



Players' Newsletter

July 2008

From the General Manager:

It's been a hectic couple of months and a great introduction, for me as the new general manager with Stonnington Symphony. **Congratulations to all those who played** in the June 15 concert at Malvern Town Hall, Tuckwell Conducts Wagner. I think most people would agree that this was a successful concert on every level. And it was an experience that epitomises the very reason we are all part of Stonnington Symphony. This was the first Town Hall concert I managed solo, and I felt privileged to have been part of it. **Following on with further good news**, was the announcement by the City of Stonnington, that our sponsorship application for the triennial period 2008-11 has been successful! Not only was this a huge relief for me, as it had been my first task as the new General Manager, but it deepens our relationship with Council and ensures that our on-going concert series can continue. That said there are still plenty of reasons and opportunities to raise more funds. **Stonnington Symphony has enjoyed a very successful partnership with Prahran Market over the past few months.** Some of our small ensembles have performed on Saturdays at the Market, with simultaneous sausage sizzles being conducted a few feet away. This has turned out to be a fantastic marketing opportunity as well as a great way to increase our fundraising income. Thank you to Dave Newington for making that connection with the Market and continuing to coordinate the sizzling logistics; and to all those who have contributed their time and culinary skills over the four sizzles we have had this year. Also thank you to Simone Rickerby for coordinating the players, and the ensembles for giving their time. Anybody who has not participated who would like to in the future should contact me via the office contacts at any time. **Since the last newsletter** many players performed in the first Town Hall Series Concert conducted by Pat Miller, a full and dynamic program, and the concert with the Glen Eira City Choir, conducted by Jane Elton Brown. There has also been the annual Trivia Night fundraiser in April, fiercely competitive, the winners taking the prize with only a point the difference. This year the August concert became the May concert, which became very confusing for us all. But I think everyone will agree that having Barry Tuckwell conduct was worth the minor inconveniences, as we fitted our concert dates into his busy schedule! All of these events are only possible through the generous donation of time and energy by some of our members, a small but tireless group who emerge to assist at every event. They would be very happy to be joined by anyone else who would like to increase their participation in the running of the organisation.

Coming up we need volunteers for the sausage sizzles – there is a big one coming up at Bunnings in Oakleigh on July 19. Please contact Dave Newington (0401 959 421) if you can spare a few hours and help.

Just on a more personal note, I thought you might be interested in knowing a little of my professional background. As well as working here, I also coordinate the R.E. Ross Trust Playwrights' Development Awards at the State Library of Victoria. Prior to this I worked as an independent producer for theatre, music and dance working with some of Australia's most renowned contemporary performers. I have toured work to festivals in Estonia, Norway, the US, UK, New Zealand and throughout Australia, and the last theatre piece I produced toured for 7 years. Initially trained as a dancer/choreographer, I was the founding director of The Field in New York, an organisation that continues to support the work of emerging artists across all artforms, and have also been a past Director of the Next Wave Festival in Melbourne. I have been the general manager of Astra Choir on three separate occasions and managed Jouissance, who perform the music of Hildegard of Bingen and Peter Abelard.

I am a Stonnington resident, and love being able to live and work in the local area. Please feel free to contact me at the office. My current office hours are Wednesday-Friday.

Best wishes, Wendy Lasica

Next concert: 25th Anniversary Gala Concert

Saturday 15 November, 7.30pm, Malvern Town Hall
Conductor Ben Northey & Solo Cello Janis Laurs

Sibelius: Finlandia
Shostakovich: Symphony No 9
Dvorak: Cello Concerto in B Minor

Rehearsal Schedule: Malvern (MTH) Town Hall

Tuesday 14 October	MTH	7.30 – 10.30pm
Tuesday 21 October	MTH	7.30 – 10.30pm
Tuesday 28 October	MTH	7.30 – 10.30pm
Thursday 6 November	MTH	7.30 – 10.30pm
Tuesday 11 November	MTH	7.30 – 10.30pm
Thursday 13 November	MTH	7.30 – 10.30pm
Saturday 15 November	MTH	3-5pm balance
	MTH	7.30pm performance

Please note: the rehearsal schedule is posted on the website NOW! It will be subject to change as the rehearsals progress. Please check online or contact your Convenor ahead of time to confirm when you are required.

On June 13 this year Benjamin Northey conducted the London Philharmonic and in a review of the concert, Colin Anderson said of the experience "...there was security and mutual trust much in evidence (between the conductor and the players)... that made for an engrossing and revealing performance..." These comments auger well for our final concert for 2008. Ben Northey will be returning to Melbourne to conduct Stonnington Symphony and it's an opportunity that we must all make the most of. If you are not able to

perform in this concert then support the orchestra as part of the audience.

This last Stonnington Symphony concert for 2008 will celebrate 25 continuous years of concerts. This is a tremendous milestone and we want to make this an event to remember. If you are in contact with ex-players no longer active with the organisation, please encourage them to come and be part of the audience.

A little bit of Stonnington Symphony history: With historical links dating back to the 1920's, Stonnington Symphony was officially formed in 1983 as the Malvern Symphony Orchestra, rapidly establishing itself as Victoria's leading community orchestra. It has traditionally performed challenging repertoire. The Symphony presented the first Melbourne performance of Alban Berg's Wozzeck conducted by Warwick Stengaards - of this performance, Clive O'Connell of The Age wrote that it was "an extraordinary and honourable achievement."

A change of name to 'Stonnington Symphony' in 1996 reflected the orchestra's need to identify with the community outside of Malvern – and today players come from all over Victoria to be involved. There are still many Stonnington Symphony supporters who were part of the formation of the organisation in 1983, including Jenny Johnson and Dorothy Connor, Sam Saffir, Geoff Hardy and many others.

One of the activities we are organising to celebrate our 25th anniversary is a time capsule. This will be "buried" (probably somewhere in the office!) and hopefully in another 25 years, we will still be around and can open it at our 50th anniversary! If you have any ideas for what we might put in this time capsule, please contact the office.

IMPORTANT:

If you wish to play in the next concert, you MUST contact your convenor no later than 2 weeks before the first rehearsal.

Practice before the first rehearsal

If you wish to practice your part prior to the first rehearsal, please speak to your section convenor.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS:

Section Convenors

Violins (A-K)	Dorothy Connor	9882 2941
Violins (L-Z)	Irene Jordan	9888 8080
Viola	Paula Heyma	9882 0373
Cello	Julia Cianci	0413 840 839
Bass	Bronwyn Welch	9384 6275
Flute	Aydin Abdullah	9397 8065
Oboe	Penny Dawe	0404 865 645
Clarinet	David Laity	0409 448 794
Bassoon	Libby McGrath	0413 849 980
Horn	Rob Harry	0419 304 929
Brass	Matthew Ayres	9304 3540
Percussion	Christine Flood	9885 7816
Librarian	Alan Miceli	9893 3252

Thank you to our supporters for the recent concerts:

Mary Clements, Heather Stephens, Katharine St Lawrence, Phillipa Clements and Diana Greenslade – box office sales ;Marcel Delany, Dominic Landvogt, Ron Tidhar, Jackson Clarke, Nicholas Robinson, Dougal

Stevenson, Ingrid Leibbrandt– program sales and ushers.

2008-2009 Memberships are now due!

If you have not already done so, please sign up for this financial year. Stonnington Symphony relies on you, as the active participants and members of our community to contribute financially to its activities. Although we receive considerable cash and in-kind sponsorship from the City of Stonnington it does not cover all the costs associated with presenting our concerts. And the sponsorship is dependent on us raising other cash through memberships, concert fees and fundraising drives.

A membership form is attached, if you have not yet completed payment, please fill out the enclosed form and return it to the address listed. The early-bird discount is available until August 15, 2008.

Coming up in the next few months: an AGM and a major fund-raising event.

Seeking New Committee Members for 2008-9

Being on the committee can be as much work or as little work as you like. While we are always keen to have members take an active role in the running and decision making behind the orchestra, being on the committee could be as little effort as just turning up to the committee meetings once a month (usually weekday evenings for a couple of hours.)

So if you have ever had even the tiniest fleeting thought that you might be interested in being on the committee - now is the time to do it! Just contact the office or feel free to call Diana on 0400 489 751 if you have any questions.

From the 2007-8 committee members:

David, Diana, Diana, Dave, Matt, Phillipa and Simone

2007-08 Orchestra committees

Committee of Management

Acting President	David Laity
Acting Vice President	David Newington
Treasurer	Diana Greenslade
Acting Secretary	Phillippa Clements
Ordinary Members	Diana Reardon, Matt Gough, Simone Rickerby

Program Planning Sub-Committee:

Benjamin Northey, Artistic Director
Jenny Johnson, Convenor, Aydin Abdullah, Paul Boasman
Dorothy Connor, Rob Harry, Dannielle Wilkinson

To contact any of the above committee members, please get in touch with Wendy on t: 9510 5257, f: 9525 2611, e: admin@stonningtonsymphony.org.au or PO Box 476, Prahran VIC 3181.

STOP PRESS: Support your fellow Stonnington Symphony musicians in An Afternoon of Chamber Music with guest director, cellist Michael Dahlenburg, performing Villa-Lobos, J.S. Bach and Schubert, Sunday August 24th at 2.30pm, St George's Anglican Church, 296 Glenferrie Rd, Malvern (next to Malvern Town Hall). \$20/15/10.

Stonnington Symphony Playing Membership Renewal for 2008 – 2009 and DONATION form

Name:	
Instrument:	
Occupation:	
Age range: Under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-35 <input type="checkbox"/> 36-50 <input type="checkbox"/> 51-65 <input type="checkbox"/> Over 65 <input type="checkbox"/> (important for our insurance requirements)	
Phone:	
Address:	
Suburb:	Postcode:
Email:	

Membership Options (choose one):

- I have enclosed **\$70** (inc GST) for my membership, which will expire on 30 June 2009.
- I have enclosed **\$60** (inc GST) for my concession membership, which will expire on 30 June 2009. I am a healthcare card holder / pensioner / full time student (circle appropriate category).
- I am paying **\$60** (inc. GST) for my early-bird membership, which will expire on June 30, 2009. Early-bird available until August 15, 2008.

Donations:

- I am making a tax deductible donation to **Stonnington Symphony Development Fund** to be put towards artistic costs \$_____.
- I am making a donation towards operating costs (non-tax deductible) \$_____.

**Please make cheques payable to
Stonnington Symphony or electronically transfer to
BSB 033072, account number 266570 –and *annotate the payment***

Please forward completed form and payment to
The General Manager
Stonnington Symphony
PO Box 476
Prahran VIC 3181

The City of Stonnington
is proud to sponsor
Stonnington Symphony

