

HUDDERSFIELD
Philharmonia
ORCHESTRA



*Celebrate 150 years of
orchestral performance*

in an extended season of 4 concerts
conducted by Nicholas Smith in
Huddersfield Town Hall

12 November 2011 • Khachaturian • Brahms • Borodin
4 February 2012 • Verdi • Lutosławski • Tchaikovsky
28 April 2012 • Handel • Butterworth • Beethoven
23 June 2012 • Gala Opera Night



12 November 2011

Khachaturian	Masquerade Suite Waltz, Romance and Galop
Brahms	Violin Concerto
Borodin	Symphony No 2
Soloist	Martyn Jackson



There is indeed cause for celebration – in fact, several causes. This concert marks the beginning of a celebration of 150 years of music-making in Huddersfield by what began in 1862 as Mr. Thomas’s Band, became the Fitzwilliam Street Philharmonic Society and gave its first concert as Huddersfield Philharmonic Society on 7 February 1885. On that occasion the solo violin was Miss Harriet Thomas, daughter of the Reverend J H Thomas (yes, that Mr Thomas!). In this concert our soloist, making a very welcome return after his performance in Rimsky-Korsakov’s Sheherazade last February, is Martyn Jackson. Join us to hear him in the Brahms Violin Concerto, a concerto which received its own first performance on New Year’s Day 1879 in Leipzig, conducted by the composer and played by Joseph Joachim, to whom it was dedicated. Since the concerto has become a favourite in the concert hall, you can be sure this performance by Martyn will be one to remember. So, don’t forget your tickets!

We also celebrate what would have been the 178th birthday of Alexander Borodin, a composer who was also a professor of chemistry, founder of the School of Medicine for Women in St Petersburg, and the illegitimate son of a Russian prince. The second symphony was composed between 1869-1876, so the two major works in this concert remind us of what Mr Thomas’s Band was working towards in its early days. As his obituary in the Huddersfield Examiner pointed out: “...the band was always an improving one...”. That’s a tradition the current orchestra is proud to maintain.

The concert opens with music from Khachaturian’s Masquerade Suite, of which the best-known movement will be the Waltz, familiar to many in the audience from the days of the BBC Light Programme. Composed as incidental music for a production of the play Masquerade by Mikhail Lermontov, it was premiered in 1941 in Moscow and, given the regular outings on radio, must have quickly become a favourite.

4 February 2012

Verdi Overture – La Forza del Destino
 (The Force of Destiny)
Lutosławski Concerto for Orchestra
Tchaikovsky The Nutcracker – Act 2

The music of Lutosławski may be relatively unknown in Huddersfield, but he is recognised as one of Poland's greatest composers. His first symphony (1947) was banned as being "formalist" and he then turned to folk material for his inspiration, producing his Concerto for Orchestra in 1954. It is one of his most popular works and, according to the authority of the Rough Guide to Classical Music, "the best place to begin for those new to his music". Included in this celebratory season as a showcase for the Phil itself, it will contrast the humble beginnings of the orchestra as an opportunity to learn to play an instrument thanks to the generosity of Mr Thomas, who gave lessons for free and bought instruments for his players, (now that's an idea worth re-visiting for any aspiring conductor!) with the high standards of the present ensemble.



Television viewers and opera audiences alike will recognise the overture to Verdi's The Force of Destiny. For the latter, it's the start of one of his dramas about murder, elopement and retribution, mixed with a touch of mistaken identity. For the former, just imagine walking into a bar without the money to buy your longed-for glass of Stella Artois and you'll hear the theme. The opera received its first performance in 1862 in the Imperial Theatre in St Petersburg, reminding us what a very special year that was.

We may be a little late with Christmas and New Year celebrations, but The Nutcracker has become a regular feature of that time of year, and that is entirely in keeping with its origins. It is based on a story by ETA Hoffmann called "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King", toys given as Christmas presents to Clara. The nutcracker is carved into the shape of a man and by the start of Act 2, as in all good fairy tales, has turned into a Prince after winning a battle with the Mouse King (with a little help from Clara). Act 2 tells of their travels and celebrations, which end with Clara and her Prince being crowned rulers of Confiturembourg, a land of sweets. A feast of scrumptious tunes to enjoy! Spot the other advertising tune too!

28 April 2012

Handel Coronation Anthem - Zadok the Priest
Arthur Butterworth Symphony No 7 - (world première)
Beethoven Symphony No 9

Special Guests
Huddersfield Choral Society

Soloists Jayne Carpenter (soprano)
 Flora McIntosh (mezzo-soprano)
 Nick Hardy (tenor)
 Samuel Evans (baritone)

2012. Not only an Olympic year, not only an Olympiad in London, not only 150 years of Huddersfield Philharmonic music-making, but also a royal jubilee. We begin this concert with the coronation anthem composed by Handel for the coronation of King George II in 1727 and performed at every (yes, every!) English coronation since. It must have been a critical success as well as a popular one. The dramatic entry of the choir gives Huddersfield Choral Society a chance to make an impact on proceedings from the outset.

Arthur Butterworth conducted Huddersfield Philharmonic Orchestra for 30 years and is well-known to Huddersfield audiences. The orchestra has also performed many of his works, including some written especially for us, and we wanted to include a work of his in this significant season. His Symphony No 7 is hot off the press and into the rehearsal room, and we are delighted that he has accepted our invitation to be at the first performance. He describes the one-movement symphony as “severely classical” and one which follows in the tradition of Sibelius, always a great mentor and inspiration to Arthur and whose works he conducted with great enjoyment.

Beethoven’s Symphony No 9 established new possibilities for future symphonies, with later composers developing even larger-scale works. It was last performed by these two Huddersfield musical institutions in 1971, when Huddersfield Philharmonic celebrated its centenary. The orchestra seems to have been selling itself short by several (nine, to be exact) years at that time but musicians are by reputation always ready for a celebration. In putting the record straight, we are joined by four fabulous solo singers as well as our friends from the Choral Society for a performance of the work which ranks top of the Desert Island Discs choices. Don’t miss this – it’s taken 41 years to feature in the schedule again.

Booking Form

Huddersfield Philharmonic Orchestra are supported by the following businesses:

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We would like to express our thanks to them all as we begin our celebrations.

Visit our website at:

<http://www.huddersfield-phil.org.uk>

to keep up to date with news and celebrations

Huddersfield Philharmonic Society is a Registered Charity, No. 1114413



For Subscription Membership:

To: the Subscription and Ticket Secretary:

Mr. C. Leyland,

23 Lane Ings, Marsden, Huddersfield HD7 6JP

Tel: 01484 844883 & 07811 341484

E-mail: candsley@btinternet.com

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Seats required

Balcony

Season Tickets @ £50.00 each (3 concerts).....

Season Tickets @ £60.00 each (4 concerts).....

Balcony Window

Season Tickets @ £42.00. each (3 concerts).....

Season Tickets @ £52.00 each (4 concerts).....

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Season Tickets @ £30.00 each (3 concerts).....

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23 June 2012

Opera Gala

Guests

Catherine Bouchier (soprano)

Flora McIntosh (mezzo-soprano)

Nick Ransley (tenor)

In the early days of the Huddersfield Philharmonic Orchestra, concerts consisted of a selection of music in different styles, often featuring solo instrumentalists and singers as much as the orchestra itself. Although overtures were often included, it was some years before the orchestra was ready to play even a single movement from a symphony. In recent years, orchestral concerts have followed the traditional overture, concerto and symphony format on the majority of occasions, with some exceptions for choral works and solo singers. Summer concerts have ventured into “lighter” music, from films or television productions, recognising that the popular music of the time can become the revered classic of tomorrow. Tonight we welcome 3 new friends to our concert platform. Catherine Bouchier was born in Sydney, Australia, and moved to London in 2008, from where she has sung roles in the UK, Austria and Germany. Significant roles have included Mimi in *La Bohème* and Suzannah in *The Marriage of Figaro*. Mezzo-soprano Flora McIntosh studied at the Royal Northern College of Music where she was a prize winner. She has sung the title role in Bizet’s *Carmen* and Dorabella in Mozart’s *Così fan Tutte*. They are joined by tenor Nick Ransley, whose work includes both opera and straight acting roles. The latter have included Romeo (*Romeo and Juliet*) and Heathcliffe (*Wuthering Heights*), whilst he has sung equally love-struck roles as Rodolfo (*La Bohème*) and Don José (*Carmen*). Between the three of them, combined with the conducting skills of Nick Smith and the playing of the Philharmonic, expect a night that combines costume, story-telling, and most of all, wonderful music.

Or to put it another way: “And now, on with the opera. Let joy be unconfined. Let there be dancing in the streets, drinking in the saloons, and necking in the parlor.” (With thanks to Otis B. Driftwood – *A Night at the Opera*).



Booking Details

Subscribers have the option of purchasing tickets for only 3 or all 4 concerts (June 2012 - Opera Gala is the optional extra) in this season. Please note that subscription tickets are not available in the gallery. Please use the seating plan provided to indicate your preferred seats, complete the booking form as detailed, and return it with your remittance and s.a.e. to the Ticket Secretary no later than 24th September 2011. Your tickets will be despatched to you as soon as available after that date. Late applications will have reduced choice of seats.

Subscription tickets	3 concerts only	4 concerts, including Opera Gala
Balcony	£50.00	£60.00
Balcony Window	£42.00	£52.00
Area	£30.00	£40.00

Single concert tickets

Single concert tickets are available for all seating areas. Tickets for the November, February and June concerts are priced as standard, but tickets for April 2012 are priced separately as detailed.

Single concert tickets will be available from 10th October 2011 from Kirklees box offices, including Huddersfield Visitor Centre, Huddersfield Library, Princess Alexandra Walk, Huddersfield HD1 2SU; telephone **01484 2232000**, e-mail huddersfield.information@kirklees.gov.uk and Dewsbury Town Hall, Wakefield Old Road, Dewsbury WF12 8DG, telephone 01924 324516.

Alternatively, visit our own website at www.huddersfield-phil.org.uk for on-line booking facilities.

Single concert tickets	Standard price	28 April 2012
Balcony	£15.00	£20.00
Balcony Window	£13.00	£18.00
Area	£12.00	£17.00
Gallery	£5.00	£10.00

Concessions

Concessions are available in advance and on the door for Area and Gallery seats only. Prices apply to all concerts.

Senior Citizens and Kirklees Priority Pass Holders - Area £11.00, Gallery £4.00.

Children under 18 years, and full-time students (on production of a Student Card) admitted to the Gallery at a cost of £1.00.

Subscription and Ticket Secretary

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Tel: 01484 844883 & 07811 341484 E-mail: candsley@btinternet.com

If you are unable to attend a performance and cannot place your tickets elsewhere, please inform the above, giving your seat number(s), as soon as possible before the concert.