

Sunderland Symphony Orchestra

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

Newsletter – Autumn 2014

Next concert

Saturday 18th October – Promenade Concert, 7.30pm. In West Park Church.

The programme will include 'Overture to The Barber of Seville', 'Crown Imperial March', 'The Banks of Green Willow', 'Carmen Suite' and some of the traditional 'Last Night of the Proms' music.

Soloist will be **Rachel Orr** (Soprano).

Tickets: Adult £8.00: (Full time education and under 16 years £5.00). At the door.

Christmas concert

Saturday 13th December

3.0pm, in West Park Church

Guests at this concert will once again be the **Castletown Community Choir** (Sixty members), made up of about forty children from the Castletown Primary School, together with parents, teachers and friends.

Tickets: Adult £5.00: (Full time education and under 16 years £3.00). At the door.

Concert programme 2015

Saturday 21st March at 7.30pm

Saturday 27th June at 7.30pm

Saturday 17th October at 7.30pm

Saturday 12th December at 3.00pm

Venues to be announced

Last Concert

The orchestra played the opening concert for the Norton Music Festival in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Norton-on-Tees on Saturday 13th September. A programme of popular light music was played to a packed church.

Marriages

Sheila Brownlee (Flute) is now Sheila Rayson and
Kathryn Boal (Viola) is now Kathryn Maclaren.

We wish them and their new husbands all the best for the future.

Closure of West Park Church

West Park Church has been the home of the orchestra since the first public meeting in October 1999.

On Wednesday 13th August 2014, an independent committee appointed by the church's ruling body, The Northern Synod Trust of the United Reformed Church, announced that the West Park Church was to close and be put up for sale; and that all United Reformed Church activities would henceforth be transferred to St. George's URC building, 200 yards further up Stockton Road, and be known as the Stockton Road United Reformed Church. The possibility of one of the two church's closing has been under discussion for several years.

The decision to close West Park was surprising from several points of view – the building is far better cared for, has lower running costs, is situated on a prime site adjacent to the Metro and Bus Interchange, and has one of the finest pipe organs in the city. However, the location and quality of the building make it much more desirable for a potential purchaser, and therefore easier to sell.

The orchestra has provisional permission from the Synod Trust to continue with Wednesday rehearsals until the end of the December, and to hold the Christmas concert, the date for which has been agreed for more than one year.

It is possible that a new purchaser would allow the orchestra to retain its tenancy – secure storage for the music library and percussion instruments, and rehearsal facilities. If not, then new premises will need to be sourced. Likewise, suitable concert venues may have to be sourced depending on what happens to the building.

Has anyone got £250,000.00 to spare, to enable the purchase of the building for the orchestra?

The committee are looking at the various options and scenarios, but will appreciate any constructive ideas or suggestions.



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