



50
YEARS
RHONDDA
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

PROGRAMME

24TH MARCH 2018
AT 7.00PM

Llantrisant Leisure
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MUSIC
Service • Gwasanaeth
CERDD

Rhondda Cymun Tof



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RhonddaSymphonyOrchestra

Looking To The Future

In association with **RCT Senior Youth Orchestra**

RSO Conductor: **Edward John**

RSO Leader: **Becci Goss**

RCT Conductor: **Mark Wells**

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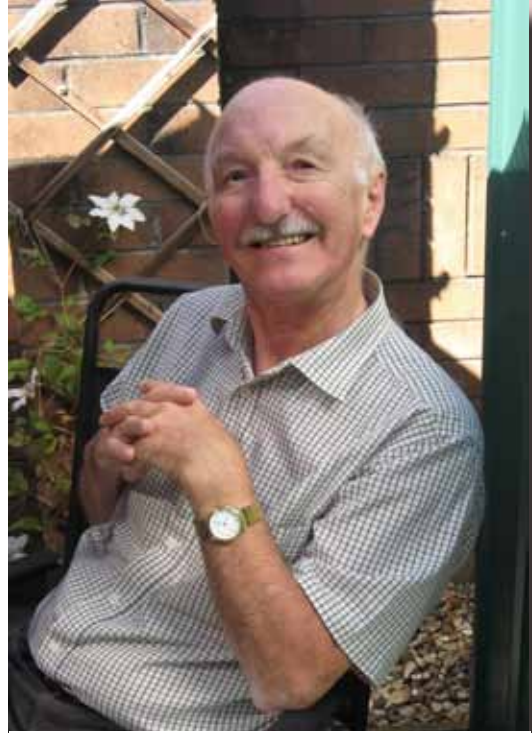
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Welcome to Tonight's Concert



Jeff Lloyd - President

As President of RSO, I have great pleasure in offering this brief note for tonight's programme. When I founded RSO I was acutely conscious of the importance of involving young, talented instrumentalists from within the area. After all, the young players of today represent our seasoned musicians of tomorrow. Therefore, it is apt that we welcome tonight members of the RCT's Youth Orchestra and its inspirational conductor, Mark Wells. At a time when the budgets of local authorities throughout Wales are seriously constrained, it is so important that laudable activities such as youth music are supported by these LEAs. I know that, like myself, you will tonight thoroughly enjoy the performance of the fledgling youth ensemble as much as that of their older counterparts.

Jeff Lloyd

Jeff Lloyd - President

The Rhondda Symphony Orchestra would like to thank the following for their generous support:

Ty Cerdd
Pontyclun Community Council
The Mayor's Parlour, Rhondda Cynon Taff
Mr. Jeff Lloyd

and to the Friends of Rhondda Symphony Orchestra:

Mr. Alan Baird
Richard and Nanette Grittiths
Jeanne James
Matthew James
Mrs. Lesley Wells

About The Rhondda Symphony Orchestra

The Rhondda Symphony Orchestra was formed in Tonypany in 1968 by our now-President Jeff Lloyd and gave its first concert in 1970. We are therefore probably the oldest amateur orchestra in Wales and today we draw musicians from across South East Wales. We rehearse weekly at Y Pant School, Pontyclun, and perform three or four concerts each year, in venues across South Wales, with a broad repertoire from classical



to jazz. RSO has a playing strength of about sixty, with our members ranging from their teens to their eighties; some are keen amateurs, some teach music and some are semi- or ex-professionals, but we all share the same passion - bringing live performances of the world's greatest music to our local communities.

For many years now the RSO has been accompanying the Pontypridd Choral Society's 'Voices for Hospices' performances, raising funds for Ty Hafan. The orchestra also regularly donates concert takings to other charities such as Cancer Research Wales, Alzheimer's Society Cymru and Parkinson's.

Young Musician of the Valleys competition

The RSO Young Musician of the Valleys competition was founded in 2009 from the legacy of Colin Vyvyan, a former member of the orchestra. Under-21s from the Counties of Rhondda Cynon Taff, Caerphilly, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil are eligible to apply. Each year £1000-worth of prizes are awarded and winners have the opportunity to perform a concerto with RSO.

(Further details can be found on our competition facebook page, which we recommended applicants join to get the latest information:)



Helydd Fflur - Winner 2017

Friends of RSO

In this our 50th year we have launched the Friends of Rhondda Symphony Orchestra scheme. As well as a variety of benefits, Friends have the knowledge that they are supporting one of the finest amateur orchestras in Wales and providing opportunities for young musicians, ensuring the success of the orchestra, we hope, for the next 50 years.

Please pick up a Friends leaflet, or visit our website for more information.

Upcoming Events

7th July - 'Celebrating the Past'

All Saints' Church, Porthcawl

This concert brings together all eight of our past Music Directors, from Jeff Lloyd to our current Ted John - each conducting a piece of their choice! We will be welcoming many of former members of our orchestra from all parts of South Wales for this concert. And there will be the opportunity to re-new friendships after the concert.

14th July - Dinner Dance

The Vale Hotel, Hensol

For our past, present and future members and supporters to meet up and celebrate the orchestra's anniversary.

1st December - 'Reveling in the Present'

BBC Hoddinott Hall, Millennium Centre, Cardiff

The climax of the orchestra's celebrations will be a Grand Celebratory Concert in this prestigious venue.

Edward John - Conductor

Edward John was born in Swansea and educated at Olchfa Comprehensive School and Cardiff University. He presently teaches music at St Illtyd's Catholic High School in Cardiff and works with trainee student music teachers at Cardiff Metropolitan University.

As a trumpet player, he was taught by Brian Buckley, and progressed through the West Glamorgan County Youth system, culminating in becoming a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales and the first ever principal cornet of the National Youth Brass Band of Wales. He was also a finalist in the TSB Welsh Young Musician of the Year. Edward has since played with all the major amateur orchestras in South Wales, as well as the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

As a conductor, he has enjoyed a huge range of experiences over many years. He has directed the Glamorgan Chamber Orchestra and Neath Opera Group at Craig-y-Nos, as well as musicals for Newport Venture Players, Carmarthen Youth Opera and his own school. He has had the unique experience of conducting performances of Bernstein's West Side Story for all three of these companies. He has also conducted Swansea Philharmonic Choir in performances of Britten's War Requiem and Carl Orff's Carmina Burana.

Edward has played concerti with RSO in 2000 and 2016 and has been a member of the orchestra for many years before taking up the baton as the orchestra's conductor. Recent programmes have included Beethoven's 3rd and 5th Symphonies, Stravinsky's Firebird and Copland's Billy the Kid Suite.



Becci Goss - Leader

Rebecca Sian Goss, began violin at aged 10 and made swift progress while having lessons with Wendy Jenkins and Mansel Hughes in West Glamorgan. At age 14 she started having lessons with Simon Weinmann of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Under his expert tuition Becci was accepted into the National Youth Orchestra of Wales as a 1st violinist and was awarded a music scholarship to study 'A' levels at Repton School in Derbyshire.

Whilst at Repton School, Becci gained extensive solo, chamber and orchestral experience, leading the school orchestra, performing several concerti, also having a master class with Kenneth Sillito.

Becci then studied music at Goldsmiths' College, University of London. In her final year she was co-leader of the University of London Orchestra under the direction of Mark Shanahan, and Leader of the Goldsmiths' College Symphony Orchestra for the final concert under the baton of Edward Gregson.

A few years later Becci completed her teacher training and has been a peripatetic upper strings teacher in Bridgend County since 1999 (except for a few years' living in America). She has regularly tutored in various County Youth Orchestras and Ensembles and whilst overseas, she volunteered at local schools assisting in their Strings Programmes.

Becci chose to put orchestral playing on hold whilst raising her two children, but has returned to it in more recent years. She became a member of RSO in 2015 and was honoured to be invited to lead the orchestra in 2016.



Rhondda Symphony Orchestra

London Symphony – Vaughan Williams

A London Symphony is the second symphony composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Vaughan Williams said that while the title may suggest a programmatic piece (and the work includes sounds heard in London such as the Westminster Quarters), it was intended to be heard as absolute music. In a programme note in 1920, he suggested that Symphony by a Londoner might be a better title. However, he allowed the conductor Albert Coates to provide elaborate descriptions for the 1920 performance:

The symphony is in four movements.

1. Lento – Allegro risoluto

The symphony opens quietly, and after a few nocturnal bars, the Westminster chimes are heard, played on the harp.

After a silent pause, the allegro risoluto section, much of it triple forte, is vigorous and brisk, and the ensuing second subject, dominated by the wind and brass, is no less so (evoking “Hampstead Heath on an August Bank Holiday”).

After a contrasting gentle interlude scored for string sextet and harp, the vigorous themes return and bring the movement to a lively close, with full orchestra playing fortissimo.

2. Lento

The movement opens with muted strings playing ppp. Vaughan Williams said that the slow movement is intended to evoke “Bloomsbury Square on a November afternoon”.

Quiet themes led in turn by cor anglais, flute, trumpet and viola give way to a grave, impassioned forte section, after which the movement gradually subsides to its original quiet dynamic.

3. Scherzo (Nocturne)

In the composer’s words, “If the listener will imagine himself standing on Westminster Embankment at night, surrounded by the distant sounds of The Strand, with its great hotels on one side and the “New Cut” on the other, with its crowded streets and flaring lights, it may serve as a mood in which to listen to this movement.” In the definitive score, the movement revolves around two scherzo themes, the first marked fugato and the second straightforward and lively.

The piece closes with muted strings playing pppp.

4. Finale – Andante con moto – Maestoso alla marcia – Allegro – Lento – Epilogue

The finale opens on a grave march theme, punctuated with a lighter allegro section, with full orchestra initially forte and appassionato. After the reappearance of the march, the main allegro theme of the first movement returns. Following this, the Westminster Chimes strike again, this time the harp plays the first three-quarters of the hour chimes, and there is a quiet Epilogue, inspired by the last chapter of H.G. Wells’s novel Tono-Bungay:

The last great movement in the London Symphony in which the true scheme of the old order is altogether dwarfed and swallowed up ... Light after light goes down. England and the Kingdom, Britain and the Empire, the old prides and the old devotions, glide abeam, astern, sink down upon the horizon, pass – pass. The river passes – London passes, England passes.

The logo features the word "Interval" in a serif font, centered between two horizontal lines. Above and below the text are decorative, symmetrical flourishes that resemble stylized leaves or scrolls.

RSO & RCT Senior Youth Orchestra

Malcolm Arnold – Little Suite for Orchestra (opus 53)

- Prelude
- Dance
- March

Arnold was a prolific and popular English tonal composer. He acknowledged Hector Berlioz as an influence, and several commentators have drawn a comparison with Jean Sibelius. Malcolm began playing the trumpet at the age of 12 after hearing Louis Armstrong play and five years later he won a scholarship to the Royal College of Music. In 1941 he joined the London Philharmonic Orchestra as second trumpet and was soon promoted to principal trumpet. He became a full-time composer in 1948.

His works are particularly popular with youth and amateur orchestras because of the accessibility of his unique style, which combines the musical elements of classical, jazz, popular and folk. He wrote a huge body of music, including nine symphonies, seven ballets, two operas, one musical, over twenty concertos, two string quartets, and music for brass-band and wind-band. He also wrote 132 film scores.

Klaus Badelt – Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl Arranged by Ted Ricketts

The Pirates of the Caribbean films have produced a number of instantly recognizable melodies and a hugely popular theme tune. However, the music could have sounded very different. Composer Alan Silvestri was originally hired to write the score for The Curse of the Black Pearl but due to creative differences between himself and the producer Jerry Bruckheimer, Silvestri left the project. As a result, Hans Zimmer was approached to write a new soundtrack. At the time, Zimmer was busy scoring The Last Samurai, so after composing a number of the main themes, Zimmer suggested a relatively new composer Klaus Badelt complete scoring the music. It is Badelt who is credited with writing the music for the first film, The Curse of the Black Pearl.

Aaron Copland – Hoe-Down from Rodeo

Aaron Copland (1900-1990) was the youngest of five children in a family of Russian immigrants. Despite his tremendous talent, he received no formal musical education until the age of 21, when he was accepted by Nadia Boulanger as her first American student. He went on to become one of several American composers of his generation (George Gershwin was another) who successfully blended the popular American musical idiom with the more formal classical style.

The ballet Rodeo was commissioned by the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo in 1942. The music has a “southwestern American” flavor, incorporating several folk songs. An orchestral suite was extracted from the ballet music. The suite’s finale, the famous, foot stompin’ “Hoe-Down,” conveys an atmosphere of fun, characterized by brilliant brass and percussion effects.

Stephen Schwartz – Highlights from WICKED Arranged by Ted Ricketts

Wicked is a Broadway musical with music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz and book by Winnie Holzman. It is based on the 1995 Gregory Maguire novel Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West, an alternative telling of the 1939 film The Wizard of Oz and L. Frank Baum’s classic 1900 novel, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.

The musical is told from the perspective of the witches of the Land of Oz and tells the story of two unlikely friends, Elphaba (the Wicked Witch of the West) and Galinda (whose name later changes to Glinda the Good Witch). This arrangement draws together some of the big highlights from the show.

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Mark Wells - Head of RCT Music Service

Born in Llantrisant, Mark was a pupil at Y Pant Comprehensive School and went on to study primary education and teacher training at Trinity College, Carmarthen. Initially teaching in England, Mark returned to Wales in 2003 following a posting to Iraq & Kuwait as a member of the Army Reserves. He soon took up a peripatetic post with Rhondda Cynon Taf Music Service, of which he is now Head of Service.

Having started the cello in school, Mark studied with Ritchie Roberts and later with Arthur Davies. He was a dedicated member of both Pontypridd Youth Orchestra and the Mid Glamorgan Youth Orchestra and joined the Rhondda Symphony Orchestra aged 15. He is a regular player for a number of amateur ensembles across South Wales.



Rhondda Cynon Taf Senior Youth Orchestra

RCT Senior Youth Orchestra rehearse every Friday at Pontypridd High School.

It welcomes young musicians from across the county and gives them the opportunity to play and perform a wide variety of music whilst receiving direction from a team of professional and dedicated staff. The orchestra is a stepping stone to The Four Counties Youth Orchestra and each year, a number of students will successfully apply to be members of The National Youth Orchestra of Wales.

RCT Senior Youth Orchestra is just one of a range of ensembles run by Rhondda Cynon Taf Music Service. The Music Service (funded by RCT County Borough Council) is proud to deliver an expansive range of services to schools including individual, group and whole class tuition. Anyone wishing to find out more about the orchestra or other ensembles available can contact the Music Service:

Phone: 01443 744017 or email: musicservice@rctcbc.gov.uk

Mike Morgan

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The N

Rhondda Symphony Orchestra

First Violin

Lizzie Bryan
Branwen Evans
Becci Goss *
Nick James
Ruth Jones
Carys Haf
Noreen Harris
Rhianwen Lewis
Abigail Linforth
Richard Pegg

Second Violin

Rhian Croad
Nia Honeybun
Wendy Jones *
Derek Mascall
Sheila Nurse
Joanna Rees
Jane Roberts
Mair Roberts
Julia Silezin
Kate Wilde
Joshua Young

Viola

Oliver Bown
Catherine Bright
Angharad Croot
Jenna Dyckhoff
Andrew May
Lucy McPhee
Gareth Tudor *

Cello

Eloise Gynn
Glyn Price
Justin Silezin
Bronwen Thomas
Carys Tudor
Jemma Wells *
Mark Wells

Double Bass

Connie Francis
Jon Francis
Paula Gardiner *
Ursula Harrison

Harp

Aisha Palmer

Flute

Jim Evans
Isabelle Harris
Vivienne John *
Bethan Rees

Oboe

Sian Crossan
Elin Howard *

Cor Anglais

Sian Crossan

Clarinet

Chris Beadsworth
Clare Sandford *
Emma Tanner

Bass Clarinet

Emma Tanner

Bassoon

Karen Lewis
Karyn Phelps *

French Horn

Charlotte Leeke
Edwin Mead
Colin Preece
Carolyn Thistlewood *

Trumpet

Siân Davis*
Dylan John

Cornet

Samual Rees
John Roberts

Trombone

Chris Kipling *
Richard Thurston

Bass Trombone

Joseph Edwards

Tuba

Bryn Kipling

Timpani / Percussion

Mair Gwynant
Samantha Herman
Samuel Jowett
Gill Ridout *



RCT Senior Youth Orchestra

First Violin

Megan Davies
Niamh Fish
Dafydd Huw Griffiths
Osian Gruffydd *
Taliesin Evan Jones
Maia Reid
Mia Squire

Cello

Maisie Allen
Bethany Harries
Elin James *
Niamh Jenkins
Bethany Lindley
Cerys Swain
Grace Rees Whippey



Second Violin

Siriol Alun
Kariena Bunting
Kimberli Davies
Elen Griffiths *
Eleanor Rees
Megan Rolls
Daphne Rosser
Sulaimon Sesay
Rachel Squire
Poppy Taylor

Double Bass

Ursula Harrison *
Lewis Thomas

Flute/Piccolo

Lily Gainsbury
Isabelle Harris *
Grace Jones
Yasmin Reid
Yasmin Richards

Tenor Horn

Atalya Edwards *
Keynaan Edwards

Trumpet/Cornet

Dylan John *
Leah Pryse
Emma Willington

Viola

Lewis James *
Megan Jones
Nia Lindley
Emma Long
Darya Williams

Clarinet/Bass Clarinet

Amelia Belsey
Faye Jones
Naomi Reid *
Rhian Stone
Ciara Williams

Timpani / Percussion

Daniel Hunt
Dominic Rees
Steffan West
Jake White

Staff

Mr Michael Coultas
Dr Michael Graham
Mr Samuel Jowett
Mr Mark Wells

* Denotes section Leader

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