



Supporter's newsletter September 2005

News from the Business Manager

Firstly, thank you to Jen Kirsner, Jenny Johnson, and all the members and supporters of Stonnington Symphony for welcoming me so warmly into the orchestra. As you may know, I commenced in the position on 2nd August and have had a busy introduction to the life of the orchestra with the lead up to the concert on 28th August.

The preparation of a concert is always an exciting time, and it has been wonderful to meet many players during the rehearsal period. It was also marvellous to meet supporters at the recent concert and AGM.

The concert was a great success, both from a performance and from a community perspective. Chris and Ben Martin were brilliant as conductor and soloist, and led the orchestra through an exciting program of music. We were pleased to be able to collaborate with the Malvern Artists' Society in presenting an exhibition at interval in the Banquet Hall – several paintings were sold on the day.

Our next concert is on Sunday 13th November. This promises to be a wonderful performance, with the return of Maestro Vladimir Vais, and exciting young violin soloist, Evgeny Sorkin.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

Celia Welch, Business Manager

Forthcoming concert

2.30pm Sunday 13 November, Malvern Town Hall
corner Glenferrie Rd and High St, Malvern

Conductor Vladimir Vais
Soloist Evgeny Sorkin, violin

Repertoire:
Mendelssohn *Ruy Blas op.95 Overture*
Mendelssohn *Violin Concerto in E minor op.64*
Berlioz *Symphonie fantastique op.14*

Vladimir Vais joins the orchestra once again to present a concert of orchestral favourites. The first half of the program is devoted to two of Mendelssohn's most popular works; and following interval, the splendid Berlioz *Symphonie fantastique* is a wonderful opportunity for players to perform an exciting work for large orchestra.

We are extremely fortunate to have the talented young violinist Evgeny Sorkin working with us for this performance. Evgeny studied at the VCA in the 90s and has just returned home to Melbourne from further study

in Russia. It's fantastic that we have an exciting new soloist working with us for this concert.

Concert review

2.30pm Sunday 28 August 2005, Malvern Town Hall
Conductor: Christopher Martin
Soloist: Benjamin Martin, piano

This was a wonderful concert with something on the program for everyone. The orchestra played exceptionally well, and was skilfully conducted by Christopher Martin. The Academic Festival Overture by Brahms was a marvellous opening item showing the brass section off to the fore, whilst the strings shone in the Brandenburg Concerto No.5. Soloists Benjamin Martin, Gretchen Anderson, Annette Martin, and Aydin Abdullah (flute) showed fine ensemble work. After interval, the concert continued with the Lalo overture in which each section of the orchestra demonstrated beautiful lyricism. The final work on the program was the demanding Stravinsky Capriccio for piano and orchestra – Benjamin Martin displayed his astonishing talent as solo pianist and was well-supported by the orchestra throughout. Ben delighted the audience by playing an encore – one of his own compositions.

The audience was most enthusiastic; Mayor Sarah Davies in a congratulatory letter after the concert wrote: "We are very fortunate indeed to have such a successful and talented orchestra and I applaud Stonnington Symphony on their continued contribution to our City." Cr Melina Sehr; and conductors Vladimir Vais, Mark Shiell, and Peter Taplin also attended.

Thank you to those volunteers who helped sell tickets, programs and usher.

Thank you to our supporters on 28 August 2005

Susan Bradley and Mary Clements – who helped with the program notes

John Wise – for providing percussion equipment.

3MBS – for publicity support and recording the concert.

Marshall White Real Estate Agents – for providing 5 feteboards advertising the concert

Orchestra committees

Congratulations to the new (and returning) committee members who were elected at the AGM on 8 August.

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| Jenny Kirsner | President |
| Kevin Edwardes | Vice President |
| Diana Greenslade | Treasurer |
| Margaret Jenkinson | Secretary |
| Julia Cianci; Matt Gough; David Laity; Lindy Merry | |

Our current Program Planning Committee is:

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Jenny Johnson | Program Planning convenor | |
| Rob Harry | Dorothy Connor | |
| Michael Condon | Alex Grieve | Julia Cianci |

Fundraising help wanted!

Are you the kind of person who has great ideas about raising money for the orchestra? The committee of management needs to hear from you! This year has proven to be a difficult one financially for Stonnington Symphony, and the orchestra needs to undertake as much fundraising as possible. Please let our president, Jenny Kirsner know of your ideas and when you can help. She's at jkirsner@bigpond.com.

Stonnington Symphony congratulates...

**Alex Grieve, OAM, Principal French Horn,
2005 recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award
from The Orchestras of Australia Network (TOAN)**

Alex has been principal French Horn of the Stonnington Symphony for many years, after thirty years with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. He has performed with orchestras and chamber groups throughout Australia and overseas, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Australian Chamber Orchestra. Alex has been awarded an O.A.M. for services to community music, and is the founder and director of the Melbourne Horn Club. He and has sat on the Committee of Management and Program Planning Committee for most of his time with Stonnington Symphony. He has had a lifetime of music making and has always taken the time to encourage and teach at all levels from complete beginners to Masters students. At 82 he still plays with all manner of Orchestras around the place and still makes "that magic sound." He can make more music with one perfectly placed note than many people do in a lifetime. Alex is also an accomplished artist, and has exhibited paintings and drawings in Australia and overseas.

How does my membership work?

In order for you to receive this newsletter, and to have voting rights at our AGMs, you need to be a member. Memberships to the orchestra are a crucial part of its income – plus of course the best way for you to be part of the orchestra's community.

If you have been receiving newsletters from 1 July 2004, but haven't yet paid your membership fee, now is a great opportunity to get up-to-date. Just fill out the membership form at the bottom of this page.

Volunteers

If you are able to offer any administrative support please contact the Stonnington Symphony office on 9510 5257. Periodically, and specifically around concert time, there is a tremendous amount to be done – any skills and time would be most gratefully received.

Also consider offering assistance with front of house. You can sell tickets; sell programmes; be an usher; or serve tea and coffee. Please remember that our group of concert volunteers needs to be organised well in advance – please call the office on 9510 5257 at least a week prior to the concert.

Website

You can now access Stonnington Symphony online. We have a temporary website up and running – just something very simple at this stage and which we will be developing in 2005. Have a look at www.stonningtonorchestra.org.au and let us know what you think.

Supporter's contact details

Please notify the office of any change of your contact details, either by phone 9510 5257 or via email admin@stonningtonorchestra.org.au.

Membership renewal 2005-2006 / DONATION

September 2005

| | |
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| name: | |
| phone: | |
| address: | |
| suburb: | postcode: |
| email: | |

- I have enclosed \$50 (which includes GST) cheque for my membership, which will expire on 30 June 2006.
- I have enclosed a donation by cheque to the value of \$_____. (make cheques payable to Stonnington Symphony)
- I have electronically transferred my membership / donation (strike out where appropriate) to BSB 083 522, account number 51545 3615 **and I have annotated my payment**

Please forward completed form and payment to
The Business Manager, Stonnington Symphony
PO Box 476, Prahran VIC 3181
Thank you!

The City of Stonnington
is proud to sponsor
Stonnington Symphony

