the season finale that afternoon. The orchestra, temporarily conducted by Leader John Bradbury, was joined by the audience who sang "Happy Birthday" to Barry Wordsworth Conductor Laureate, celebrating his 70th birthday with his beloved Brighton Phil and Dome audience.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAID

The 5 star review in *The Argus* which appeared the following week sums up the atmosphere:

“ Pianists extraordinaire **Steven Worbey** and **Kevin Farrell** strolled onto the stage at the Brighton Dome in marvelous waistcoats and bright shirts. 'Hello', they greeted the audience, 'Do you remember when everyone had a piano in the house and no one could play it?', they enquired. Well they set about reminding us how two musicians could play a piano and sound like an orchestra. In a wonderful light-hearted tribute to Barry Wordsworth's 70th birthday, they led the orchestra in a merry dance around Malcolm Arnold and Saint-Saëns, capturing the house in the palm of their hands and proving that classical music might just be much more fun than anyone thought... Barry, entering into the spirit of his birthday concert and with an end of term feeling, invited them to play an encore. It might be difficult to stop them, and nobody wanted to.

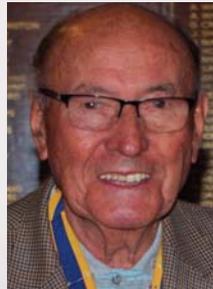
After three irresistible waltzes from *Coppélia* arranged by Barry Wordsworth, Steven and Kevin attacked the *Carnival of the Animals* with their own new, culturally relevant narration. We now know that the kangaroo pouch is for an iPad and that birds tweet. They aren't just funny: they are completely brilliant pianists with an astonishing technique together which requires the utmost synchronisation as well as breathtaking showmanship. The audience roared approval and left singing, dancing and clapping.

Louise Dumas



©Tony Mould (MyBrighton&Hove)

The *Horsham & District Post* noted that:



D V Newbold, CBE

“ The final concert of the Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra's season was a fitting and excellent memorial to one of its most loyal supporters. **Don Newbold**, also a generous sponsor of the orchestra, was due to sponsor Sunday's concert but died shortly before. As a tribute to his loyalty and his love of the orchestra the Philharmonic decided to

dedicate the concert at the Dome to Don.”
Phil Dennett

25 MARCH DIGITAL CONCERT PREVIEW

Did you see the entertaining and informative video interview filmed by **BPO Concert Manager Ian Brignall** at Henry Wood Hall when **Worbey & Farrell** and **Barry Wordsworth** were rehearsing for the concert?

You can still view it on our website at:
www.brightonphil.org.uk
or find it on YouTube.



THANKS TO OUR KIND SPONSORS

Immediately after the concert on Sun 25 March Conductor Laureate Barry Wordsworth, Worbey & Farrell, the Mayor of Brighton & Hove, Councillor Mo Marsh and musicians from the orchestra joined sponsors and donors in the Founders Room to continue Barry's birthday celebrations and to toast the end of the season.



Notable amongst the guests were Brighton's newest MP, **Lloyd Russell-Moyle**, and **Andrew Comben**, Chief Executive of Brighton & Dome Festival Ltd. **Worbey & Farrell** had brought a number of guests including **Lady Colin Campbell**, with whom they dined that evening at Castle Goring.

A delicious 70th birthday cake (half chocolate, half lemon drizzle) was provided by local gluten-free baker **Sarah Berkson** of Berkson Bakes (www.berksonbakes.co.uk) accompanied by glasses of bubbly. Speeches and toasts were made by Friend of the Phil and **Mayor of Brighton & Hove, Councillor Mo Marsh, Chairman Nicolas Chisholm** and **Barry Wordsworth**, thanking those present for their continued and much appreciated support.



Alan Poulton, Chairman of the Malcolm Arnold Society (which kindly contributed to the cost of the orchestra performing both the *Piano Concerto* and *Fanfare for a Festival*) attended both the concert and the reception, and was delighted when Barry Wordsworth agreed to become a Patron of the Malcolm Arnold Society.



Barry is pictured here with Alan and our Chairman Nicolas Chisholm holding a copy of the latest edition of the MAS journal *Beckus*. This includes an article Alan wrote about the concert and the *Fanfare*, which to his knowledge had not been performed since its premiere in 1956 at the White Rock Pavilion, Hastings. (Those present at the concert were able to listen out for a brief quotation from the 1907 ballad 'Sussex by the Sea', the unofficial Sussex anthem which can still be heard at cricket and football grounds across the county and is the unofficial march of the Royal Sussex Regiment.)

The Society is most grateful to Mo Marsh (who was succeeded as Mayor by **Councillor Dee Simpson** in May) for her enthusiastic support of the orchestra during her year of office.

More photos from both the concert and the reception are available to view on our website at: www.brightonphil.org.uk

GDPR PROTECTING YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION



You may have heard that the new **General Data Protection Regulations** came into effect on Fri 25 May. These require organisations to clearly set out what information they hold about you, why they hold it, how they use and protect it, who they share it with, and why. They are designed to give you more control over how your personal information is collected, used and protected.

In line with this the Society has updated its **Privacy & Safeguarding of Data Policy**, which is available to view on our website at: www.brightonphil.org.uk. If you do not have internet access and would like a copy of this document to be sent to you, please contact the BPO office.

When we next contact you about renewing your Friends of the Phil membership we will ask you to confirm that the information we hold on you is correct and up to date, and also how you would prefer to receive news and offers from the Society in the future. If you no longer wish to receive these please contact the BPO office, telephone **(01273) 622900** or email: mail@brightonphil.org.uk

IN MEMORIAM

The Society is sad to have learned of the death of Mrs Jane Goldsmith, aged 90, who had regularly attended BPO concerts for more than 70 years. We are very grateful that her family asked that donations in her memory be made to the Brighton Phil.