

Ilan Volkov rehearses Mahler's epic Ninth Symphony

Our second open rehearsal for 2009 will feature yet another brilliant young conductor who has already established a formidable reputation in the United Kingdom, Europe, the Americas and elsewhere. Ilan Volkov is a young Israeli conductor in his early thirties who was appointed as the Chief Conductor of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra in Glasgow at the age of 26 in 2003. He is the youngest conductor to ever hold the position of Chief Conductor of a BBC orchestra. We will be experiencing him rehearsing Mahler's Ninth Symphony with the MSO at Hamer Hall on Thursday 23 July.

A reviewer of one of his concerts wrote: "...Volkov moved into a different sphere, took the SSO with him, and produced one of the greatest musical experiences I have encountered... He is amazing to watch, the results are out of this world, and I can only beg music lovers to hear it for themselves." - The Herald (Glasgow).

Ilan Volkov has already established himself as a conductor of Mahler. Reviews of his performances of Mahler speak of how he allows Mahler to speak for himself through the music rather than trying to impose his own personality or put additional layers of his own meaning into it. It will be a most memorable experience to witness this epic and poignant symphony in rehearsal. Mahler's Ninth Symphony will form part of the Great Classics and Geelong series concerts. For those of



Ilan Volkov
Credit: Keith Saunders

you who attend the Monday evening concert, you will also enjoy the added

bonus of having the chance to hear Ilan Volkov interviewed by Huw Humphreys at 5.30pm as part of the MSO Conducted Tours series.

Those of us who attend the Master Series concerts will already have heard Volkov conduct Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* a week earlier, so it should prove an interesting experience to see him preparing another huge masterwork with the Orchestra.

Please refer to page four for complete details of this event. As with any other open rehearsal we cannot guarantee that the symphony will be rehearsed in full or in order of movement. This will depend on the needs of the Orchestra and the conductor on the day.

David Storer

MSO Friends Annual Dinner

Preliminary notice

Our Annual Dinner is to be held at the Athenaeum Club at 87 Collins St. on Thursday 20 August at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.

Please join us for a fine meal at this beautiful venue to meet and hear our special guest, distinguished British conductor Sir Andrew Davis, in conversation.

Official invitations and full details for this special occasion will be mailed to all Friends and Patrons in mid- July. Places are limited so be sure to book early!



Sir Andrew Davis

2009 MSO Friends Regional Tour

One of the privileges and pleasures of Friends membership is the opportunity to share the touring experience with Orchestra members and management.

You can travel on the bus with them (passenger onus to be punctual), stay at the same motels and attend concerts, including some schools concerts of your choice. It's not luxurious but it is perfectly comfortable and good fun.

This year we are visiting Warrnambool, Hamilton and Horsham with a fabulous concert program conducted by Nicholas Milton. The Orchestra will be performing Mozart's *The Magic Flute* Overture, the Ross Edwards Clarinet Concerto (written for and performed by our Principal Clarinet,

David Thomas) and the Sibelius Symphony No.2.

This opportunity is only available to MSO Friends and Patrons. Places are limited so "first in best dressed".

Please refer to the information panel to the right for full details.

To register an expression of interest contact Lyn Edward on 9512 0924 by Friday 10 July.

Lyn Edward

MSO Regional Tour

Dates:

Depart: Tuesday 11 August,
1pm

Return: Friday 14 August, 5pm
(approximately)

Cost: (approximate)

Bus and accommodation:
\$350 for the 3 days,
Single or double/twin

Concert tickets

Adult: \$40 - \$42

Concession: \$37 - \$38

If you would prefer to make your own travel or accommodation arrangements, please let Lyn know when registering.

President's message

Two Friends events dominated our activities in May: a wonderful lunchtime conversation with Imogen Cooper and our Annual General Meeting, following which, Study Grant recipient Geoff Lierse demonstrated the various incarnations of the French horn and discussed his study trip. Both these events are written up in *In Tune*, but just a few more words from me regarding the AGM are warranted.

Four Committee positions were up by rotation at the AGM (as usual). Three incumbents, being eligible, offered themselves and were re-elected (namely Elizabeth Weeks, Greta Moroney and Geoff Hill). The fourth position had become vacant during 2008 and Lyn Edward had been co-opted to fill that position. She was elected formally to the Committee at the AGM. I am delighted that we retain the services of these four hard working Committee members and congratulate them on their reappointment. You will recall that, with the Notice of Meeting, we included a Special Resolution, designed to remove the limit on the terms of office bearers. The background to this was to recognize that there is often some difficulty in finding suitable replacements for the

various roles on the Committee. This Special Resolution was passed at the meeting on a show of hands. At the Committee meeting following the AGM, the office bearers were elected and their positions are listed on Page 4 along with a full Committee listing. I am delighted to have been elected to serve a further term as your President and that I will continue to be supported by Jacci Simpson as Vice-President.

It is often hard to lure people out in mid-Winter, but with the shortest day having now passed, I hope we will garner your support for the upcoming rehearsal with the very exciting Ilan Volkov rehearsing Mahler's Ninth (invitation included in this edition of *In Tune*) and then, in August, for our Annual Dinner with that star of the BBC Proms, Sir Andrew Davis. A separate invitation will be mailed to you, but please note the Annual Dinner in your diaries – Thursday 20 August.

Thank you for your support.

David Taylor



Maria Sola chats with Imogen Cooper over lunch



Elizabeth Norton (l) and Elizabeth Carvosso (r)



(from l. to r.) Shirley Robertson, Don and Mary Glue

Geoff Lierse performs a dazzling soiree at the AGM

The 2009 Annual General Meeting of the MSO Friends was held at the Iwaki Auditorium on Tuesday 19 May. This was also our opportunity to hear Geoff Lierse give his 'debriefing' interview/recital after his recent return from overseas as the recipient of the 2008 MSO Friends Players Study Grant.

Geoff had promised in his initial application to 'perform a dazzling soiree upon his triumphant return'.

Well, he certainly lived up to that promise! It started off with a rendition of *Happy Birthday* on a Louis XIV Cor de la chasse (that's posh for French Hunting Horn). It turned out to be Jim Darby's 88th birthday, and what a spectacular way to acknowledge it! Geoff went on to explain that in the reign of Louis XIV, hunting horn players went from glorified stable hands crudely keeping in touch in the forest during a



Geoff Lierse

hunt, to a highly trained guild of legitimate musicians performing in choirs of up to 16 horns at royal events

. This was followed by a discussion with David Taylor about the evolution of the French horn from the original valve-less horn to the modern sophisticated instrument and was peppered with examples and demonstrations. This was a most lively and interesting presentation

Finally, the program took on a more formal note, when Geoff (together with

his associate artist Janis Cook) played the first movement of Beethoven's Sonata for Clavier and Horn. This was followed by the Saint-Saëns Romance in E for Horn and Piano. He finished with excerpts from Britten's *Serenade* and Ligetti's Horn Concerto. What a virtuoso display!

Geoff's application for the Study Grant started off with "My mission..... if you choose to accept it." Well all I can say to Geoff is: mission accomplished! Well done.

Geoff Hill
Coordinator MSO Study Grants

A scintillating conversation with Imogen Cooper

Luncheon at Chez Iwaki. Ah, très chic. Softly draped white cloths, the tangy scent of citrus branches, a colourful selection of fresh fruit portions and an array of delectable delicacies served in the finest cardboard. (Seriously, the lunch boxes were very good.) A veritable sensory feast, but the pièce de résistance, that which we had travelled miles to sample, was the time spent with pianist Imogen Cooper.

There was never much doubt about what Imogen would do. She declared at the age of 3 that she was going to play that instrument, displayed perfect pitch at 5 and at the age of 11, having decided a conventional education wasn't for her, went alone to Paris to study music. Returning to London in her late teens, she approached Alfred Brendel saying she "would die" if she didn't study with him. He said "spend four months living" then come to Vienna.

Which brings us to Schubert, where we stayed for much of our remaining time together. Her first love, she didn't seem to be able to tear herself away from him. We heard, from her recent recording, his Klavierstücke No. 3 in C Major (D946). She listened with an expression almost of pain on her face. I felt that tears weren't far away (and I was at the back of the room), then the tempo picked up and she did a momentary jig in her chair before losing herself again in the work. In the mid 90s she felt it was time to tackle a contemporary piece and



Imogen Cooper in pensive mood listens to her own performance of Schubert

commissioned *Traced Overhead* from Thomas Adès. Fiendishly difficult, she had the added challenge of learning it in the company of a 7 week old puppy, doing what puppies do....all over the house! And she had a broken nose, sustained when an encounter with a tree saw her come off second best. Although she did talk of Mozart, I think her performance of his 23rd Concerto with our MSO speaks for itself so I'll

leave that there. She chatted for nearly an hour. Extraordinarily generous, considering her long Schubert Recital the night before and the Master Class she was holding at ANAM afterwards.

Finally, I must tell you that our M.C. (Master of Conversation) David Taylor is in fine form, so do yourself a favour and come to our next *Artists in Conversation*.

Lyn Edward

MSO 2009 Snare Drum Award - Monday 31 August

This is an annual MSO national award, attracting contestants from around Australia. Do attend this unusual and interesting event showcasing some of the best young percussionists in Australia.

See enclosed flyer for details.

News from the Stage

It is almost the middle of the year – how fast does time fly when you are having fun! As I write this, we have two more weeks to go before the Orchestra has a well-deserved mid-year break following a busy period.

After farewelling our Chief Conductor, Maestro Oleg Caetani, just before Easter, the Orchestra has enjoyed a wide variety of guests at the podium. This included the all “Douglas” show in April (Maestro Douglas Boyd together with soloist Barry Douglas) and the *Metropolis* festival with the fantastic young conductor Matthias Pintscher. This was closely followed by a focus on Tchaikovsky with Andrew Grams, two weeks with the engaging Gerard Schwarz and most recently our *Superheroes at the Symphony* pops concert with the completely unflappable and entertaining Anthony Inglis.

During this time, we also launched a new program called *Ears Wide Open*, hosted by Richard Gill. Audience and orchestra alike had a fantastic time as Maestro Gill took them on a journey of discovery through Dvořák's Symphony No. 6. If you get a chance to come along to the next session of *Ears Wide*

Open on the 7 July, you're in for a real treat.

In audition news, **Lerida Delbridge**, from the Tin Alley string quartet, has just been appointed to trial in our First Violin section. **Shane Hooton**, currently Principal Trumpet in the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, has been appointed to trial as Associate Principal Trumpet. Joining the MSO after successful trials were **Roy Theaker** and **Sarah Beggs**. Sarah was appointed to the position of Second Flute, a position previously held by John Jones for more than 30 years. Roy was appointed to contract as Associate Concertmaster. The appointment process for this position has necessarily been lengthy, beginning in 2007, and it is great to see a successful result at the end. See you at your next concert!

Lou Oppenheim
Director of Operations, MSO

Event Invitation

MSO Open Rehearsal

Date: Thursday 23 July

Time: 10 - 12.30pm

Venue: The Arts Centre
Hamer Hall

Cost: \$15 Members and Patrons
\$20 Guests

RSVP: By Thursday 16 July

Booking is essential. Refer to the enclosed booking form. Casual attendees will not be admitted.

Enquiries about events:
Jacci Simpson 9859 6643
Maureen Kable 9859 9974

2009 Friends Committee

President: David Taylor
Vice - President: Jacci Simpson
Secretary: Rick Deering
Treasurer: Virginia Wood

General Committee:
Russell Brown, Lyn Edward,
Geoff Hill, Maureen Kable,
Clare Maloney, Greta Moroney,
David Storer, Elizabeth Weeks

Ex Officio:
Hugo Goetze

MSO Representatives:
Cheri Le Cornu (Management)
Eleanor Mancini (Player)

2 Men Drawing Exhibition opening



Barry Jones opens the Exhibition



2 Two Men Drawing: Peter Mills (l) and Bruce Harvey (r)



The auction in full swing

A full report and more photos from the Exhibition will be included in the next edition of *In Tune*. Please note that the Exhibition continues until 5 July at the Gasworks Arts Park Gallery. There are still a number of these very attractive drawings available for sale.

In Tune

Editor: David Storer

Banner, and design assistance: Don Glue

Mailing coordinator: Ila Vanrenen

Reader comments and suggestions are welcome. If you wish to communicate with us please send an e-mail to msofriends@mso.com.au

