

HAVANT ORCHESTRAS

Happy New Year! We look forward to welcoming you to experience the warmth of the Italian sunshine at our concert featuring violin soloist Alexandra Peel.



HCO Concert 3rd February 2024

Programme and listening notes from Gordon Egerton.

From the Podium

Robin shares his passion for music. Send us your questions for future editions!

Notes from the Committee

Update and opportunities to share your views!

NEW – Southeast Hampshire Youth Orchestra

Spread the word about this new orchestra for Grade 6+ musicians.

Concert Programme

Saturday 3rd February

Holy Trinity Church, Fareham,
PO16 0EL

6.30pm-7.00pm Arrive early to enjoy our pre-concert talk.

7.30pm Concert starts

Overture in the Italian Style in C, D.591 Schubert

Violin Concerto No. 4 in D major, K.218 Mozart

Violin: Alexandra Peel

Interval – 20 minutes – refreshments available

Symphony No. 4 in A major, "Italian" Mendelssohn

9.30pm approx. concert ends – we wish you a safe journey home

From the Podium

Robin Browning in conversation

What sparked your commitment to the power of music to change lives?

I genuinely believe it! It's been my own experience, and something I've witnessed with others time and time again throughout my life and professional career. I've seen it most clearly with youngsters, but by no means exclusively so. Learning an instrument is amongst the most impactful things a child can pursue, particularly if they combine it with a shared musical experience with others. Singing is deeply powerful, too, of course. It's also my own, personal experience, having been inspired and entranced by all kinds of music, and sound in general, since a young age. As Simon Sinek would say, it's my 'why' – to move other people through music.

You've been working with the Havant Chamber Orchestra since 2012. What makes a successful partnership between conductor and players?

It's definitely like a relationship – including all the ups and downs! Orchestras have a very clear personality, professional or amateur. One can sense it very early on. Some are open, some less so. They have a collective way of working, of responding, and of sensing the way forward. A good partnership involves each understanding the other, encompassing mutual respect and a shared mission.

I feel like we understand each other well, HCO and I, and can achieve things in a very short time.

Alexandra Peel is at the start of her career, currently studying at the Royal College of Music, alongside her performance schedule. What is it about her performance that you are most looking forward to?

I'm hugely looking forward to working with Alexandra, and seeing what she brings to this concerto. I love this concerto! I tinkered with it when I was a violinist (in a former life) but have barely conducted it, so am looking forward to it enormously. Whilst I'll aim to get that off-elusive Mozartian combination of suppleness and subtlety, a good deal of my triggers will come from the soloist.

For the young musicians out there, what advice would you give them?

If I were to offer young musicians any advice it would be to work hard (technique is your friend, despite all those struggles), explore repertoire as widely as possible, and to be themselves as performers – trusting their authentic voice. Don't try to copy, or be someone else. This is why technique is so crucial – because without it, they're never going to be the best version of themselves, but a weaker version of someone else. Technique is the language through which all of their musical messages will be heard.

If you have a question you would like to ask Robin, please write to secretary.havantorchestras2023@gmail.com

Committee Remarks

Listening Tips

Gordon Egerton

Schubert – Overture in the Italian Style

Prague Sinfonia, Christian Benda
(Complete Overtures Vol.2). Naxos
8.570329 £11.25

Mozart – Violin Concerto no.4

Francesca DeGo, Royal Scottish
National Orchestra, Sir Roger
Norrington (coupled with Violin
Concerto no.3 & Violin Sonata no.21 in
E minor, K.304). Chandos CHAN 20234
£14.00

Mendelssohn – Italian Symphony

City of Birmingham Symphony
Orchestra, Edward Gardner
(coupled with Symphony no.5
'Reformation'). Chandos CHSA
5132 £14.00

Share your views! The committee is compiling a survey which will be sent to every member of the society and all season ticket holders. If you have a spare few minutes and would like to contribute your thoughts, we would be grateful if you could complete the survey to help us. The collated results will be used to inform the future planning of the society. Thank you.

We hope you can join us at Holy Trinity Church for the next Havant Chamber Orchestra concert on 3rd February.

The next date for your diary is the Havant Symphony Orchestra afternoon concert on Sunday 10th March at Oaklands School, Waterlooville at 2.30pm. The programme includes the 'New World Symphony' by Dvorak, made famous by the second movement cor anglais solo, a melody which was used for the Hovis bread advert. We look forward to welcoming the violinist Joo Yeon Sir, who will perform the Khachaturian Violin Concerto that afternoon. Do come and join us if you can.

After an EGM and a committee meeting, Jonathan and Stella Scott have resigned from their positions within the society and as members of the committee. We would like to thank them for their outstanding work within and on behalf of the society over a number of years.

The committee have appointed Becky Hill as the new chair of the society. Becky has been a member of HADOS for over 30 years and served on the committee as Education Liaison officer with Peter and Sandra Craddock. She has been leader of the viola section for many of her years in the Havant Symphony Orchestra and is looking forward to her new role within the committee. Becky will be at the Havant Chamber Orchestra concert on Saturday 3rd February, so if you would like to, please make yourself known to her.

Best wishes from the HADOS Committee.

Southeast Hampshire Youth Orchestra

If you know young musicians Grade 6+ you might be interested in Southeast-Hampshire Youth Orchestra (SHYO), a brand new Orchestra for students in full-time education, and we are inviting Grade 6+ orchestral musicians in the Portsmouth, Havant, Waterlooville, Chichester, Fareham, and Petersfield areas to join!

The orchestra will be rehearsing at the Pallant Centre, Havant, PO9 1BE, on fortnightly Sundays from 16:00 to 19:00, beginning with a free inaugural rehearsal on Sunday 28th January.

This rehearsal will be open, with parents and interested members of the community invited to watch the results of the rehearsal.

The orchestra aims to provide the opportunity of orchestral playing to an area underserved by youth orchestras, and to young musicians whose schools/colleges may be too small to offer orchestral opportunities. Through the generous support of fantastic local music teachers supporting the orchestra, they will be able to assist with improving technical skills and musicianship during rehearsals.

They are looking forward to rehearsing 'Finlandia' by Sibelius and Bizet's 'Carmen Suite No.1!'

SHYO are being supported by the Southern Music Project CIC. For more details, please visit their website: <https://www.southernmusicproject.co.uk/southeast-hampshire-youth-orchestra>