

TakeNote



The CSO Players Newsletter

January 2020 www.CSOchestra.org

Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to this Newsletter. I am delighted that TakeNote is once again going to be a regular update to all our players (and perhaps others). The newsletter will be a quarterly email and we will publish them on the CSO members' webpages (which are in design – more about that below). Do let me know what you think and if you would like to contribute. We already have a backlog of articles already for the next edition!

We are also streamlining other contact methods – Facebook, email addresses, and web content. These will help us to keep more in touch, but also, I hope to raise the awareness in the region about our presence. You'll find the main CSO email contacts at the back of this newsletter.

Most importantly, we had, once again a wonderful Family Concert in January – the feedback has been terrific, and I know everyone enjoyed themselves – I've written separately to everyone thanking them. And there were some great photos and a video: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NKfivDx73GR_tlBeM6XU-6njalSip3Az/view?usp=drivesdk . We sold nearly 800 tickets in the end!

It's been a busy period since taking on the role of Chair, and I am trying to get around to speak to everyone to gauge your ideas and thoughts for the future. Thank you to those who have already given me so much feedback and input! Not everything will happen at once, but we are making quite a lot of change, and I do need to ensure your support. So, if you see something changing that you don't like, do say. I'm usually at rehearsals if you want to chat, and you can email me direct.

Overall, I want us to be a bit more ambitious – in what we play, where we play, our community engagement and outreach, and in attracting audiences – truly being the leading amateur classical orchestra in the south of the UK. But it must also be about having fun – enjoying making music together and giving enjoyment to those who come to hear us play.

Jos : Chair@CSOrchestra.org

Welcome Bernie to the family!



We welcome our new CSO mascot, Bernie the Bear!

Now he is part of the CSO family, we will be asking Bernie to help raise the profile of the orchestra. If you have any ideas on how we can use Bernie please speak to Jos or Sue or email Teddy@CSOrchestra.org . Bernie is also available to buy for a mere £12.50.

Some orchestra members have asked if they can take Bernie on holiday. He very much likes this idea but would ask you look after him carefully and post *lots* of photos on Facebook and email them to Bernie. We will put some in the newsletter too!

We are also considering the possibility of other CSO branded items. Possible ideas include hoodies, instrument case stickers, car stickers and pencils. What do you think? Any other suggestions or ideas are always welcome!

Just email Bernie: Teddy@CSOrchestra.org

Violins Seating

Putting together a seating plan for a concert is a careful balance of need and expectation and I have a number of factors I try and balance:

1. Did you play first or second last time?
2. Did you sit at the front or the back last time or the time before?
3. How many rehearsals will you miss? If it's 2 or more, I will not put you on the front two or three desks in order to minimise the effect on the rest of the section during rehearsals.
4. Have we got strength at the front?
5. Have we got strength at the back?
6. Do we have someone on desk 1 or 2 who can lead if the leader is unable to attend a rehearsal?
7. Is there a good balance between the two sections?



However, I am aware that I may take my eye off the ball and you may feel that you are not getting a fair shout. If so, please let me know and I'll discuss it with Christa.

Debra Lain

Secretary Calling!



We need a new secretary. I've held the reins for a long time and could do with a break. But I am very happy to help a newcomer. It's not particularly hard but gets a bit busier around the AGM of course. We have about 4 meetings a year and there is a bit of email to deal with and it probably takes around two hours a week to stay on top of everything.

There are two main strands to the Secretary role for the CSO:

1. General administration for the committee and the orchestra. This includes taking notes during meetings, distributing these and the agendas and working with the Chair to plan for the coming year in terms of concert venues and potential dates etc. Planning and administration of the AGM processes.
2. Liaising with and booking concert and rehearsal venues. Concert venues are generally booked around 18 months to 2 years in advance and we have a good relationship with these and Richard Taunton Sixth Form college so maintaining these is important. We work closely with them to maximise access to appropriate resources and dates that fit our calendar as well as around what else they might have in their calendars.

If you would like to take on the role as I have, that would be great! You will get lots of support and it's a chance to find out what we do and how we do it behind the scenes. If you feel you could take on part of the role but not all, let Jos or I know:

Secretary@CSOrchestra.org

CSO Friends and Patrons



As you probably know, the orchestra has a loyal band of Friends who make annual donations towards our activities. However, the numbers are in practice quite low and we want to re-vitalise the scheme.

Some of the ideas we are considering include developing a more formal 'Friends' group with a range of benefits, as well as a patron's scheme. There does need to be some attractive benefits though – maybe free tickets, priority and early booking, free programmes at concerts, 'behind the scenes' access (e.g. coming to the occasional rehearsal or event) social events with orchestra players, and perhaps other benefits from partners and suppliers (more at another time). We also need to be able to describe how their contribution benefits the CSO and music in the area.

We're busy researching what other societies do, but if you have any suggestions for ways to encourage more people to donate, or ways we could reward our supporters, let Jos, Sandy or any of the committee know.

Sandy Littler

Orchestra Manager update:

At the November AGM Judith Houghton (french horn) agreed to join the Committee to work alongside Gina Briant as orchestra manager as Gina has already given notice of her intention to stand down from the role that she has been doing for a good number of years.

The role has grown a great deal and we are looking to share out the activities that Gina undertakes on behalf of the orchestra a little more widely. For example, the Committee have agreed we need a membership manager as a new role (Judith Beton), and venue liaison is currently split between the Secretary and Gina. The Chair role is also being simplified, so there is less overlap with the Orchestra Manager.



There is always a need to ask for additional help from members of the orchestra - concert front of house; percussion movement; setting up and clearing away of the stage area for concerts. This will continue and it certainly helps. Please can I ask that all orchestra members think about what extra roles they would be willing to assist with - you won't be asked to do it every time - but if there is a list of names for some of the tasks it makes it easier to organise.

If you have any suggestions on how things could be improved or comments on things that you like or don't like, then please get in touch with either of us or speak to us at rehearsal. It is an orchestra for everyone and the committee (and other helpers) do their best to make it work for everyone, but we really do need your input and help.

Manager@CSOrchestra.org

The CSO Website



Last year the orchestra website was redesigned. It now has a much more modern look and feel, and also works well on mobile phones. Visit www.csorchestra.org .

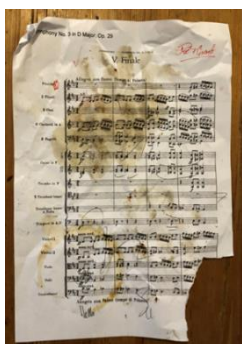
If you have suggestions on how we could improve the website further, please let us know. We want the website to serve our members, our audience, and also help to promote the orchestra more widely. We are also going to develop a private member's web page area. This will be a secure area (you will need to a password to get in) and hold a range of information we hope will be useful to players. Some of the things we are considering (but would like your views on) include:

- How to pay subs and update your membership electronically
- Who is on the Committee and what they do (and other contacts, including section leaders)
- Committee papers, reports, AGM details etc
- Useful music links – archive, YouTube, IMSLP etc
- Guides for new members and players (etiquette, health and safety, GDPR and more)
- Concert programme details such as dress code, parking, requests for help
- The newsletter, updates and news in section and in general
- Social events, social media links, etc
- Membership updates....

If you have ideas of what you might expect to find, please say:

Webmaster@CSOrchestra.org

Looking After Sheet Music:



Can everyone please remember that the music we hire is very valuable. It costs us if we damage or lose it. In fact, we had to buy some replacement parts for a concert last year – and that comes out of our member fees. The issues:

- Always use a 2b pencil (*ONLY* 2b) NEVER ink or a hard pencil
 - Always use a soft rubber – NOT one that leaves marks or damages the paper surface
 - Do not press hard to leave indentations
 - NEVER fold or crush edges in a bag – note some music is older and fragile
 - Look after it and do not lose it (we sometimes lose music too somehow!)
 - Be prepared to rub out your markings – it's not always necessary, but assume it will be
 - NEVER spill things on music (food and drink)
- Please don't stick anything in your part with glue, Sellotape or blutack. It always leaves a mark or residue.
 - If you have a damaged part, let our librarian know – do not try to fix it
 - If you have a difficult page turn, photocopy the relevant line(s) and attach with a paper clip
 - If you accidentally damage music, please tell the librarian so we can deal with it.

It's also about our reputation. Our Tchaikovsky Symphony music was delayed because of a dispute with a music loan county service about the state of a previous music set. We often put things in which we think will be useful to other players. They probably are but they are considered defacing and have to be removed without trace!

Many thanks:

Librarian@CSOrchestra.org

Our Spring and Summer Schedule:

Spring rehearsals as usual leading to:

- **March 7th** Concert in Turner Sims.
- **March 10th** Conducting evening (conducting students from Oxford and Southampton universities). Please contact Chair@CSOrchestra.org if you are interested in taking a conducting part in this masterclass.
- **March 31st** Sectionals
- **May 23rd** Concert at Romsey Abbey
- **July 4th** Concert Romsey Abbey

<p>Saturday 7th March 2020 7.30 pm Turner Sims, Southampton</p> <p>Lutoslawski Little Suite for Orchestra</p> <p>Liszt Piano Concerto no. 2</p> <p>Tchaikovsky Symphony no. 3 (Polish)</p> <p>Conductor - Dominic Grier Piano - Dinara Klinton</p>	<p>Saturday 23rd May 2020 7.30 pm Romsey Abbey</p> <p>Hindemith Symphonic Metamorphoses on Themes of Weber</p> <p>Bartok Viola Concerto</p> <p>Beethoven Symphony no. 3 "Eroica"</p> <p>Conductor - John Traill Viola - Rachel Maxey</p>	<p>Saturday 4th July 2020 7.30 pm Romsey Abbey</p> <p>Elgar City of Southampton Orchestra join Romsey Choral Society for a performance of Elgar's finest choral work The Dream of Gerontius. Elgar sets Cardinal Newman's poem telling the story of a soul's journey through death. Full of achingly beautiful music, on his journey the soul encounters angels, demons, and finally glimpses God and is judged in a moment.</p> <p>Conductor - Richard Pearce</p>
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Here are some online recordings of pieces we are playing in March:

- **Lutoslawski** Little Suite for Orchestra: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7SPVUMY-yc>
- **Liszt** Piano Concerto No 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41nQOhfpQQk>
- **Tchaikovsky** Symphony No 3 (Polish): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ho8khT8s9ks>

CSO Sponsorship:



The CSO is keen to explore other revenue streams to help maintain the financial stability. One way to help is through sponsorship and the best opportunities for sponsorship probably lies within the orchestra itself. Many employers will have a budget for charities and if they can donate to a cause which is connected to one of its employees, so much the better. We have had success in the past in getting sponsorship in this way and we think it's time to try again, so we need your help.

If you are employed, have you ever given any thought to asking for sponsorship for the CSO? It doesn't really matter on the size of the organisation you work for, but it's worth asking the question as to whether your organisation, in principle, offers sponsorship to worthy causes. If the answer is no, we haven't lost anything, but if it is a "yes in principle" then we have everything to gain!

Bernard Postlethwaite (cello) has experience in getting sponsorship in this way for the CSO and is preparing a generic information sheet about the CSO which might help you to approach your employer in your quest for sponsorship. If you are now retired, do you still have any relevant contacts with your previous employer who might be worth contacting to seek out opportunities for sponsorship? Please let Jos and Bernard know if you think you might be able to help.

bernardpostlethwaite@tiscali.co.uk

The Challenge for the Programme Committee:



Over the last couple of months, the programming sub-committee has been working on selecting the music for next year – and beyond. Trying to please everyone is just not possible, but we would like to say thank you to everyone who put forward suggestions.

Planning for the 2020-2021 season is going well. Suggested programmes will be put forward to the Main Committee in early February. Once agreed, we can then book conductors and soloists.

We hope to be able to release details to members early in the summer term for the next season.

Here are some of the criteria we use in our decision-making:

- Feedback and ideas from orchestra members, friends and audiences
- The technical capabilities of our players and the number of rehearsals available
- Performing a wide variety of music covering a spectrum of styles and periods across the season
- Performing music with audience appeal – to sell tickets and fill the venue
- Performing music which is rewarding to rehearse and interesting for all sections of the orchestra
- Performing music which would help attract and retain members
- Venue choices and restrictions (size, location, layout)
- Costs, including music hire and extra players

We are aiming to plan further ahead than we have done in the past, so we will be inviting suggestions for the 2021-2022 season, our 50th Anniversary season, this summer. The suggestions book will be available after Easter; suggestions can be made by email as well to programming@csorchestra.org at any time.

Sue Edmonds

New Member Profile – Hannah Martin



Hi, my name is Hannah Martin and I started playing with the CSO in November 2019.

I started learning the violin at age 6 and later learnt the viola as well. I played with several local orchestras near Reading as a student including the county youth orchestra. In my final year of playing with the Wokingham and Bracknell area orchestra we got a chance to take part in the Schools Prom at the Royal Albert Hall which was an amazing experience.

In 2010 I began a degree in Natural Sciences at the University of Southampton where I joined the University Symphony Orchestra (SUSO) and the University Sinfonietta. It was through friends at SUSO that I first became aware of the CSO and decided that it would be a great orchestra to move to after leaving the university.

In 2018 I completed my PhD in Electrochemistry at Southampton and have joined a small research and development company called Ilika. They are a materials development company primarily focused on development of solid-state battery technologies. After settling into the new job, I was keen to start playing with an orchestra again and so contacted CSO.

I was pleased to be accepted, and really enjoyed taking part in January's family concert - it was lovely to see so many seats filled in Central Hall. I received a very warm welcome from the members of the orchestra, and I look forward to future concerts and tackling a range of repertoire.

Has someone new joined your section? Let us know and we can write a short profile Like Hannah's.

Contact email addresses (for internal use only):

Feel free to make contact. This is just to help you know where email go! Please don't share externally.

Email	Who
Chair@CSOrchestra.org	Jos Creese
Tickets@CSOrchestra.org	Sarah Harrison
Editor@CSOrchestra.org	Jos Creese (temp)
Webmaster@CSOrchestra.org	Ian Partridge
Programming@CSOrchestra.org	Sue Edmonds
Treasurer@CSOrchestra.org	Emma Watson
Friends@CSOrchestra.org	Sandy Littler
Sponsors@CSOrchestra.org	Jos Creese
Teddy@CSOrchestra.org	Sue Dancer
Membership@CSOrchestra.org	Judith Beton
Manager@CSOrchestra.org	Gina Briant (Judith Houghton soon)
Secretary@CSOrchestra.org	Annie Taylor
Publicity@CSOrchestra.org	Lucy Jurd



Hello! If you would like to read about anything in a future CSO TakeNote newsletter do send in your ideas. Or perhaps you would like to promote a link to a website, or write a piece to put into a future edition, do send a note to the Editor:

Editor@CSOrchestra.org