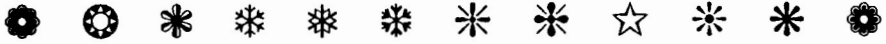


**Havering
Concert
Orchestra**

Programme



*Havering Arts Council and Havering Adult College
present*

THE HAVERING CONCERT ORCHESTRA

'A Russian Evening'

at the

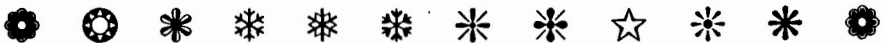
Queens Theatre, Hornchurch

on

Sunday 16th March 1997

8pm

**Conductor - Robert Ferguson
Leader - Catherine Cheshire
Soloist - Ian Ryan**



Russian Easter Festival Overture

**Rimsky-Korsakov
(1844-1908)**

Apart from piano lessons, Rimsky-Korsakov had little preparation for a musical career - he actually trained as a naval officer until he met Balakirev (1861) who captivated him and encouraged his attempts at composition and performance.

During the summer of 1888 he completed "Scheherazade," and also this impressive overture based on canticles used in the Russian Orthodox church. He wanted to convey the legendary and pagan side of the Easter Festival: "bell-ringing, the flowing beards of the priests and sextons in their white surplices, Easter eggs, loaves and burning candles, the gloomy and mysterious evening of Passion Saturday, changing into the unbridled pagan-religious rejoicing of Easter Sunday."

However, the composer added that to understand his overture, even slightly, the listener must have attended at least once in his life, an Easter morning service in a packed cathedral attended by several priests. He himself, when he completed the piece, was drawing on childhood experiences at a neighbouring monastery.

Piano Concerto No. 2

**Shostakovich
(1906-1975)**

The musical style of the Soviet composer, Dimitri Shostakovich, ranged from an astringent and sometimes lugubrious modernism to the tuneful and flashy brilliance of his piano concertos. He studied with his mother, a professional pianist and he wrote the entertaining Second Piano Concerto for his nineteen-year-old son, Maxim. The 1957 premiere was in Moscow. Shostakovich's other works included no less than fifteen symphonies.

There are three movements, the slow and heart-rending second movement leading seamlessly into the third.

Once again, we are more than delighted to welcome fourteen-year-old Ian Ryan as our piano soloist tonight.

"Gayaneh" Ballet Suite

**Khachaturian
(1903-1978)**

Khachaturian was a Soviet composer and son of a bookbinder. He received his music education comparatively late, studying the cello and composition at the Moscow Conservatory between 1929 - 37.

When the directorate of the Composers' union came under attack in 1948, Khachaturian was among the group of censored composers, which also included Prokofiev and Shostakovich.

Most of his best know works, including the 'Gayaneh' date from the 1940's. The ballet score is vivid and exotic, with many orchestral colours. There are three pieces: firstly "Dance of the Young Maidens", which is lively and tuneful, secondly a flowing "Lullaby" in which the oboe, flute and then the strings have a haunting melody and finally the famous "Sabre Dance" in which the orchestra's percussion department springs into life.

INTERVAL - 20 Minutes

"1812" Overture

**Tchaikovsky
(1840-1893)**

Tchaikovsky was commissioned to write the "1812" for an exhibition of Russian arts and crafts in 1882. It is said that the composer wrote the work with open-air performance in mind, to be played in the public square before the Cathedral of the Redeemer in Moscow, to coincide with its consecration.

The sorry debacle of Napoleon and his decimated army struggling back from Moscow in the teeth of a Russian winter, whilst the Russians harassed them with guerilla tactics, is presented by the patriotic Tchaikovsky as an heroic battle, complete with victorious bell-ringing (representing those of the Kremlin) and explosives.

Tchaikovsky combines two original themes with existing melodies, including the Russian hym *God Save Thy People*, the *Marseillaise*.

Although the composer set about this composition with no particular enthusiasm for the task, it remains one of his most popular works, full of memorable tunes and orchestral effect (though some may consider it an early example albeit a musical one, of a Soviet-style re-writing of history). Never mind - it makes a noisy and splendid finale!

"The Long and Winding Road"

Another in our occasional series of works performed by the HCO over the last 20 years:

7th March 1982 (Windmill Hall, Upminster)

Brahms	Tragic Overture
Bizet	L'Arlesienne Suites
Mendelssohn	Italian Symphony

19th June 1982 (Dolphin Centre, Romford)

Glinka	Russian and Ludmilla Overture
Tchaikovsky	Sleeping Beauty Suite
Dvorak	New World Symphony

14th November 1982 (Queens Theatre)

Rossini	Thieving Magpie Overture
Schumann	Piano Concerto (J Edwards)
Beethoven	Symphony No. 7

13th March 1983 (Queens Theatre)

Weber	Freischutz Overture
Liszt	Piano Concerto No. 2 (J Lague)
Sibelius	Finlandia
Tchaikovsky	Symphony No. 2

18th June 1983 (Dolphin Centre, Romford)

Mozart	Magic Flute Overture
Dvorak	Czech Suite
Schubert	Unfinished Symphony
Dvorak	Slavonic Dances

20th November 1983 (Queens Theatre)

Bizet	Carmen Overture
Mozart	Soprano Arias (E Wood)
Mussorgsky	Night on a Bare Mountain
Schubert	Symphony No. 9

18th March 1984 (Queens)

Rossini	Barber of Seville Overture
Tchaikovsky	Piano Concerto No. 1 (J Lague)
Beethoven	Symphony No. 5

17th June 1984 (Queens)

Mozart	Marriage of Figaro Overture
Schubert	Symphony No. 5
Bizet	Symphony in C
J Strauss	Blue Danube Waltz/Trish-Trash Polka

11th November 1984 (Queens Theatre)

Walton	Crown Imperial
Mendelssohn	Scottish Symphony
Handel	Water Music
Elgar	Serenade for Strings
Tchaikovsky	1812

31st March 1985 (Queens Theatre)

Mozart	Eine Kleine Nachtmusik
Borodin	Symphony No. 2
Mussorgsky/Ravel	Pictures at an Exhibition

Robert Ferguson

Robert Ferguson's early music training was at the Guildhall School of Music. At 18 he went to the Royal College of Music where he studied piano with Cyril Smith for 5 years. His piano playing gained him the Hopkinsol Gold medal, presented by the Queen Mother and the Dannreuther Prize for his performance of Prokofiev's 3rd Piano Concerto. His concert debut was at the Royal Festival Hall in 1973.

From 1972 Robert Ferguson worked with the late Christopher Kite as a piano duo team. Their London debut was at the Wigmore Hall in 1973 and they appeared numerous times on the South Bank to critical acclaim. They performed throughout the British Isles and recorded much of the piano duet and two-piano repertoire for the BBC after their first live broadcast in 1980. Most of their performances were on BBC Radio 3, the most recent transmission being February 1990. Their concerts sometimes employed reproduction or antique early pianos for the works of JC Bach and Mozart. They toured Ireland twice and performed at the Belfast Festival and Bath Festival. Robert recorded the piano music for the cartoon film 'Rarg' which has been broadcast several times on British TV. He also recorded the piano music for the TV film 'The Grass Arena', first broadcast on BBC2 and subsequently in Norway, Greece, Israel and Australia. He also recorded a series of nine programmes for Radio Television Hong Kong in 1992.

Robert has teaching commitments at the Perse School for Girls in Cambridge (1979 -) and the Anglia Polytechnic University (1984 -). For the last 15 years he has conducted the Havering Concert Orchestra for the London Borough of Havering's Adult College and he has been an enthusiastic adjudicator at various competitive festivals including the Stratford and East London Festival and the Exeter Festival.

Robert recently formed a duo partnership with the flautist Brenda Dykes. His work as an examiner has taken him worldwide, including Ireland, Jersey, the Orkneys and Shetlands and also to Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and Indonesia.

THE ORCHESTRA

First Violins

Catherine Cheshire (leader)
Donna Schooling (co-leader)
Jenny Sheppard
Nora Wilson
Sarah Brooks
Kathryn Andrews
Yvonne Simmons
Gabrielle Scott
Sarah Claxton
Barbara Baker

Second Violins

Colin Foan
John Phillips
Paul Lewis
Julie Woodberry
Glenn Somerville
Nigel Ryan
Dorothy Todd
Stan VanLint
Stanley Hewitt
Karen Woolfe

Violas

Vic Bradnam
Francis Hider
Karen Williams
Bob Taylor

'Cellos

Graeme Wright
Ruth Tyler
Geoffrey Pink
Mark Rallis
Brendan O'Connor
Tony Wright
Bill Brooks
Alan Musgrove

Double Bass

Robert Veale

Flutes

Gillian Foan
Joan Luck
Ankie Postma

Oboes

Clare Davey
Leigh Thomas

Clarinets

Brian Luck
Clare Adams
Jacqueline Howlett
Mike Youngs

Bassoons

Jane Chivers
Sarah Head

Trumpets

Matthew Thomas
Douglas Waterson

Trombones

Sebastian Abbott
Andrew Bearman
Chris Hoepelman
Keith Bleasdale

Tuba

Jeff Miller

French Horns

Jamie Merrick
Jennie Birch
John Ward
Guest

Timpani

Janice Flanders

Percussion

Georgina Thomas
Dave Robinson
Jenny Robinson
Steve Kingsnorth

Harp

Ruth Silkoff

Catherine Cheshire

Catherine Cheshire grew up in Wakefield in West Yorkshire until she moved to Essex in 1988. Initially she began playing the piano at the age of eight, and six months later began to learn the violin, realising that this was her preferred instrument of the two. For ten years, she was taught by Harvey Marsden, a member of the Hallé Orchestra, and she played in a variety of youth symphony orchestras, also making several solo performances in the local area during those years.

At the age of sixteen, Catherine passed her Grade 8 violin and piano and decided to go to a Teacher Training College which also specialised in music so that she could continue to play with the college orchestra and ensembles. Beginning her Bachelor of Education course at Bretton Hall College for Performing arts, she continued with her violin lessons, now with Frank Horner, also a member of the Hallé Orchestra, who taught Catherine for four years.

Graduating in 1988, Catherine initially took a teaching post in Upminster, Essex in an Infant School, and after two years she took a second post in a local Junior school where she is presently responsible for Music and also the Special Needs Department. Catherine also teaches the violin, piano, guitar and singing. She also plays in the Brentwood Philharmonic Orchestra and several local Amateur Operatic Societies. Catherine first joined the Concert Orchestra in 1989, taking up the position of leader in 1990. She regularly returns to Yorkshire where her parents still live.

Ian Ryan

Born in Romford and a former pupil of Upminster Junior School, Ian started playing the piano at the age of five.

By the age of twelve, his musical achievements already included winning the East London Music Festival (under 15's section) and a prize in the Havering Junior Musician of the Year competition at the age of nine.

As well as his outstanding ability as a pianist, Ian is also very proficient on the saxophone and clarinet. He holds Grade 8 with distinction on the clarinet and recently performed the Weber clarinet concerto at Brentwood School where he now studies. Later this year he goes to Germany with the School Dixie Band and Luxembourg with the School Orchestra. At the age of fourteen, Ian is already studying for his 'A' Level music.

In between musical commitments, Ian still finds time to indulge in his other hobbies, notably football and computer games.

HCO at the Queens:

Our next Concert is on 29th June 1997

'Marriage of Figaro' Overture - Mozart
Flute Concerto No. 2 - Mozart (Soloist Brenda Dykes)
Gonoud - Faust Ballet Music
And various pieces by Strauss including
Die Fledermaus, Blue Danube, Thunder & Lightning Polka,
Trish Trash Polka.



HCO Mailing List

The HCO operates a regular mailing list for our concert ticket sales. If you would like to receive advance programme details, please contact the Secretary (see details below) leaving your name, address and telephone number.

Interested in Joining?

The HCO is an enthusiastic and friendly group of local musicians which continues to expand its membership and repertoire under the spirited direction of Robert Ferguson.

If you know anyone who is interested in joining the Orchestra (standard Grade 6 or above), please contact the Secretary, Karen Williams:

➔ 74 Harwood Avenue, Hornchurch, RM11 2NU

☎ 01708 706795 (Ansaphone)

Finally, grateful thanks to the orchestra's loyal members and supporters who's hard work and dedication made tonight possible.

