



# NEWSLETTER

No. 49

October 2010

[www.wso.org.uk](http://www.wso.org.uk)

**Chairman's Notes**  
from Malcolm Rowson  
(Tel: 01926-491785)

e-mail  
[rowson@donax.demon.co.uk](mailto:rowson@donax.demon.co.uk)

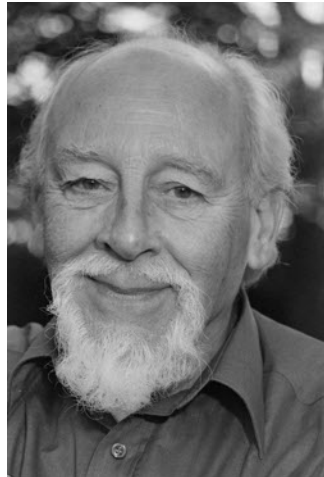
## The Patrons & the Steinway Piano

It is always a privilege to welcome our Patron, Peter Donohoe, as soloist at our concert and a great experience for the players. In order to achieve a performance of quality for our audience it is essential to have a fine instrument as well. The piano for 16 October is from Steinway's of London and one of the best in Britain. The four figure hire fee is understandably high but the WSO's ability to afford it has only been made possible by donations from both the Cadbury Trust and from our other distinguished Patron, Sir John Egan. We are extremely grateful for this generous support.

## Honoured Member Daphne Hinton

The WSO has amongst its supporters a number of **Honoured Members**. One of these is our former treasurer, Daphne Hinton. On 1 September 2000, Daphne helped crew the maiden voyage of the sailing ship, *Tenacious*, and featured on television in part of a holiday programme. This year she was invited back on board as a passenger on its 10 year anniversary, short voyage along the Solent. She was presented, by the Chairman of the Jubilee Sailing Trust with a beautifully illustrated book commemorating the building and launching of *Tenacious*. At the age of 91 she was the senior member of the passenger list!

As a former officer of the WSO, Daphne is very proud of the fact that the orchestra is able to attract accomplished, world famous soloists, but as a former treasurer also knows that funds are required as well as good audiences. With those points in mind she has given a generous donation to help us through the season. If any others among our supporters are able to help in a similar way we shall be most grateful to hear from them



## Trains & Boats & Planes

On Sunday 12 December at the Guy Nelson Hall, Warwick School, all the family will be entertained and *transported* as our theme this year is planes, trains and boats – not to mention the sleigh in Prokofiev's *Troika*! Ron Goodwin's famous *633 Squadron* and Howard Blake's extraordinarily popular *Snowman* are the aerial pieces; the trains are portrayed by Honneger's *Pacific 231* and Ellis' *Coronation Scot*; and danger at sea in the Caribbean from Klaus Badelt's infamous pirates.

The WSO welcomes back yet again its very popular narrator, Jeffery Dench who will enthral the audience with the story taken from Raymond Briggs drawings in which a young boy builds a snowman on Christmas Eve. The snowman comes to life and takes the boy on an unforgettable trip to the North Pole to meet Santa Claus. The magic of the story is beautifully achieved through Howard Blake's words and enchanting music. All the children in the audience will recognise the captivating song "Walking In The Air" as the journey to the North Pole takes off.

There will be a quiz, carols for all and the pieces will be introduced by conductor, Guy Woolfenden. Be sure to book early for this concert, tickets are already on sale. It begins at 3.00pm in the afternoon so the time is ideal for whole family!

## WSO Ticket Offers

It's still not too late to become a WSO Subscriber this season. If you sign up for the next three concerts each ticket will cost £10 instead of £12. There is also a special offer for the Family Concert in December whereby £28 admits 2 adults & 2 children. Contact the ticket secretary for further details

## WSO Dinner

The annual dinner for WSO members, supporters and friends will be held at Kenilworth Golf Club on Friday 21 January. Full details will be published nearer the time both in hard copy and on the web site.

## WSO AGM

The Orchestra will hold its Annual General Meeting at Myton School, Myton Road, Warwick, CV34 6PJ at 9.00pm on Wednesday 10 November.

**ORDER YOUR  
TICKETS NOW  
FOR THE  
FAMILY CONCERT  
AT THE GUY NELSON  
HALL  
at 3.00 p.m .  
SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER**

contact the Ticket Secretary

**Mrs. Diana Billington,  
on 01926 850385,  
or by writing to her at  
21, Fishponds Road,  
Kenilworth. CV8 1EX,  
or by e-mail at  
[boxoffice@wso.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@wso.org.uk) .**

# E Major - the Key to a Trumpeter

A profile of Liz Major who nears her 10th Anniversary with the WSO

A true Londoner born almost within earshot of Bow Bells, Liz Major had passion for music from an early age. A physical disability with one hand meant that she was not able to play either the piano or the majority of other instruments and this together with a brushing aside attitude by many of those around her helped to mould her temperament into one of great determination. After years of pestering her mother to let her play an orchestral instrument, a moment of revelation occurred in a train compartment when Liz was about eleven. She was talking to her mother about music and expressing acute disappointment at not being able to play an instrument when the conversation was interrupted by a wise gentleman in the corner. He politely suggested that a trumpet might be a possibility as only one hand is needed to press the valves. This was the key to the door as far as Liz was concerned and despite being told that brass instruments are not ladylike, she persuaded her mother to purchase a basic, cheap trumpet. Liz with mother now on board, managed to secure beginner lessons at the highest level with Professor Bernard Brown no less, of the Guildhall School of Music, an establishment very close to home, almost next door in fact! As lessons progressed it soon became necessary for Liz to consider buying another instrument and this she did from Bill Lewington's of London – an *Olds Ambassador* model. She vividly remembers being taken by her mother across the seedier streets of Soho and being firmly told to walk straight ahead, looking neither right nor left in case her eye might stray towards the plethora of photographs of unclothed women in the shop windows.

Liz had the opportunity to make music her career but on leaving the City of London School she played safe and trained in the arcane science of orthoptics, treating eye alignment disorders, and secured a post at Moorfields Hospital in High Holborn. She found the work very interesting especially when patients such a Stirling Moss came along; nevertheless her strong passion for music was becoming an influence for change and at the age of



23 she won a place at the Royal Academy of Music [R.A.M.] studying trumpet with Sydney Ellison alongside contemporaries such as the now legendary John Wilbraham. Study in London gave her access to many accomplished amateur orchestras like The Salomon, The Kensington Symphony and Medical Orchestras.

After qualifying at the R.A.M. Liz decided to take up brass teaching and this was interrupted when she married John a trombonist, and subsequently their son arrived. John's work as an engineer, caused them to move to a more rural environment at Chesham. Through fortuitous connections via her professor at the Guildhall, Liz was able to land the job of Head of Brass at Berkhamstead School where she built up a strong department of pupils and music groups and even learned the Trombone - "I had the Tune a Day tuition book and kept 3 stages ahead of the pupils so that I could manage to get them going." During that time Liz was able to keep up her playing with the London orchestras.

Next came the move to Gloucestershire and a one acre smallholding where a new passion was added to the music - that of horticulture and small animal husbandry - "We had 4 goats, 30 chickens and ducks, 5 cats and a dog." Liz continued music as a peripatetic teacher for the county but did not have the orchestral opportunities once available in London and this she missed. Consequently, in 2000 she and John decided to move to the more active music

scene of Warwickshire where she joined the WSO in January 2001

In energetic retirement Liz still has interests other than music, she is secretary of the Wootton Wawen Allotments Association and relief manager of the local charity shop. Among her many greatly cherished memories in music she highlighted two. The first was a request to her by the composer Geoffrey Burgon to try out something he had written for trumpet. This she did only to discover that some years later it appeared in the composer's award winning score for the TV Series, *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*. The second was a performance of Handel's *Messiah*, conducted by a relative of Ashkenazy in which Liz played 'And the trumpet shall Sound'. The solo was so well received that the audience applauded in the middle of the oratorio and the conductor stopped the proceedings to embrace the soloist – unheard of in Huddersfield!

## WARWICKSHIRE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA COMMITTEE

Chairman & Orchestral Manager - *Malcolm Rowson*  
Secretary - *Raymond Joyce*  
Assistant Secretary - *Heather Johnson*  
Treasurer - *Peter Scott*  
Assistant Treasurer - *Ruth Smith*  
Concert Manager - *Stella Joseph*  
Publicity Officer - *Amanda Laidler*  
Programme Planner - *Vaughan Reed*  
Librarian - *Robert Gilchrist*  
Ticket Secretary - *Diana Billington*  
Assistant Ticket Secretary & Making Music Representative - *Kathy Bly*  
Ordinary Member  
*Michael Gray*  
Ex officio  
*Guy Woolfenden, Jeremy Ballard*

## Beyond the Stave!

*After playing Chopin, I feel as if I had been weeping over sins I had never committed.*



**Oscar Wilde** [1854-1900]  
*The Critic as Artist*, 1891