



Newsletter Autumn 2009

www.westlakesorchestra.org.uk

web address The Sound
of Cumbria

The Chairman Expatiates

The Past Year

Three excellent concerts culminating in the performance in the Theatre by the Lake!

Who would have believed when the group of local musicians decided, under Austin Thorburn, to found the orchestra that not only would the orchestra survive almost 30 years but would one day be playing a major concerto with a fine professional pianist in one of the Lake District's best theatres and making an extremely good job of it too?

In March I was a little concerned about the concept of doing the fund raising concert without the support of our usual team of professional players but David's careful choice of music enabled us to cope with a much smaller orchestra than usual and not only was it a musical success but the orchestra actually enjoyed the experience.

The Next Year

We are going to continue for another year with a fund raising event at Eccle Riggs Hall - not only does it relieve pressure on the fund raising section of the committee but it forces us (David really) to explore music which is particularly suited to our existing non-pro team.

We are returning to Millom School for our first concert and to Egremont for the third; both halls have a friendly acoustic which, for all its wonderful setting, always proves a significant difficulty at the Keswick Theatre.

A salutary reminder

After going on last in the last letter about the usefulness of the web site, I received an e-mail saying that perhaps it would have been useful if I'd included the name of the site in the letter. Ho Hum - sorry - it's my age you know. It's now on the newsletter.

Hope to see everybody at the concerts in the coming year.

Membership renewal reminder

Just a reminder to all our loyal members that subscriptions will be due shortly (form available on the website). We've kept them at £10 for supporting members and £10 per concert for playing members. However if you can afford a little more we would be very grateful.



The new brighter
orchestra dress



Review of concert at Theatre by the Lake, Sunday, 28th June, 2009

It was clear from the advance publicity, that the choice of music to be played by the West Lakeland Orchestra, at Theatre by the Lake, Keswick, was an entirely suitable programme for a summer evening concert. That this view was widely shared, was demonstrated by the size of the audience.

The programme got off to a splendid start. The overture from *Die Fledermaus* by Strauss requires some precise playing from all sections of the orchestra - especially the violins, has some haunting melodies for solo wind players, and gives a powerful brass section ample opportunity to show its metal! The WLO under its conductor David Shirt gave an effective and exciting performance.

Next came the concerto - Beethoven's *Emperor* (Op. 73, in Eb). The soloist, Murray McLachlan, was breathtaking. The brilliance and clarity of his playing in the dazzling first and third movements, electrified all around him, whilst the reflective subtlety of the slow movement evidenced a musician of the very highest calibre - which of course, Murray McLachlan is; to which his many recordings (including all the Beethoven concerti), and international concert tours provide testimony. Soloist and orchestra seemed to delight in playing together, and this delight certainly engulfed the audience.

After the interval, Schubert's eighth symphony, *The Unfinished*, was given a convincing and well prepared performance, displaying the drama, grace, and charm of this composer's writing at its best. The concert was light heartedly 'rounded-off' with a rendition of Mancini's *Pink Panther*.

This was in every way, an outstanding concert, providing powerful lasting memories for all present. For this reviewer, writing several days later, the concerto performance remains firmly in the mind - refusing to go away; the soloist of course, but also the orchestra in their splendid *tutti* sections. And if it is not invidious to single out one particular thing, bathing a jaundiced old critic in delight, it would be the horn passages in the first movement of the concerto; these were so outstandingly played.

Parlando.

Next Concert

**Alexandra Hall, Millom School
Saturday 21 Nov 7.30pm**

Overture, The Silken Ladder	Rossini
Cello Concerto	Dvorak
Soloist	Ed Pendrous
Symphony No. 9, The Great	Schubert



David prepares to conduct La Mayor

AGM Notification

This year's AGM takes place on Tuesday, 22nd September at 7-30 pm in St Mary's Rooms, St. Mary's Church, Gosforth . Normally we have fairly short meeting with a pleasant meal and a drink afterwards. We usually each bring a dish or two which we share out - please contact Jane Morris-Eyton on 01229772298 if you are unsure what to bring.

Agenda

- 1) Chairman's welcome
- 2) Apologies
- 3) Minutes of last AGM
- 4) Matters arising
- 5) Financial report (tabled)
- 6) Committee report (tabled)
- 7) Election of Committee
- 8) Any other urgent business at the discretion of the chairman