



Players' Newsletter

March 2008

From the General Manager:

Stonnington Symphony's 25th anniversary year has started well with a busy calendar of concerts and events. The recent Symphony under the Stars concert in the Malvern Gardens was a great success, as was our fundraising raffle and Prahran Market Sausage Sizzle. Our first Town Hall Series Concert is drawing closer and the orchestra is also performing a concert with the Glen Eira City Choir. The annual Trivia Night fundraiser is on in April, alongside another Sizzle at the Prahran Market and an informal quartet performance will entertain Market goers. More information about each of these events can be found later in the newsletter and the Committee and I hope you will all support these great events which are vital fundraisers to ensure the Stonnington Symphony continues to be able to present concerts, thus providing opportunities for the many players to perform with talented professional conductors and soloists.

Recently, Jen Kirsner and Margaret Jenkinson announced their resignations as President and Secretary after several years of service. We thank Jen and Margaret for their great work and for their continuing commitment to playing and assisting with fundraisers. Thanks also to David Laity for stepping up as Acting President until the AGM. These resignations make available positions on the COM; if you are interested in joining please have a look at the information later in this newsletter and make contact with us.

After nearly three years as General Manager, I have tendered my resignation as I am returning to study my Masters of Arts and Entertainment Management at Deakin University. The Committee of Management has appointed a new Manager, Wendy Lasica, who will bring an exciting range of skills to the job. Congratulations Wendy! I'm sure all orchestra members will make Wendy feel welcome and lend their support to continue the great work of the Stonnington Symphony. On a personal note, may I thank everyone for making my time here so fantastic; there have been many challenges but it has been so rewarding to be part of a flourishing community orchestra. Particular thanks to the committees for their ongoing commitment and assistance.

I look forward to seeing many of you at concerts and fundraisers in the years to come – I'm sure my association with the orchestra won't end here!

Best wishes,
Celia Welch

Next concert:

Sounds of Love

Saturday 3 May, 7.30pm, Malvern Town Hall
Conductor Pat Miller & Solo Piano Kristian Chong

Grainger – To a Nordic Princess: Bridal Song
Grieg – Piano Concerto in A minor
Berlioz – Romeo et Juliette: Symphonie dramatique

The first of the 2008 Town Hall Series concerts features music inspired by and reflecting on love.

The program opens with Grainger's lavish wedding present to his wife-to-be Ella Strom, entitled 'To a Nordic Princess'. The work was famously first performed as part of their nuptials which followed a concert conducted by Grainger in the Hollywood Bowl in 1928 in front of an audience of 25000 people. As the noted Grainger specialist John Hopkins put it "The work is in effect a lengthy 'ramble' commencing with solo instruments and later rising to great climaxes, using full orchestra with organ."

The Nordic theme is then continued with Grieg's Piano concerto in A minor with Kristian Chong as Soloist. With its cool lines and rich harmonies this favourite among the great concertos provides a brilliant opportunity for soloist and orchestra alike to relish the passion and aching tenderness of Grieg's masterpiece.

The second half of the concert features the instrumental movements from Berlioz's dramatic symphony Romeo et Juliette. A recasting of the Shakespeare in symphonic form, the work includes a fierce battle, a grand ball, a magnificent love scene, and a scherzo based on the Queen Mab monologue before lovers are finally united, if only in death. Romeo et Juliette is a brilliant opportunity for the orchestra to tell a truly symphonic story, full of character, drama, humour and love.

Rehearsal Schedule:

Malvern (MTH) or Prahran (PTH) Town Halls

Tuesday 8 April	MTH	7.30 – 10.30pm
Thursday 10 April	PTH	7.30 – 10.30pm
Tuesday 15 April	MTH	7.30 – 10.30pm
Tuesday 22 April	MTH	7.30 – 10.30pm
Tuesday 29 April	MTH	7.30 – 10.30pm
Thursday 1 May	MTH	6.30 – 9.30pm Harps, Pianos, Celeste, Organ, Perc 7.30 – 10.30pm Tutti (except above listed)
Saturday 3 May	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.**

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
Violins (L-Z)	Irene Jordan
Viola	Matt Gough
Cello	Julia Cianci
Bass	Bronwyn Welch
Flute	Aydin Abdullah
Oboe	Penny Dawe
Clarinet	David Laity
Bassoon	Libby McGrath
Horn	Rob Harry
Brass	Matthew Ayres
Percussion	Christine Flood

Librarian Alan Miceli

Symphony under the Stars - Concert Review 1st March 2008, 7pm, Malvern Gardens

For the second year in a row, the weather was beautiful and the concert went ahead as planned. The orchestra performed exceptionally well under Conductor Matthew Toogood, winner of Stonnington Symphony's inaugural Conductor's Prize. Matthew worked with Artistic Director Benjamin Northey and the committee to program entertaining and popular repertoire. The result was a relaxed evening of well-known tunes, with opportunities for all sections of the orchestra to play featured lines and a beautiful solo from Concertmaster Edwina Hookey.

Thank you to our supporters on 26 August 2007

Trevor Jordan – musicians' carpark attendant; **Irene Jordan, Jen Kirsner, James Kirsner, and Heather Stephens** – raffle tickets sales; **Dorothy Connor** – info tent & raffle ticket sales; **Jenny Johnson and Nadine Fung** – distributing programs & brochures; **Miranda Welch and Martin Welch** – assisted with raffle admin

2007-2008 Memberships & concert fees

Thank you to those players who have paid their yearly membership fees for 2007 – 2008.

If you still wish to be a member or forward Concert Fees for the May08 concert but have not yet completed payment, please fill out the enclosed form and return it to the address listed

You ALL need to help keep this great orchestra going, and now it's easier than ever. You can transfer your fees electronically, pay at rehearsals or send a cheque. Any problems? See your convenor right away.

If you are unsure about your membership status, please contact the office for advice.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Caroline Matthews on the birth of Imogen May Matthews, born 12th February, 8lb 6oz. Imogen was possibly our youngest SuS audience member (at 18 days) and will likely be a viola player due to her long fingers!

Congratulations also to Julia Cianci who has just completed her PhD in Chemistry.

In memoriam

It is with regret that we inform you that a former Stonnington Symphony volunteer and occasional 2nd Violinist, Barbara Hewitt, died peacefully at her home on the 22nd of December, 2007.

Barbara will be greatly missed by all who were lucky enough to have known her.

Seeking Committee Members

You will have read that the Committee of Management has experienced a bit of an exodus recently, with Jen Kirsner and Margaret Jenkinson having to step down due to professional and musical commitments. This puts us in a very precarious position as we now only have 4 committee members. We really need a minimum of 7 members to be able to function properly.

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 remaining committee members:
David, Diana, Dave and Phillippa

2007-08 Orchestra committees

Committee of Management

President	Vacant
Vice President	David Laity
Treasurer	Diana Greenslade
Secretary	Vacant
Ordinary Members	Phillippa Clements David Newington

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 in the office via phone on 9510 5257, fax 9525 2611, email admin@stonningtonsymphony.org.au or post PO Box 476, Prahran VIC 3181

Membership renewal 2007 – 2008 / DONATION

March 2008

name:

instrument:

occupation:

Age range: Under 18 18-35 36-50 51-65 Over 65
(important for our insurance requirements)

phone:

address:

suburb:

postcode:

email:

- I have enclosed **\$70**(including GST) for my membership (make payable to Stonnington Symphony), which will expire on 30 June 2008.
- I have enclosed **\$60** (including GST) for my concession membership (make payable to Stonnington Symphony), which will expire on 30 June 2008. I am a healthcare card holder / pensioner / full time student (circle appropriate category).
- I have enclosed a donation towards artistic costs to the value of \$_____.
(make cheques payable to Stonnington Symphony) – tax-deductible donation
- I have enclosed a donation towards operating costs to the value of \$_____.
(make cheques payable to Stonnington Symphony) – non-tax-deductible donation
- I have electronically transferred \$_____ (includes GST) to **BSB 033 072, account number 266570 – I have annotated my payment**

Application to play in Sounds of Love, Saturday 3rd May 2008

*Please contact your convenor **before** sending payment. If you send in payment to the office, the General Manager cannot guarantee you a seat, particularly in the wind, brass or percussion sections. Thank you for your co-operation.*

- I wish to play in the concert on Saturday 3rd May 2008, including attending required rehearsals.
- I have included \$30 (which includes GST) concert fee payment with this application
- I have electronically transferred my \$30 concert fee to **BSB 033 072, account number 266570 – I have annotated my payment**

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

The City of Stonnington
is proud to sponsor
Stonnington Symphony

