

Raymond Blanc & Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons Reaching out to local & national charities £10,000 gift to Oxford Philomusica



Raymond Blanc OBE and Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons have donated £10,000 to the Orchestra, as part of the Manoir's programme of supporting local and national charities. Raymond commented: "I've always had a passionate interest in local and regional charities and truly understand the importance of support whenever possible." Receiving the donation on behalf of the Orchestra, Marios Papadopoulos commented: "We are absolutely delighted to receive the donation from Le Manoir. This will help us maintain our programme of events in Oxford and elsewhere in the region, offering the people of Oxfordshire opportunities to witness orchestral music at the highest level. As a most valued, and recently appointed trustee of Oxford Philomusica, Raymond Blanc has shown how important it is for arts boards to provide the resources necessary for realising the artistic vision of an organisation. We are immensely grateful to him and Le Manoir for their contribution to our work".

Board Update

Robert Jackson

We are delighted to welcome Robert Jackson as a new member of the Advisory Council. Robert is a quondam fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, and a past President of the Oxford Union. After serving as an MEP (1979-84), he entered the Commons in 1984 as MP for Wantage, standing down in 2005. He served as a minister under Margaret Thatcher and John Major, with responsibilities for higher education and for science policy. His interests include reading, music, and walking.

Sir Gareth Roberts OP Friends Evening – Friday 7th May

A delightful evening for friends and supporters of Oxford Philomusica to gather together in the beautiful surroundings of an Oxford College.

Drinks, a musical interlude, two course dinner with a glass of wine and coffee.

The Haldene Room, Wolfson College, Linton Road, Oxford OX2 6UD (Parking available).

£40 per person.

Contact 020 8450 1060.

PLAYER PROFILE Adam Precious Sub Principal Double Bass



Adam Precious, sub principal double bass has been a familiar face at Philomusica concerts ever since the early years of the Orchestra's life. Adam is a product of the legendary Leicestershire County School of Music – a ground-breaking institution which, in its heyday, offered young musicians the opportunity to work with such outstanding figures as Sir Michael Tippett, André Previn, Kyung-Wha Chung and Alfredo Campoli, while making recordings, TV appearances and European tours.

Inspired by these formative experiences, Adam had no hesitation about leaving school at 16 to become part of the first intake of the then newly-formed Royal Northern College of Music, where he

studied with Adrian Beers. Five years later, with the support of a BBC bursary, he was amongst the first students to join The National Centre for Orchestral Studies under the tutelage of Gerald Drucker.

After this exhaustive training Adam returned to the North West to join the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra where he remained for 3 years. An invitation from his old professor, Gerald Drucker, to tour Japan for a month with the Philharmonia Orchestra persuaded Adam that it was time to leave Liverpool for the freelance life of London. He has since enjoyed long associations with London's major symphony and chamber orchestras, touring the world and undertaking a variety of other work – film and television recording, contemporary music groups, and chamber music.

Adam's own background in youth music has fostered a strong belief in music education. He teaches at 3 schools and has an association with the Bromley Youth Orchestra. In 1990 he became Double Bass tutor at the Keele International Chamber Music Summer School, and was subsequently instrumental in the School's revival in Tonbridge when he became its Director. Outside his musical life Adam is an intrepid sailor. Having obtained his Yacht Master's Certificate in 1999, he enjoys long-distance sailing – and even delivering new yachts – in locations as diverse as the North Sea and the Aegean.

Keynotes

The Newsletter of

Oxford Philomusica

Oxford's Professional Symphony Orchestra
in Residence at the University of Oxford



Winter 2010, Issue 13

HEADLINES

*Spring Season -
Promises kept...
and Expectations met*

*Making Oxford
Philomusica
Accessible to All*

*News from the
Fund-raising Front*

*Joining the Fight
Against Cancer*

*The OP Residency at
the University of
Oxford*

*A Week with
Simon Payne*

*A Gift From
Le Manoir aux
Quat' Saisons*

Board Update

Friends Evening

*Player Profile
Adam Precious
Sub Principal
Double Bass*

Spring Season – Promises kept...

Our Autumn promise of a boldly eclectic season is coming true as we enter 2010. By the time you are reading this edition of Keynotes you will have, hopefully, already enjoyed a boisterous Viennese welcome to the New Year and the first of our Baroque Masterworks programmes on 23rd January which was a complete sellout. We look forward to repeating this success on 6th February when Philomusica's string and wind principals will be seizing the chance to shine in some familiar gems by Bach, Handel, Marcello and Telemann.

By way of complete contrast in style and scale, our concert on 11th March celebrates the Gilded Youth of Mendelssohn and Mahler, followed on 31st March by the more devotional occasion of Handel's Messiah. The coming of spring is refreshingly greeted on 29th April by a Gallic soirée of sophistication – La Belle France: John Rutter directs a programme of Debussy, Ravel and Bizet – plus his own Suite Lyrique. All the Seasons come at once on 15th May when the Philomusica's new leader, Tamás András, directs and plays Vivaldi's four most famous concertos together with tango master Arturo Piazzolla's Four Seasons of Buenos Aires. The Oxford spring series is brought to a suitably dramatic close by Verdi's always awe-inspiring Requiem on 17th June.

Beyond the core Sheldonian series the Philomusica is consolidating its pioneering presence at Swindon's Wyvern Theatre, following the successful first Baroque Masterworks programme on 24th January, with The Eight Seasons on 27th May. The Orchestra also revisits London's Cadogan Hall on 6th May to present two contrasting settings of the Requiem Mass, an intriguing pairing of Fauré's familiar Requiem and Howard Goodall's evocative Eternal Light, for which the Orchestra will be joined by Christ Church Cathedral Choir. Within this busy season the Philomusica is still finding time to fulfil its commitment to young musicians and the audiences of the future. Alasdair Malloy's next Funomusica Family Concert – billed, bluntly 'Bugs!!' – takes place at the Town Hall on 21st March at 3pm. The Orchestra's much-admired Young Artists Platform, continues on 6th February and 17th June. Our next College Series programme is on 3rd March at St Catherine's College when four gifted students will join Maestro Papadopoulos in Mozart's Piano Quintet, K.452. By way of good measure, the Orchestra's new *Children for £1* scheme will have its first outing at The Eight Seasons on 15th May.

.....and Expectations met

The Philomusica's International Piano Festival and Summer Academy has long since become a landmark feature of Oxford's summer musical life and the 12th festival, 1st – 8th August, looks set to meet all of the highest expectations. Six concerts and more than 50 hours of public master classes feature some of the world's most celebrated pianists. The anniversaries of Schumann and Chopin are naturally extensively acknowledged in the concert programme. On 3rd August Michael Roll's recital at the University Church includes several of Chopin's miniatures, together with Schumann's famous C Major Fantasy, and the closing recital at Christ Church Cathedral on 7th August by the Festival's illustrious President, András Schiff, features Schumann's first Sonata. Before that, we will have been treated, on 2nd August to an all-Russian programme as well as his own Sonata, by world-renowned Olli Mustonen, on 4th August an all-Chopin recital at the Holywell Music Room by that doyen of Chopin interpreters, Fou Ts'ong, and, on 5th August, Cristina Ortiz joins the Philomusica for a performance of Chopin's Second Piano Concerto at the Town Hall. Once again the Oxford Philomusica's Piano Festival justifies the New York Times' accolade of an international forum 'to turn piano lessons into performance art'.



Marios Papadopoulos

Catrin Finch

Christ Church Cathedral Choir, Oxford

Funomusica Family Concert

Making Oxford Philomusica Accessible to All

Cost should never be a barrier to music, and Oxford Philomusica runs a number of schemes to make our music accessible to as wide an audience as possible.

Concessions

We give generous discounts to selected groups enabling seniors and students to take advantage of tickets for as little as £5. The re-structuring of our subscription series has also seen an enthusiastic uptake, with loyal attendees benefiting from up to a 35% discount.

Pay What you Can

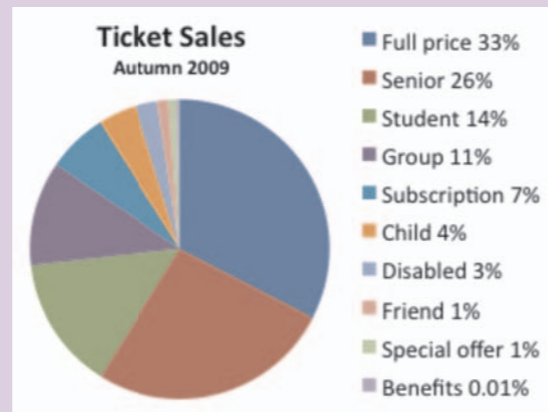
We have recently introduced a scheme offering a limited number of tickets, a week before each concert in exchange for any small donation. Established predominantly in the theatre world, it is a rare initiative for an orchestra and we anticipate an enthusiastic uptake.

£1 for Children

As part of our educational drive to engage new audiences, we are offering children tickets for £1 at selected child-friendly performances where they will be guided through the concert with specially designed activity packs. In conjunction with our FUNomusica family concerts, it is a great way to encourage families to discover classical music.

Christmas Present Scheme

To introduce new audiences to classical music the Orchestra donated tickets to groups of people who wouldn't normally have the chance to attend a concert. These unique 'Gift of Music' Christmas presents were offered to a wide range of organisations including the Pegasus School, Oxford Children's Hospital, Volunteer Reading Help, KEEN, and Headway Oxford. The scheme was enthusiastically received and we had most gratifying feedback. One beneficiary remarked that the concert 'would never normally have been accessible to children from Blackbird Leys.' The Christmas Concert featuring music from the much-loved Christmas film *The Snowman* was a magical experience with one child explaining that 'it's great when you sing songs that sort of fill you up. They make me cry when I sing them and when I hear them'.



News from the Fund-raising Front

Oxford Philomusica Fundraising Event
concert, dinner, auction

Hosts: *Sir Victor and Lady Blank*

The Royal Opera House
(Paul Hamlyn Hall)

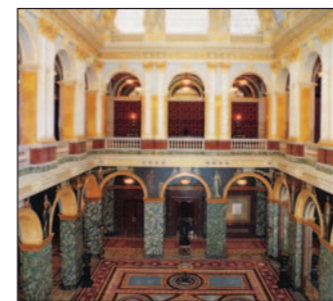
Sunday 13 June 2010

Over the last few years OP's annual major fund-raising event has become not only pivotal to the Orchestra's financial security but has also come to be an important occasion in the social calendar of the nation's arts-supporting community. Our latest project, scheduled for 13th June will be no exception. Last year's spectacularly successful event at the Banqueting House is succeeded by an evening in the equally prestigious setting of the Paul Hamlyn Hall at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

A champagne reception at 7pm will be followed by a concert by the Orchestra, after which guests will enjoy a formal dinner with fine wines. Dinner will be followed by the all-important auction which will, once again, be conducted in his own inimitable style by Lord Archer. Amongst the unusually imaginative 'lots' pledged to fall under his Lordship's hammer is a musical soiree in your own home when Marios Papadopoulos will give a piano recital and legendary chef Raymond Blanc will cook dinner for 12 people. Other palatable pleasures promised include a private winter dinner party for 20 before the roaring log fire of the Great Hall of Harris Manchester College, dinner at the Houses of Parliament, preceded by a guided tour, and several cases of vintage wine. The house of Toni and Guy is offering a special personal haircut at the hands of founder Tony Mascolo and anyone who still thinks that 'conducting looks easy' can bid for personal tuition from Marios Papadopoulos – with the opportunity to conduct the Philomusica.

It goes without saying that there can never be too many auction prizes, so any Keynotes readers possessed of alluring accommodation, redundant heirlooms or high-value skills which they are willing to put at our temporary disposal are cordially invited to make themselves known. Please contact Simon Payne with ideas about auction prizes. In the meantime, we take this opportunity to thank sincerely Sir Victor and Lady Blank for their generous sponsorship of the evening and to invite well-wishers to support the event by attending in person. Further details, including table-bookings for parties of 10 or 12 people (tickets £200 each) are available from 020 8450 1060.

Joining the Fight Against Cancer



As event organiser Brian Iverson, Chairman, Mayfair and St James's Committee for Cancer Research UK, rightly says, 'cancer does not recognise recession'. So we are delighted to be playing a central role in a splendidly conceived occasion on 20th April in support of Cancer Research UK.

The event begins with a visit to Bridgewater House, described as the 'largest and most opulent private home in London', which is not normally open to the public. At 6.30pm guests will enjoy a champagne reception in the State Rooms before proceeding to the Great Saloon where the Philomusica will play selections from Baroque Masterworks. The party will then proceed to the nearby Oxford and Cambridge Club for a 'sumptuous dinner', enlivened by a raffle and a mini-auction conducted by Christie's.

All this is on offer for just £135 per head, discounted to £1,000 for a party of 8. Full details are available from Brian Iverson on 020 7499 8751.

The OP Residency at the University of Oxford



Coaching University students

OP's long term relationship with the University is cemented through its position as the official Orchestra in Residence. As part of this collaboration the OP offers a variety of masterclasses and workshops throughout the academic year with leading artists and practitioners at the Music Faculty.

In the autumn we offered a vocal masterclass with Mark Wildman, a piano masterclass with Hamish Milne, a workshop in community music, and a conducting workshop with Peter Stark. This term there will be a masterclass in violin with Mark Messenger, flute with the our own Anthony Robb, voice with Teresa Cahill and piano with Marios Papadopoulos.

All the OP Residency events are free and open to the public. In addition the OP offers student bursaries for instrumental tuition with our players, chamber music coaching, individual lessons in Alexander Technique for students, and orchestral apprenticeships, including bursaries for students to play with OP. Selected by audition, aspiring musicians are able to acquire invaluable professional orchestral experience through the Apprenticeship Scheme. They may also qualify to play in a Young Artists' Platform recital in the Sheldonian Theatre.

Student composers can hear their compositions played by the OP in a special composers' workshop where they receive feedback from the players. One student composition is selected each year to receive a world premiere by OP in an evening concert in the Sheldonian Theatre.

A week with Simon Payne Development Manager

It is a privilege to be able to spend my days – and evenings – working in music with Oxford Phil.



Monday - Early into the office for the weekly staff meeting, this week focussing on the Covent Garden auction, our major fundraising event of the year. I brief Larisa our designer on changes to our Sponsor pack with details of our newly re-launched Friends scheme.

Tuesday - Oxford. I catch up with Luke Purser, my main contact at the University Development Office. We discuss OP's involvement in the Campaign for Music, spearheaded by Howard Goodall (whose Brit award-winning 'Eternal Light: A Requiem' we will play at our Cadogan Hall concert on 6th May). Then discuss, with experts on trusts and foundations, funding applications for our 12th International Piano Festival and Summer Academy in August. Lunch with an OP Patron, who has donated an auction prize and plans to persuade ten of his friends to take a table at the Covent Garden fundraising event on 13th June. He gives me introductions to potential new supporters – a perfect ally for fundraising and networking. (One of my core aims is to build up network of relationships in Oxford with individuals, organisations and companies.)

Wednesday - Talk with recording guru Charles Padley, who is helping launch our 'Oxford Series' on the OP Records label. Following the success of *The Creation* with New College Choir we plan to record Handel's *Acis and Galatea* with Stephen Darlington and Christ Church Cathedral Choir. The rest of my day is spent preparing a proposal to raise £55,000 for this project. In the evening I attend a marvellous OP concert followed by a reception where I talk to a prospective sponsor, already a major donor to the arts, who is very interested in the recording.

Thursday - To an international chain of audio engineering colleges with its head office in Oxford. They are organising a conference, and have asked us to provide a concert for 200 guests. In the afternoon I catch up with our PR and Press Consultant Julie Peacock, and with our marketing team, on ways of finding new audiences. I also talk to Tony Mealings, head of the County Music Service, about his new arts festival in Banbury. Perhaps OP can put on a family concert there?

Friday - First to St Catz, to finalise details of our concert on 3rd March when the starry young wind players of the college will combine with the experienced professionals of the OP, the first such public collaboration. I also discuss fundraising plans for the event: it is part of the Catz50 celebrations so should provide incentives for alumni to contribute. I then host lunch for Renée Watson of the Oxford Science Festival at our offices in the Saïd Business School/Egrove Park, where we talk about preparations for the launch on 6th March in Broad Street. We have the opening spot with Marcus du Sautoy, Oxford's Professor for the Public Understanding of Science.