

File: Biogs

Forest Philharmonic: Profile

Britain has long-established traditions of music making. Not only does it produce professional musicians who rank among the best in the world, but it also has a history of fine amateur music-making whose roots go back over 200 years. Today, these gifted and accomplished players and singers commit their time and energy not only to their own music-making but also to the encouragement of young players who go on to make music their career.

The Forest Philharmonic Orchestra was founded in the London Borough of Waltham Forest in the early 1960s and has since become this country's leading community orchestra. In presenting concerts to rival the highest professional standards, it uniquely combines the talents of London's best amateur musicians with those of its up-and-coming music students. It thereby fulfils its aim of helping to train the professional musicians of tomorrow whilst providing a forum for the leading amateur players of today. All the major professional orchestras in this country have players in their ranks who trained with the Forest Philharmonic.

The orchestra's concert programmes range widely through the orchestral and choral repertoire, from music of the Classical and Romantic periods through to the twentieth century and contemporary works.

The orchestra presents an annual season of concerts in Walthamstow and a summer concert in the Royal festival Hall. Recently, the Forest Philharmonic has performed at the Barbican Hall and, by invitation, in Cheltenham, Dudley and Eton.

Major international soloists who have performed with the orchestra include pianists John Lill and Ronan O'Hara, violinists György Pauk and Tasmin Little and singers Sarah Walker and Della Jones. The orchestra was delighted to work with cellist Natalie Clein shortly after she became both BBC Young Musician and Eurovision Young Musician in 1994.

Under the direction of Mark Shanahan, Artistic Director since 1991, the orchestra continues to go from strength to strength, both technically and artistically. Whatever the programme, rehearsals are extensive and detailed, benefiting from the professional coaching given at every rehearsal by string section principals, a unique feature of the orchestra. The result is a potent combination of outstanding musicianship, technical proficiency, superb preparation and the sheer enjoyment of creating wonderful music.

01 August 2000

(corrected)

As handed faxed 1/8/00 by Virginia Brandon-Cooper

|GPChoir|Biogs|Forest Philharmonic.doc