

## Soundbites

- Did you know that the Oxford Philomusica has a new look website? Log on to [www.oxfordphil.com](http://www.oxfordphil.com) and check it out!
- Did you know that the Blackbird Leys Choir accompanied by Marios Papadopoulos and conducted by Chorus Master Andrew Stewart performed for the Queen at Buckingham Palace on 19th December 2006?
- Did you know that the Oxford Philomusica have accepted 6 students onto its 2007 Orchestral Apprenticeship Scheme - more than ever before! This will provide valuable orchestral experience and training by OP musicians to the successful applicants.

### St Valentine's Concert

**WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2007** BMW Group Plant Oxford  
7.30pm drinks and canapés reception, 8pm concert

### A Night at the Movies

to include:

Star Wars, 2001: A Space Odyssey, Dr. Zhivago, Schindler's List, Lord of the Rings, Love Story

Marios Papadopoulos conductor

Special Guest Appearance by The Blackbird Leys Choir

Box Office 01865 305 305

Tickets £35 (to include pre concert drinks and canapés reception and interval drinks)

Supported by  
**BMW Group**  
Plant Oxford

in aid of



Registered Charity Number 1057295

## PLAYER PROFILE

### Bozidar Vukotic Principal Cello

Bozidar Vukotic was born in London and started playing the violin at the age of three and the cello at seven. He was the Hansell Stevenson Performance Scholar at the University of East Anglia and graduated with a BA (hons) in Music. In 1991 he was awarded the prestigious Goldsmith Company Scholarship to study with Stefan Popov on the Advanced Solo Studies course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. After winning the concerto, sonata and string quartet prizes he was awarded the coveted Performance Recital Diploma (Premier Prix). He continued his studies with William Pleeth, the legendary teacher of Jacqueline du Pré, and then, with the aid of the Wingate Trust and Hattori Foundation Scholarships, he completed his training with Professor Alexander Kniazev of the Moscow Conservatoire.



Group and The Kirekman Concert Society. They have recently been described in the Daily Telegraph as a quartet of 'extraordinary technical accomplishment with flair and bright communication spark... such exciting ideas and vital interpretative insight that it promises to make a significant contribution to the realms of chamber music'

As well as playing in many of the UK's festivals and concert series, they have been patrons of the Bristol Millennium International Chamber Music Competition and quartet in residence at the Dartington International Festival of Music. They have just recorded the complete quartets of Steven Dodgson for the Dutton Eponque Label and 2007 sees them give a recital celebration the works of mother and daughter composers Elizabeth Machony and Nicola Lefanu at the Purcell Room along with a reunion quintet recital at the Wigmore Hall with the viola soloist Lawrence Power. After a tour of Serbia and Montenegro, they will start a two year project recording the complete quartets of Sir Michael Tippett for Naxos.

Bozidar has also worked with many of Britain's finest orchestras, including the English Chamber Orchestra, London Philharmonic, Philharmonia, BBC Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra with whom he was a member for a short period of time. In 1998 he was appointed Principal Cello of the Oxford Philomusica and has subsequently returned as guest principal of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and many other freelance orchestras in London.

As a soloist and a chamber musician, Bozidar has performed throughout the UK, Europe and the USA and has been acclaimed in the London Times as 'a glorious individual player...' He has recently performed as a soloist at the Purcell Room, Cadogan Hall, Belgrade International Cello Festival, Kotor Art Festival in Montenegro, Skagen Festival (Denmark) and in 2007 will record a CD of Chopin on the Altamira label. Bozidar holds a weekly class at the Royal Academy of Music Junior department and this year has been invited to give masterclasses at the Dartington International Festival of Music.

He is a founder member of the Tippet String Quartet who give regular recitals in London's Purcell Room and Wigmore Hall. They have won awards from one of the country's foremost promoters of contemporary music, The Park Lane

## Keynotes

The Newsletter of

## Oxford Philomusica

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

op

Winter 2006/07, Issue 4

## HEADLINES

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### Soundbites

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### Bozidar Vukotic

### Principal Cello

## Fund Raising Success



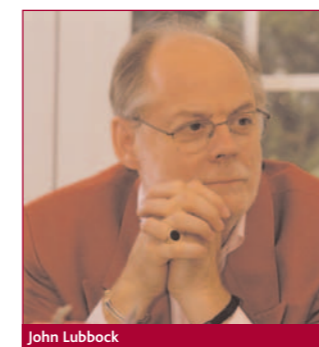
The Oxford Philomusica would like to announce that following another highly successful fund raising event at the Palace of Westminster, the orchestra raised an impressive £20,000. These funds will be invaluable in contributing towards the continued development of the organisation. This high profile event featured a concert at the Houses of Commons followed by dinner in the Houses of Lords. Guests were treated to a stirring performance of excerpts from Handel's *Messiah* by the Oxford Philomusica Orchestra and Chorus with solos given by acclaimed artists Nicky Kennedy and Joseph Cornwell. The Oxford Philomusica would like to extend their thanks to all who attended the event and pledged their support to the future of the orchestra.

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The repeated series of 'The Singing Estate' will air on Channel Five from Tuesday 27 February at 7.15pm, for four consecutive weeks. It will be followed by the 'One Year On' programme featuring the Oxford Philomusica, at the same time on 27th March.

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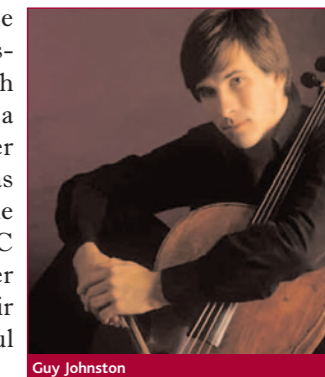
## John Lubbock Conducts



John Lubbock

After a tremendously busy year, with the culmination of the hugely successful Mainly Mozart Festival, it came as no surprise that Marios Papadopoulos handed over the baton for the first concert of the year to guest conductor John Lubbock. The concert on Saturday 27th January featured a wonderful evening of classic favourites with cello soloist Guy Johnston, winner of the 2000 BBC Young Musician Contest performing Tchaikovsky's fiendishly difficult Roco Variations. This awe-inspiring work was complimented by Prokofiev's Symphony No. 1 in D major ('Classical') and the work that inspired it, Haydn's final symphony No. 104 in D major, 'The London'.

John Lubbock is well known as the Artistic Director of the Orchestra of St John's. He began his musical career as a chorister at St George's Chapel, Windsor and later went on to sing with the London Symphony Chorus, the John Alldis Choir and was a member of the Swingle Singers. John studied conducting under the great Rumanian, Sergiu Celibidache, and has appeared as guest conductor with many leading UK orchestras including the City of Birmingham Symphony, the London Philharmonic, BBC Scottish Symphony, Hallé, London Mozart Players, Manchester Camerata and Northern Sinfonia. John Lubbock is hailed by Sir Simon Rattle '...one of our most musical assets - a thoughtful perfectionist and a musician of total integrity.'



Guy Johnston

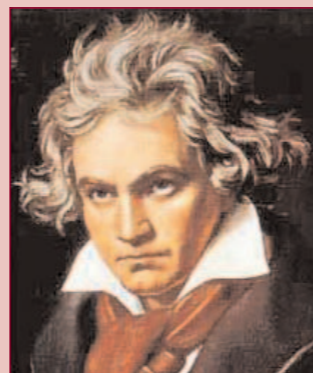
## 2006 in Retrospect ...



After a year of festivities and 27 concerts, the Oxford Philomusica Mainly Mozart Festival is finally over. The festival, generously sponsored by the Zvi & Ofra Family Fund was a resounding success and attracted global attention. Ticket sales for the festival exceeded all expectations with many performances being sold out and with others not far off! One would not have expected a concert featuring three Mozart Piano Concertos in one go to sell out, let alone three concerts in succession! But then, with Marios as the soloist perhaps this was not surprising. His achievement in performing seven concerts of three concertos each over the season was truly amazing. We would also do well not to forget the tremendous response to Melvyn Tan's Mozart piano sonata recital series. Although, this wasn't the only dose of chamber music, we were also fortunate enough to indulge in the dulcet tones of Mayumi Fujikawa's violin sonata series. Opera in 2006 came in the form of the *Magic Flute* described by Hugh Vickers of the Oxford Times as '...a fine concert performance...preferable to all but the very greatest productions'. This was a historical moment indeed for the classical music world, as it featured the first edition text, performed for the first time in modern era. This was much to the delight of the eminent musicologist and researcher Michael Freyhan. One must also not forget the inimitable eighth International Piano Festival which took place in the middle of the hectic schedule of the Mainly Mozart Festival – not to mention the numerous private engagements and fund raising events the orchestra undertakes each year. It seemed fitting that the year's festivities would draw to a close on the anniversary of the day Mozart died (5th December) with a performance of his last work, the poignant Requiem Mass. An OP chorus of over 50 strong resonated around the Sheldonian Theatre matched in volume only by the thunderous applause that followed. Finally, in true Christmas spirit, the orchestra performed a memorable rendition of Handel's masterpiece *Messiah*, as if they hadn't already completed enough concerts in the year already! So... in retrospect, looking back at 2006, it seems almost a minor miracle that both musicians and management were able to cope with the huge amount of activity taking place from week to week. Still, as the old saying goes, no rest for the wicked. 2007 has many more exciting events taking place and more again still to plan! Watch this space.

## OP Opera

You may recall that in December 2005, the Oxford Philomusica presented the highly ambitious but tremendously successful 'Act III' from Wagner's *Die Walküre*. Following on from that achievement, in March 2006 the OP presented the first performance in modern times of the first full score edition text of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*. Having now established an annual opera tradition, the orchestra will be presenting a concert performance of Beethoven's *Fidelio* as part of its 2007 concert season. A tale of love and strife, this marvellous work depicts the struggle of the beautiful Leonore, disguised as a prison guard named Fidelio, and her quest to rescue her husband Florestan from death in a political prison. The dramatic intensity of this heroic story will be heightened by the intimacy and innate theatricality of the Sheldonian setting.



Ludwig van Beethoven

## Oxford Student to Perform



Berenika Zakrzewski

On Thursday 8th March, pianist Berenika Zakrzewski will become the first full time student enrolled at the University of Oxford to appear as a soloist with the Oxford Philomusica. Berenika will be performing Rachmaninov's tempestuously combative Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor at the Sheldonian Theatre. Coming from a northern Canadian town, Berenika moved to New York to attend the Juilliard School and Professional Children's School at age 13 and then graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University in both Music and Government. She is currently pursuing an M.Phil in Performance and Musicology at Christ Church. Berenika is the recipient of the prestigious Leonard Bernstein Scholarship at Harvard, the Arthur W. Foote prize of the historic Harvard Musical Association which has hosted such artists as Ferruccio Busoni, the John Knowles Paine Fellowship, and the Canada Council for the Arts Award.

She is the winner of the 1998 Nakamichi Piano Competition at the Aspen Music Festival and the winner of the 10th Anniversary YTV Achievement Award, which recognised her as Canada's top young instrumental performer when she was just 16. As well as appearing with orchestras all over the world she has made a critically acclaimed live recording of the Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 3 with Sinfonietta Cracovia under John Axelrod, distributed by Universal Music Group. Berenika is also the international spokesperson in all media for Casio Inc., Japan's Privia - a new line of digital pianos. Berenika's performances have been widely broadcast on television and radio, appearing on Bravo!, the CBC, City TV, YTV, MDR Germany, WCQS, and the BBC.

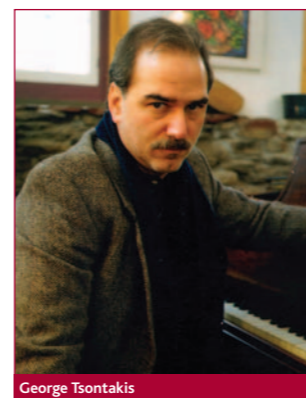
## Blackbird Leys Choir Project Update



The Blackbird Leys Choir

Over the past several months the Oxford Philomusica has been working with the Blackbird Leys choir towards a performance of Bernstein's *Two Suites from West Side Story* with the orchestra on Saturday 24th February. Under the tutelage of the OP Chorus Master Andrew Stewart, the choir have also been working on a number of other works to develop their classical repertoire including Verdi's 'Anvil Chorus' from *Il Trovatore*, 'Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves' from *Nabucco* and the 'Hallelujah Chorus' from Handel's *Messiah*. To assist Andrew Stewart, the OP have recruited students from the University of Oxford, Faculty of Music to work closely with the choir, both leading sessions and accompanying on the piano. The choir will actually be making their first appearance in concert with the Oxford Philomusica on Wednesday 14th February at the BMW Plant Oxford as part of 'A Night at the Movies' performing both Verdi Choruses.

## Composing Success



George Tsontakis

George Tsontakis, former composer in residence at the Oxford Philomusica has been chosen to receive the Charles Ives Living, which gives a talented composer an income of \$75,000 a year for a period of three years. The announcement was made by Ezra Laderman, president of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. George Tsontakis, distinguished Faculty Composer-in-Residence at Bard College, will begin the three-year term in July 2007. During his time as composer in residence at the Oxford Philomusica, he premiered three of his works, including the UK premiere of "The Past, The passion" at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London in 2000.

## A week with Larisa Blackwood Administrator/Designer



**Monday** – I just returned from holiday and began desperately to clear a backlog of emails that have been piling up over the festive period. Checked my diary to see how late am I with my new brochure deadline, and to my surprise, I'm right on schedule. I liaise with Anthi and Marios to see what our priorities are this week. I finished off some last minute work on the new season brochure as we are about to go to print.

**Tuesday** – I'm chasing printers for quotes on the brochure print job. It's a mad, frantic race through emails and phone calls going back and forth most of the day. Eventually I get a quote that everybody is happy with and book the job. OK, I move on quickly to the next task and start working on an advert for the Oxford Times and designing a poster for our next concert.

**Wednesday** – I start with finishing off yesterday's tasks and sending everything away to be printed. I get in touch with Marios to discuss last year's budget figures and enter them into the system. This is rather demanding job as all the figures need to tally and they rarely do! The day continues in the same fashion as I prepare approximately 40 cheques for players for the last concert in December. This involves writing out the cheques, entering them into our accounts and mailing them.

**Thursday** – I made contact with my colleague Nick to arrange the programme notes he will prepare for us for the Viennese Ball. I also organise a proof reader for the same programme. A last minute advert has to be finalised, which was meant to be at the advertising agency last week - as we are very late this becomes an immediate priority. Within half an hour the ad is ready to go. I get in touch with Rhydian to edit the programme notes and to chase up outstanding biographies and photos for artists taking part in our February concerts.

**Friday** – I dedicate the morning to updating the website as there are a few things amiss. After lunch Anthi and I start the dreaded job of going through the endless list of things we need to prepare for tomorrow's concert. In the afternoon we both reward ourselves with a very easy and fun job - searching for some St Valentine's decorations which we will need for the Ball. Finally, I get around to doing some recycling and shredding to compensate for lots of paper wastage, which unfortunately comes with the job.

**Weekend** – I prepare for the working weekend, and set off for Oxford in the early afternoon. After a quick briefing from Anthi the box office is up and running. The concert went off smoothly, and with it we have wrapped up another hectic week.