

Chorleywood Music Annual Report 2022

Concerts

It was good to run a full programme of concerts in 2022, following the lack of opportunity to perform during the covid restrictions of 2021.

Our 23 January Gala Concert at Chorleywood Memorial Hall included Haydn's 'Clock' Symphony, Strauss Waltzes, and songs by Lehár and Strauss, conducted by Richard Wainwright with soloist Mandy Watsham Dunstall.

On 26 February, Chess Players, a chamber orchestra comprising players from Chorleywood Orchestra and other local instrumentalists, performed a chamber ensemble arrangement of Mahler's 5th Symphony, under the baton of Daniel Hogan at the Church of St Mary the Virgin in Rickmansworth.

In April we collaborated for the first time with Chorleywood Choral Society, in a charity performance of Handel's Messiah, conducted by Daniel Hogan on 9 April at Christ Church, Chorleywood. The concert raised £2000 for Keech Hospice Care.

Our Summer Concert on 26 June, conducted by Richard Wainwright, celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a programme of music by Butterworth, Eric Coates, Elgar, Handel, and Arthur Wood ('The Archers' theme music) - and featured a special performance of 'Peacock in Piccadilly' by Wilfred Burns.

On 24 September we combined forces again with Chorleywood Choral Society for a charity performance of the Mozart Requiem, conducted by Daniel Hogan at St Andrew's Chorleywood. This concert raised £1125 for Chorleywood Aid for Ukraine.

Chorleywood Parish Council celebrated the centenary of the opening of Chorleywood War Memorial Hall in November. To mark the occasion, on 13 November CWO performed a concert of Dvorak's 5th Symphony, Mozart's Flute Concerto No. 1, and Nicolai's 'Merry Wives of Windsor' Overture. Our soloist in the flute concerto was Sofiia Matviienko, winner of the 2022 Rickmansworth Young Musician Competition. The conductor was Daniel Hogan, appointed as the orchestra's principal conductor at the beginning of the Autumn term.

In addition to staging public concerts, we are committed to bringing live music to our local community. Chorleywood Music members, in groups of various sizes and different combinations of instruments, performed at local care homes and community events throughout the year.

Rickmansworth Young Musician of the Year Competition - report by Joanne Prowse

Rickmansworth Young Music of the Year ('RYMY') has been held annually since 1983, jointly promoted by Three Rivers Music Society and the Rotary Club of Rickmansworth. At the end of

2021, following the dissolution of Rickmansworth Rotary Club, Chorleywood Music took on full responsibility for the competition, adding to our portfolio of activities encouraging music making in the local community. We revamped the format and production of the event, introduced commercial sponsorship, specialist lighting, sound and vision, a video upload facility for the initial heats, and refreshed branding and design.

The 30 applicants (across the range of strings, woodwind, and keyboard) included students from the Purcell School, the Royal Academy of Music, the Royal College of Music, Harrow School, Eton College, and Watford Grammar School. Eight competitors were put forward for the final concert / competition, judged on their technical competence, interpretation, and performance.

The final concert took place on Saturday 5th March at St. Mary the Virgin, Rickmansworth. Our jury of three professional judges - horn player Richard Wainwright, cellist Nicola Tait Baxter and pianist Elena Kiseleva, awarded first place to Sofiia Matviienko, a Ukrainian flautist studying at the Royal Academy of Music, with pianist Firoze Madon in second place, and violinist Vivek Dinesh in third place. Winners were awarded cash prizes up to £500, an engraved trophy, professional standard recordings of their performances and the opportunity perform with the Chorleywood Orchestra.

We would like to thank all the Chorleywood Music members who volunteered to help, and whose contribution made the event a huge success.

Chairman's note – very special thanks to Alan Baskeyfield and Joanne Prowse, who raised sponsorship, planned, organised, and ran this event so professionally.

Music Directorship

Richard Wainwright, who had conducted Chorleywood Orchestra since its launch in January 2017 stepped down in the summer of 2022, with warm thanks from our members for his contribution in developing the orchestra in its early days, and for his encouragement to our members (some of whom had not touched their instrument for decades before joining).

Richard was replaced by 25-year-old Daniel Hogan as Principal Conductor, with Ryan Bunce as Associate Conductor. At the time of his appointment, Daniel was studying with a full scholarship for a Masters in Conducting at the Royal College of Music (which he subsequently gained with distinction). He is ably supported by Ryan, who also directs Chalfont Wind Band, and several local youth orchestras and ensembles.

Membership

It is encouraging to see a growth in membership, particularly in the latter half of 2022, with a corresponding increase in subscription revenue. Most sections of the orchestra are well-

represented, with only a few extra players (mainly percussion) required to bring the orchestra up to full strength on concert days.

Finances

Our treasurer's report (below) shows a turnover of £23,000 with a balance of £13,483 at the end of the year.

Trustees and Committee Members

Our trustees and committee members, along with the committed and enthusiastic support of our members, make an invaluable contribution to our success. They find and book suitable rehearsal, concert and competition venues, source, order and return hire music, arrange extra players, publicise our events, liaise with our conductor(s) and soloists, and manage all the financial aspects of our activities. Currently our team comprises:

Andrew McFarlane (Trustee) – Chairman

Fiona McFarlane (Trustee) – Membership Secretary

Helen Sims Heneker (Trustee) – Publicity / Concert Manager

Joanne Prowse (Trustee, appointed April 2023) – RYMY

Roger Stafford (Trustee)

Ruth Colin – Secretary

Ann Gharial – Treasurer

Anne Maria Farnsworth – Librarian

Christine Deeley – Community Music

Nick Cousins – Liaison, Chorleywood Choral Society

Andrew McFarlane. October 2023

Time Period

1st Jan 2022 - 31st Dec 2022

[illegible]