**SCO CONCERT MANAGERS REPORT 4th January 2022**

2021 was a strange and difficult year for the orchestra as the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic continued without any end in sight. Bramshaw Village Hall was out of commission following the flood there the previous summer, and for a while the only live rehearsals possible were for strings, which took place in Colbury Church Hall, with wind players continuing the Zoom rehearsals separately. Later, when regulations permitted, live rehearsals were able to take place at Trinity Church Totton. In spite all the problems of practicing whilst wearing masks, keeping our distances from each other, steaming up spectacles, uncertainty about whether rehearsals could go ahead etc, etc, we did manage to plan for and finally perform a very successful and highly enjoyable open air summer concert on the lawn at Bramshaw Village Hall, and the concert was dedicated to our long-time trumpeter, David Parsons, who sadly passed away in October 2020. The weather was perfect, if slightly too hot, refreshments were prepared and sold by the Village Hall committee, and significant amounts of money were raised for the BVH restoration efforts, and for the orchestra.

Buoyed up by the success of the Summer Concert, we planned another visit to Hythe URC Church on 23rd October. Because of the problems presented by the pandemic, we decided to re-use the material from the Summer Concert, with the addition of Trade winds by Binge, and Hoslt’s St Pauls Suite for Strings, and Bartok’s Romanian Folk Dances for wind. This concert was also dedicated to David Parsons, and a representative of the HASAG Charity for asbestos related diseases gave a short talk about their work and were able to raise funds for their work with a retiring collection. We also raised significant a significant amount for orchestra and church funds from ticket sales to the audience of over 80 people.

Looking to the future, we are in the early stages of planning a concert in St Michael’s Church Lyndhurst for Saturday 12th March at 3pm. However, there is a degree of uncertainty as to whether we will be able to go ahead with this concert with the situation surrounding the spread of the new Omicron variant of the virus, and the extent to which this might reduce our preparedness to be able to perform the rather challenging Beethoven Pastoral Symphony. We’re hoping that things will become clearer over the next few weeks., and that we will be able to stick to our plans.

Finally, after more than six years of planning and staging concerts, I have decided that Lyndhurst will be my last concert as Concert Manager, and that consequently we now have a vacancy for a new Concert Manager. For anybody considering taking this opportunity please be reassured that I will be able to advise and assist until whoever takes over has found their feet.

Andrew Row,

SCO Concert Manager