

Sunderland Symphony Orchestra

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

Newsletter – New Year 2017

Next concert

Saturday 25th March 2017 7.30pm
'Music from the British Isles'
In West Park Church

Future concerts

Saturday 1st July 2017 7.30pm
Saturday 14th October 2017 7.30pm
Saturday 9th December 2017 4.00pm
Saturday 24th March 2018 7.30pm
Saturday 7th July 2018 7.30pm

Venues to be announced (Hopefully, in West Park Church)

Musical Director

Paul Judson's wife, Fay, recently had a medical problem which required hospitalisation and surgery. Fay is now home and is on the way to making a full recovery. This, understandably, resulted in Paul being unable to take rehearsals for some weeks, and also prevented him from leading the Christmas concert.

We are very grateful to Alan Price who stepped in at short notice and took the remaining rehearsals up to the concert, and also presided over the concert itself. Alan is a very experienced and accomplished musician, as a violin/viola player, singer and conductor. He is a great friend of the orchestra and has played with us as a guest on many occasions.

We extend our sincere thanks to Alan for his help.

Christmas concert

The Christmas concert was attended by an audience of just over two hundred.

This is the highest recorded to date at West Park.

Guest singers were the twenty strong Middle School Choir from the local independent school, Argyle House, under the direction of their musical director Teresa Dewhurst, who is also their school music teacher (and was soloist at our October concert).

The choir sang Christmas carols, items from 'Mary Poppins', music from 'The Snowman', and were accompanied by the orchestra in some well-known Christmas songs.

The whole programme was designed so as to be attractive to young people, and as an experiment had a later than usual start time.

Publicity

Thanks to some hard work by our Vice-President, Mark Greenfield, and by the City of Sunderland's press officer, we have finally received publicity in the Sunderland Echo. Both the October and December concerts received write-ups prior to the events.

Further publicity was given by 'The Cultural Spring' in their newsletters, in 'SeeitdoitSunderland,' and by 'Sun FM'.

The orchestra's chairman gave a short live interview on 'Radio Newcastle' prior to the Christmas concert.

Closure of West Park Church

No further developments have taken place.

Donation of clarinet

A clarinet has recently been donated to the orchestra by Mr. Ian McSkinning, from East Kilbride in Ayrshire, Scotland.

Mr. McSkinning is a friend of our secretary's family, and the instrument previously belonged to his daughter.

Many thanks.

Donation of violin

A violin has also been donated to the orchestra, by Mr. Arthur Riddler - a local violin, viola and bow maker and restorer. He has requested that the instrument belongs to the orchestra and is played by a member of the orchestra.

The instrument was made by him and also partly restored by him.

Mr. Riddler has regularly attended our concerts over the years.

The instrument is now being played by our secretary, Joy Lowther, and will be heard at the March concert. 'Thank you' Arthur.



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