

HAVANT ORCHESTRAS

Both orchestras have been busy since our last newsletter. Read on for more opportunities to see our players and get involved! Members are invited to join our Bursary Auditions on Friday 19th July at 7pm.



HSO Concert 13th July 2024 Programme.

From the Podium

Our conductor, James Thomas, writes about his preparation for our July concert.

Save the Date

Our concerts for next season have been announced and are included in this newsletter. We hope you will come and join us next season.

Thoughts from the Chair

News about our busy orchestras and forthcoming events for players and audiences.

News from our friends

Updates from our partner organisation, the South-east Hants Youth Orchestra (SHYO), and a player profile from Simon Lloyd (2nd trumpet).

Concert Programme

Saturday 13th July

Oaklands Concert Hall,
Waterlooville, Hants
PO7 7BW

havantorchestras.org

6.30pm – Arrive to enjoy a glass of wine,
hopefully outside in the sunshine!

7.30pm Concert starts

Three Dances from The Bartered Bride Smetana

Cello Concerto Elgar
soloist: Joseph Spooner

Interval – 20 minutes – refreshments available

Symphony No. 1 Brahms

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

President: The Mayor of Havant, Councillor Peter Wade.

From the Podium

James Thomas

It is a great pleasure to return to conduct the Havant Symphony Orchestra in a Guest Conductor capacity having previously been the Bob and Beryl Harding Bursary Conductor for the 2022/23 season. The HSO is an orchestra very close to my heart, for having grown up along the road in Southbourne, I am what some might call 'a conductor on the coast'. I am grateful to the orchestra and the committee for their dedication and trust during the rehearsals and preparation for this final concert of the season.

And what a concert to end the year!

It has been an enjoyable process preparing Brahms' First Symphony, a work of diligently crafted music over a 19 year composition period. Being dubbed as a successor to Beethoven added extra pressure to Brahms' first attempt at a symphony, vowing not to do him a disservice in style, or the ideals Beethoven had laid out in his nine symphonies. Adding to that, this work is often referred to as 'Beethoven 10', but it is not to be considered as such, regardless of the references to the great German composer.

The communication and pace differ in this symphony with Brahms experimenting with unexplored relationships and textures. Combinations and settings are discovered as well as the expected rousing majestic theme during the fourth movement, (the slightest hint of Ode to Joy?) I will leave you to debate that one...

Elgar's emotive Cello Concerto is hailed by many as the composer's last great work, in response to the haunting atrocities of the First World War. The opening chords and theme of the first movement are famous as a lament, having been used as recently as in the Oscar winning film 'Tar', where Cate Blanchett's title character programs the concerto to profile an up and coming cellist. I am grateful to be given the opportunity to work with Joseph Spooner on this epic work, combining sparse accompaniment at times with reflective melody, ending the concerto as we began with the same spread chordal work in the solo cello.

I must finally again thank the orchestra for their dedication in preparing for this concert. I have enjoyed working with them on this programme and also working with Enyi Okpara, this year's bursary conductor. I would like to take this opportunity to also send my best wishes to my former mentor and friend, Jonathan Butcher. Having conducted a few of the open rehearsal nights this season, it is clear to me that regardless of conductor, the Havant Orchestras are very much alive and well, with a bright future ahead as they move into their next season. Toi Toi!

In his article, James kindly responded to some questions posed by us. If you have a question you would like to ask, or anything you would like to include, write to:
secretary.havantorchestras2023@gmail.com



Our 2024/25 Season....at a glance!

Saturday 19th October – Postcard from America - The Bob and Beryl Harding Bursary Concert

Fanfare for the Common Man – Copland
Mighty River – Wallen
Rhapsody in Blue – Gershwin (soloist – Ellis Thomas)
Adagio for Strings – Barber
Adoration- Price
Four Dances from Rodeo – Copland

Warblington Concert Hall, Havant
7.30pm
Part of the Havant Music Festival 2024

Saturday 30th November 2024 – War and Peace

Mars and Venus from The Planets Suite – Holst
A Shropshire Lad – Butterworth
The Dam Busters March – Coates
Hymn To The Fallen – Williams
Spitfire Prelude and Fugue – Walton
Battle of Britain Suite – Goodwin
1812 Overture – Tchaikovsky

Oaklands Concert Hall, Waterlooville
7.30pm

Saturday 7th December 2024 – The Snowman

Two performances of The Snowman with a narrator.

Oaklands Concert Hall, Waterlooville
1.30pm and 3.30pm

Sunday 26th January 2025 – Charming Chamber Music

An afternoon of chamber music performed by
ensembles from the Havant Chamber Orchestra

St Thomas' Church, Bedhampton
2.30pm

Saturday 8th February 2025 – A Night of Stage and Screen

Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves – Kamen
Swan Lake Finale – Tchaikovsky
Intermezzo from Cavalliera Rusticana - Mascagni
James Bond: The Writing's On The Wall – Smith
James Bond: Nobody Does It Better – Hamlisch
Phantom of the Opera Suite – Lloyd Webber
Star Trek Through The Ages – Goldsmith
Guys and Dolls Suite – Loesser
The Seahawk – Korngold
The Pirates of the Caribbean Suite- Badelt
Schindler's List – Williams (soloist – Martin Palmer)
Star Wars Selection – Williams

Hayling Island Community Centre, Hayling Island
7.30pm

Saturday 22nd March 2025 – In Tune With Nature – A Mindfulness Concert

The Wasps Overture – V. Williams
The Rose Adagio from Sleeping Beauty –
Tchaikovsky
The Walk To The Paradise Garden – Delius
Dances In The Cane Breaks – Price
Romance from The Gadfly – Shostakovich (soloist –
Martin Palmer)
Pastoral Symphony – V. Williams

Oaklands Concert Hall, Waterlooville
7.30pm

Saturday 10th May 2025 – From The Earth To The Sky – 60th Anniversary Concert

A commissioned work for the 60th Anniversary of
the Havant Chamber Orchestra
Three movements from Pelleas et Melisande (The
Sky At Night theme) – Sibelius
The Lark Ascending – V. Williams
Clair De Lune – Debussy arr. Caplet
Symphony No 41 'Jupiter' – Mozart

Sacred Heart of Jesus and St Peter The Apostle
Church, Waterlooville
7.30pm

Saturday 12th July 2025 – Last Night of the Proms

Crown Imperial March - Walton
Old Wine In New Bottles – Jacob
Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings – Britten
Royal Fanfare – Bliss
Fantasia on British Sea Songs – Wood
Rule Britannia – Arne
Jerusalem – Parry
Pomp and Circumstance No 1 – Elgar

Oaklands Concert Hall, Waterlooville
7.30pm

Invitation to our Open Rehearsal: If you are a member of the HSO or SHYO, a non-playing member or season ticket holder, you are warmly invited to join us at our 'Bursary Auditions' on Friday 19th July at 7pm at The Pallant Centre, to help us choose our new Bursary Conductor for our season in 2024-25. If you would like to join us, please contact our secretary Cath Hutchin – secretary.havantorchestras2023@gmail.com

Thoughts from the Chair



Hello Everyone,

As I write this, I am nearing the end of the summer term at school and I have enjoyed seeing my young pupils prepare for and perform in their concerts.

Both of our orchestras have been very busy since our last newsletter. The Havant Symphony Orchestra (HSO), joined by students from Portsmouth University, performed Haydn's Creation in St Mary's Church, Portsea, on Sunday 12th May, under the baton of one of our viola players, George Burrows, Professor of Music and Theatre and Associate Dean for Research and Innovation. We really enjoyed rehearsing this incredible piece and taking part in such a special performance. Thank you, George, for inviting us to be part of your faculty for a day!

The Havant Chamber Orchestra (HCO) performed a 'Spring and Summer' concert at Holy Trinity Church, Fareham on Saturday 18th May, featuring works by Delius, Gounod and Mozart. This was a sparkling performance and I really enjoyed playing as part of such a strong string section. Members of both orchestras performed as part of the Waterlooville Music Festival, playing an evening of string music at St George's Church, Waterlooville on Tuesday 11th June, ably conducted by Ben Qureshi. This featured our friend, Rob Blanken, playing the Concertante for Clarinet and Strings by Horowitz, and some wonderful repertoire including the Elgar Serenade for Strings and Walton's music for the Lawrence Olivier film of Henry the Fifth. Again, a lovely evening of music making, and an appreciative audience.

The Southeast-Hants Youth Orchestra (SHYO), one of our partner organisations, had its final rehearsal of the term and inaugural concert on Sunday 30th June. Their conductor, Joe Joliffe, has written an article for this newsletter about his experience of the day. As a performer, it was a privilege to sit in with these enthusiastic, dedicated young musicians and be part of their special concert. Thank you to those members of the HSO who gave up their time to come and support the youth orchestra. SHYO's 'umbrella' organisation, The Southern Music Project, is led by Adam Denman and for more details about his work, please follow this link:

[The Southern Music Project](#)

If you are a member of the HSO, HCO, SHYO, a non-playing member or season ticket holder, you are warmly invited to join us for our bursary auditions this month. The auditions will be held on Friday 19th July at 7pm at The Pallant Centre, PO9 1BE. We have had 11 applications for the bursary this year which is really wonderful. If you would like to come along to watch us rehearse with and audition our four shortlisted candidates, and help us choose our bursary conductor for our 2024/25 season, please contact our secretary, Cath Hutchin - secretary.havantorchestras2023@gmail.com

We have missed working with our HSO Chief Conductor, Jonathan Butcher, who has been indisposed this term. We wish him a restful and recuperative summer. We have had the pleasure of rehearsing with our most recent bursary holders, James Thomas and Enyi Okpara instead, and we are looking forward to performing with them on 13th July. James has written an article for us in this newsletter about his preparation for the concert.

We have been working on our concerts, venues, programmes and dates for the society's next season, and we are delighted to announce our concert season for 2024/25. To find out more about these concerts, their programmes and our season ticket offers, please follow the link to our new website: [Concerts – Havant Symphony Orchestra | Havant Chamber Orchestra \(havantorchestras.org\)](https://www.havantorchestras.org) More details about the programmes for each concert are published later in this newsletter, and tickets will be available from the website above for the new season after the 13th July concert.

I hope you are able to join us at our final concert this season at Oaklands School, Waterlooville on Saturday 13th July 2024. Our marvellous programme of Smetana – Three Dances from The Bartered Bride, Elgar's Cello Concerto and the Brahms Symphony No. 1 will give a rousing end to our performances for 2023/24.

If you see me at our next concert, so please come and say 'hello' and make yourself known to me.

Thank you and very best wishes,

Becky Hill
HADOS Chair

Player Profile – Simon Lloyd

Do you and your family live locally and are any of them musicians?

Yes, we live just down the road in Waterlooville, although my brother and sister are at university at the moment, so they are away a fair amount of the time. My whole family are musicians, my dad has played with HSO on bassoon many times, he was Principal Bassoon in the Royal Marines Band Service for many years and is now a music teacher. My sister is studying bassoon at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (thankfully the bassoon theme stops here!). My brother like me plays trumpet and cornet, although he chose to not pursue it as a career, and my mum is also a brass player but plays euphonium. If you're ever in Waterlooville at Christmas, you will likely hear us busking, with the help of our singing dogs!

Apart from your position as our second trumpet player, do you play in any other ensembles?

I am Lead Trumpet in Hampshire County Youth Jazz Centre, and Co-Principal Solo Cornet of the Hampshire County Youth Brass Band. I have similar roles in the college (Peter Symonds College in Winchester) Big Band and Brass Band, and I am the 2nd trumpet in the college orchestra. I have been selected to attend the National Youth Jazz Collective residential this summer which I am very much looking forward to.



When you're not rehearsing or performing music, do you have any other hobbies or interests?

As many people will know (by me often dashing straight from hockey coaching to HSO this year), I play hockey, very close to The Pallant, at Havant College, and have played there for 7 years. I am now lucky enough to be playing a good standard of men's hockey on Saturday afternoons, while training twice a week, and this year I coached twice a week as well. When the hockey season finishes, I play cricket for Waterlooville, again playing men's cricket on Saturday afternoons. These sports help me get a lot of exercise and can be a nice release from college and other pressures. It is my way of relaxing and so is very important to me.

After studying music at A-Level, do you have any aspirations to pursue a musical career?

I would like to go to a music conservatoire – with the dream being London – and I will be applying to audition in the autumn term.

If you're able to, can you choose three favourite pieces from any genres of music to listen to and/or play?

My 3 pieces to play and listen to would be:

Frank Sinatra - My Way (playing a trumpet part or just singing karaoke!), or That's Life - which I love to sing and accompany myself (on the piano!). Song for Bilbao (again, tough choice - could've chosen many big band pieces) and Mahler's 2nd Symphony – my favourite Mahler piece.

If you were asked to choose a solo, what would you decide to perform and why?

For a classical solo, I would play the Arutunian Trumpet Concerto, one which I have played a fair bit this year, and absolutely love, with so many contrasting but superb sections. I would also love to perform any of the pieces from the Louis Dowdeswell Big Band repertoire, with solo trumpet, personal favourites being 'When You Wish Upon A Star' and 'Gonna Fly Now.'

One last question: why do you like playing in the Havant Symphony Orchestra?

I enjoy playing in HSO because of the wide range of repertoire that we have played and will play, as well as everyone being very welcoming and friendly since I joined in September 2023. Of course Tim and I (the trumpet section) are the best section in the orchestra (no bias!).

Thank you, Simon. This is an amazing profile. We're so pleased you enjoy playing in and performing with the Havant Symphony Orchestra.

Joe Jolliffe – Conductor

Southeast-Hants Youth Orchestra (SHYO)

The Inaugural Concert for the Southeast-Hampshire Youth Orchestra – 30.6.24

I am pleased to report that SHYO's inaugural concert was a great success. The orchestra and I rehearsed for 5 hours during the afternoon and it was brilliant to see the culmination of the hard work everyone had put in since the orchestra was founded in January 2024 by myself, Becky Hill and Adam Denman.

We performed a programme of Bizet: Carmen Suite No. 1, Grieg: Piano Concerto, Sibelius: Finlandia, one of my own compositions, and Dvorak's 9th Symphony. It was a pleasure to feature Jasim Rahman as the piano soloist (a violinist from the orchestra, in year 12!). It was wonderful to spend the day making music with like-minded young musicians and to achieve such a high standard of performance.

I would like to thank all the musicians from Havant Symphony Orchestra who gave up their time to help us, making such a brilliant first concert possible!

I am looking forward to conducting SHYO again in September as part of the Southern Music Project fundraising concert at Horndean Technology College on Saturday 28th September.

If you know any young orchestral players, grade 6+, who may like to join SHYO ahead of next season, please contact Adam Denman: hello@southernmusicproject.co.uk

