

ISLE OF MAN  
*Symphony*  
ORCHESTRA



NEWSLETTER

August 2020

[www.iomso.im](http://www.iomso.im)

## An Unusual Summer !

Greetings to all Members and Friends. Whilst it's lovely to be able to go out and about on the island, it's strange without tourists and sad not to be able to visit friends and family in UK without enduring 2 weeks isolation! However there are several IOMSO events on the horizon. Read on for more details.

### *A Message from Maurice.*

With luck, and a fair wind, we shall commence rehearsals for our November concert on 9th September at St John's School as usual. Because of the difficulty of engaging guest players from across, the concert will be of 'classical' proportions, not too demanding for a well-seasoned ensemble such as ourselves, and hopefully enticing for our loyal audience. Mozart's 'Haffner' symphony (no. 35 in D major, K. 385) has not been performed by the orchestra (then the Manx Sinfonia) since Wendy Smith was musical director, and directed two Mozart symphonies (the other being the 'Paris' symphony, K. 297) in the same programme. Originally the symphony was written as a multi-movement Serenade to celebrate the wedding of a prominent Salzburg family, but Mozart hurriedly adapted it as a symphony in 1782, when he urgently needed a symphony for one of his Viennese concerts, adding parts for flutes and clarinets for the occasion.

Faure's suite 'Masques et Bergamasques' has the feel of an eighteenth century pastiche and is one of his most amiable and lyrical works. Handel's 'Water Music' has never been performed complete here, which is not surprising as it consists of three suites in F major – the 'horn' suite; in G major – the 'dance' suite, and in D major – the 'trumpet' suite; altogether twenty-two individual pieces beginning with an overture. We shall make a selection from the complete work, reflecting the very different character of each suite. Incidentally, the title-page of the John Walsh 1733 edition reads "The Celebrated Water Musick in seven parts viz. Two FRENCH HORNS,

two VIOLINS or HOBOYS, a TENOR, and a Thorough Bass for the HARPSICHORD or BASS VIOLIN, Composed'd by Mr Handel". The horns are given special prominence because of their novelty value, and as it was the first time that horns had been used in England, Handel made sure they were fully occupied! The full orchestra also included trumpets and flutes.

Our concerto for this concert is also a novelty, by virtue of the fact that it is seldom performed, and a lovely one at that: Bruch's Double Concerto for clarinet and viola with our own soloists Nigel Harrison and Roy Baker. Warmly 'Romantic' and beautifully written, this mini-masterpiece of around twenty minutes duration is sure to win many new friends.

Looking ahead to our Spring concert in 2021, Graham Kirkland will perform Mozart's piano concerto no.21 in C major, K. 467, nick-named 'Elvira Madigan', for no other reason than the lovely slow movement was used in the affectingly dreary 1967 Swedish film of that name, based on the true, but tragic, love of a circus tight-rope dancer and a nobleman and soldier. I remember the film – vaguely – and recall that just about the same time as the doomed lovers see death as their only option, so did I. DO NOT refer to Mozart's wonderful concerto by the name 'Elvira Madigan' in my hearing . . . you have been warned!

*Maurice*



## Concert Dates for your Diaries.

**Saturday 21st November : Winter Concert :  
QE2 (t.b.c.) : 7:30**

**Monday 23rd November : Ramsey Music  
Society Concert : RGS : 7:30 (t.b.c.)**

**Sunday 6th December : Concert with Manx  
Voices : St. George's Church, Douglas : 7:30**

**Saturday 23rd January 2021 : Ramsey  
Choral Concert : St. Paul's, Ramsey : 7pm**

**Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th March :  
Spring Concert : Venues t.b.c. : 7:30**

**Sunday 28th March: Concert with IOMCS :  
Villa Marina : 3pm**



## Rehearsal Schedule 2020

**Sept 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th : St. Johns : 7:30**

**October 7th, 14th, 21st : St. Johns : 7:30**

**\*October 28th : NO REHEARSAL\***

**Nov 4th, 11th, 18th : St. Johns : 7:30**

**November 25th : St. Johns : 7:30 AGM**

**Dec 2nd : Manx Voices group : St. Johns : 7:30**

**Dec 9th & 16th : Ramsey Choral : St. Johns :  
7:30**

## Kirk Michael Chamber Orchestra

Several members of IOMSO will be playing in the inaugural concert in the newly refurbished Lezayre Church on Saturday 29th August. Do go along if you can. Free admission.



## Winter Concert 2020

We hope to start the season with our Winter Concert on 21st November. As Maurice has outlined, the programme includes music by Handel, Bruch, Fauré and Mozart - a slightly small scale concert, which doesn't require extra players from the UK! Some very enjoyable pieces for both orchestra and audience. It will be a joy to work with our own soloists, Nigel and Roy. Look out for more details on our website and Facebook.



## Choral Events

IOMSO has been asked to provide orchestral accompaniment for **Manx Voices** (conductor Angela Stewart) in their concert on Sunday, 6th December in St. George's Church, Douglas. They are working on Schubert's Mass in G, arranged for female voices, which needs a string ensemble.

Then **Ramsey Choral** will be performing their annual concert in St. Paul's, Ramsey on Saturday, 26th January 2021. Nigel Harrison will be looking for a small orchestra (including wind) to play for this. Please let Nigel know if you are available. The main work in this concert will be Dan Forrest's "Requiem for the Living".

## Spring Concert 2021

Something to look forward to in the Spring will be our concert on **Saturday, 13th March** in Ramsey Grammar School (West Hall) at 7.30 and **Sunday, 14th March** in King's Court Theatre at King William's College. (Venues to be confirmed).

The programme is designed to fit in with GCSE and A level music set works and will include Mendelssohn's Overture 'A Calm Sea and a prosperous Voyage', part of Haydn's Symphony 100 (Military), and Mozart's Piano Concerto no.21, K467, with soloist **Graham Kirkland**. We will also be playing Haydn's Symphony no.99 in E flat major.

More details in the next Newsletter.



## Gala Concert 2021

Although we were sorry to have to cancel our **Gala Concert** in the Villa Marina on 6th December 2020, we are very pleased to announce that the Gala Concert, with soloist **Yulia Chaplina**, has now been rescheduled for **Sunday, 21st November 2021** in the Villa Marina at 2.30. The programme remains the same : **Glinka, Rachmaninov** and **Borodin**.

So although it is a long time in the future there is still much to look forward to!

*Look out for updates in future Newsletters, on our website and facebook page!*

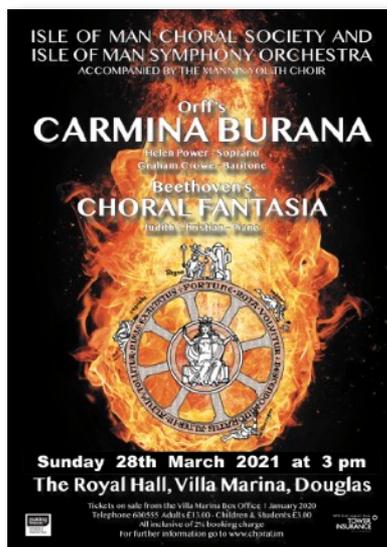
## Choral Concert 2021

Our annual collaboration with **Isle of Man Choral Society** in the **Villa Marina** had to be postponed twice due to the Covid-19 situation. However **Julian Power** has booked a date next spring when the concert will go ahead.

The revised date is **Sunday, 28th March 2021 at 3pm**, with a dress rehearsal in the Villa on **Saturday 27th at 2.30pm**.

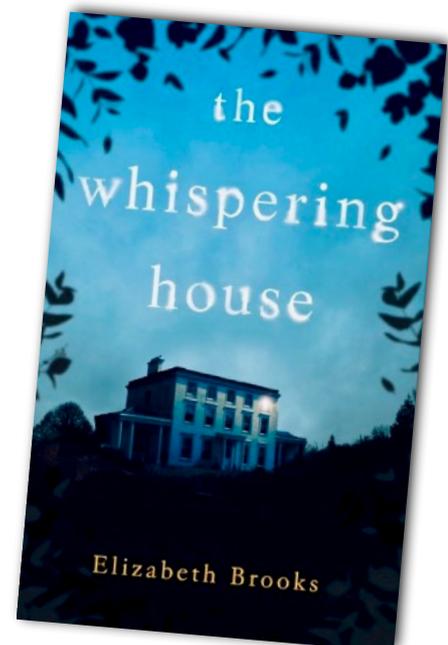
We are not sure when we will be able to start rehearsals for this concert - watch this space!

If you have bought tickets, they will be automatically transferred to the new date.



## Hot Off the Press!

Our brilliant resident author, **Elizabeth Brooks** (2nd Violin), has just published her second novel : 'The Whispering House'. After the success of her first novel 'Call of the Curlew' (if you haven't read it, you should!), her new book is now available to purchase from Bridge Bookshops in Ramsey and Port Erin, and Waterstones in Douglas.



## *Chairman's Column*

I am delighted to confirm that Orchestral rehearsals will re-start on Wednesday September 9th, 7.30pm at St John's School.

Thank you for all your responses and suggestions from the survey Leo ran a few weeks ago. We have waited to make any announcement until we had confirmation of rehearsal venue and a committee meeting to decide how and what we would be able to do. Full details have now been sent out by email.

I hope you have all enjoyed a good summer. We have been very fortunate haven't we, to enjoy 100 days-plus COVID-free along with some lovely weather. A personal thank you to those members and friends who have supported my Raad ny Foillan walk to raise funds for Junior Achievement IOM, a charity that is important to me. I have already exceeded my target of £500 by £149 and promises are still coming in (see my progress at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/andrewcolejaion>).

Wind players have been gathering regularly over the last few weeks to get our embouchures back into condition and to enjoy some ensemble playing. The Kirk Michael Chamber Orchestra has also been working towards the inaugural opening concert 'A Musical journey through Time' at Lezayre Church on Saturday August 29th at 7.30pm. There will be a collection in support of the venue and Friends of Manx Youth Orchestra. Please do support this if you can. Lezayre Church promises to be a new and exciting venue, and one which Julian Edwards has worked towards with great patience.

There is complete support for starting gently with repertoire that is not too demanding and which we will enjoy playing together without needing to book guests from away.

Details of the provisional programme and concert dates can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. With all good wishes to our orchestra friends and I look forward to seeing our players at St John's School in September.

*Andrew*



## *Strings play Mendelssohn!*

Some of the strings have made the most of the break by playing on Wednesday evenings. Juliet, Tom, Karen, Lucas, Roy, Barbara, Sam and I have been working on the Mendelssohn Octet (amongst other things) in my garage/model railway room. It's been tremendous fun and has definitely kept our fingers well-exercised.

The players have also been very helpful in reducing the size of my mountain of garden produce!



*Janet*