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**MUSICIANS**

**1st VIOLIN**

Ken Thomas (leader),  
Mary Noble, Andrew Row,  
Pam Ermisz, Beverly Chong.

**2nd VIOLIN**

Maria Gregson, Howard Moore,  
Caroline Biggin, Enid Heritage,  
Audrey Cousins, Joanne Gadd,  
Inga Willett.

**VIOLA**

Gilly Slot.

**CELLO**

Rachel Daniels, Linda Shanks,  
Elizabeth Mabb.

**DOUBLE BASS**

John Macgregor.

**PERCUSSION**

Victoria Milevska, Pete Robson.

**FLUTE/PICCOLO**

Kaylee Gault,  
Amanda Ayton,  
Isabella Stocchetti.

**OBOE**

Tim Leighton, Elspeth Wood.

**CLARINET**

Sian Leighton, Julian Williams.

**BASSOON**

Fenella Grey, Debbie Kitney.

**TRUMPET**

Ann Roe, John Roe.

**TROMBONE**

Toby Roe, Phil Crossland.

**FRENCH HORN**

Mike Hall, George Trevelyan,  
Amy Taylor.

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**MUSICAL DIRECTOR**

Simon Wilkins has conducted the orchestra since 2013. His particular interests are in the music of Sibelius, the application of baroque and classical playing styles to modern orchestras, and in contemporary repertoire suitable for non-professionals. He is committed to the encouragement and development of non-professional musicians of all ages, the representation of minority voices in classical music, and in promoting the cultural importance of the repertoire alongside other music genres.

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**ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA**

The Solent Concert Orchestra started life thirty years ago as Marchwood Orchestra and has evolved into a group of enthusiastic and talented amateur musicians. We perform three concerts a year with a repertoire ranging from light classics to symphonies and concertos. We are grateful for the continued support of our patrons Sir Julian Lewis and Lady Fiona Lewis.

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**NEW MEMBERS & GUEST PLAYERS**

We are always pleased to welcome new members! Rehearsals take place on Thursday evenings at Bramshaw Village Hall, Lyndhurst, from 7.45pm to 9.45pm. A minimum standard of grade 5 is generally required to manage the music we play and we welcome players from a wide variety of backgrounds, from student players and returning players, to music teachers. Do get in touch if you would like to come along to a rehearsal for an informal introduction and play along.

Find out more [www.solentconcertorchestra.org.uk](http://www.solentconcertorchestra.org.uk)  
or email us at [solentconcertorchestra@mail.com](mailto:solentconcertorchestra@mail.com)

# SOLENT CONCERT ORCHESTRA

## Concert Programme

## Sea & Symphony

Conducted by Simon Wilkins  
3pm, Saturday 9 November 2024  
St Saviour's Church, Brockenhurst



**Hamble  
Lifeboat**  
Saving lives since 1968





## PROGRAMME NOTES

### NIKOLAI RIMSKY-KORSAKOV (1844 -1908)

#### The Sea and Sinbad's Ship, Mvt.1 Scheherazade

Rimsky-Korsakov composed this symphonic suite, Op. 35, in 1888. He based it loosely on the stories and themes from the Arabian Nights and the East in general. Rimsky-Korsakov wrote a brief introduction that he intended for use with the score as well as the program for the premiere: *"The Sultan Schakhriar, convinced that all women are false and faithless, vowed to put to death each of his wives after the first nuptial night. But the Sultana Scheherazade saved her life by entertaining her lord with fascinating tales for a thousand and one nights. The Sultan, consumed with curiosity, postponed from day to day the execution of his wife, and finally repudiated his bloody vow entirely."* The grim bass motif that opens the first movement represents the domineering Sultan. In contrast Scheherazade's theme is a tender, sensuous, winding melody for violin solo that represents her femininity.

#### Calm At Sea

*Silence deep rules over the waters,  
Calmly slumbering lies the main,  
While the sailor views with trouble  
Nought but one vast level plain.  
Not a zephyr is in motion!  
Silence fearful as the grave!  
In the mighty waste of ocean  
Sunk to rest is every wave.*

#### Prosperous Voyage

*The mist is fast clearing,  
And radiant is heaven,  
While Aeolus loosens  
Our anguish-fraught bond.  
The zephyrs are sighing,  
Alert is the sailor.  
Quick! Nimble be plying!  
The billows are riven,  
The distance approaches;  
I see land beyond!*



### FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809-1847)

#### Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage Opus 27

Two poems by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, "Calm at Sea" and "Prosperous Voyage" written in 1795, were the source for three 19th century settings: Beethoven's Opus 112, Schubert's song "Calm Sea" and Mendelssohn's Overture Opus 27. In place of vocal settings chosen by Schubert and Beethoven, Mendelssohn sets the poems into an orchestral seascape. Mendelssohn's score for the most part follows the sentiment of the poet's text. Although Mendelssohn had only seen the sea once at this point in his life, he wrote a stunning and convincing representation of the danger and terror of being becalmed and the celebration of finally seeing land and the renewal of wind.

### JOHANN STRAUSS II (1825-1899)

#### The Beautiful Blue Danube

"The Blue Danube" is the common English title of "An der schönen blauen Donau", Op. 314, a waltz by the Austrian composer Johann Strauss II, composed in 1866. Since its first performance in 1867, the piece has been one of the most consistently popular pieces of music in the classical repertoire, although its initial performance was considered only a mild success. It is probably the most famous waltz ever written – actually not one waltz but a chain of five interlinked waltz themes. It is Austria's second national anthem and the inescapable conclusion to each New Year's Day concert in Vienna. If you feel sorry for shop assistants forced from November onwards (or earlier!) to listen to Christmas music, spare a thought for the citizens of Vienna. All year round, in restaurants, shops, and hotels, there is no escaping The Blue Danube Waltz.



## INTERVAL

### RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (1972-1958)

#### Quick March from Sea Songs

Born in the village of Down Ampney, Gloucestershire, Ralph Vaughan Williams was related to Charles Darwin (Ralph's great-uncle) and the ceramics giant Josiah Wedgwood (his great-great-grandfather). Young Ralph studied piano and violin and collected traditional folk songs from an early age. These tunes went on to inspire many of his subsequent works. Originally written for British military band in 1924, "Sea Songs" is a single-movement composition based on three English sailing songs: "Princess Royal", "Admiral Benbow" and "Portsmouth".

### CHARLES GOUNOD (1818-1893)

#### Symphony No.1 in D Major

Born in Paris into an artistic and musical family, Gounod was a student at the Conservatoire de Paris and won France's most prestigious musical prize, the Prix de Rome. His studies took him to Italy, Austria, and then Prussia, where he met Felix Mendelssohn, whose advocacy of the music of Bach was an early influence on him. Gounod was deeply religious and after his return to Paris he briefly considered becoming a priest. He composed prolifically, writing church music, songs, orchestral music and operas. His first symphony was composed in 1854-55, although Gounod drew on a work written in Rome a decade earlier as the opening movement. It is carefree and sunny in style and it is no surprise that it inspired Bizet, who arranged it for piano duet. Gounod's two symphonies are full of joie de vivre and Symphony No.1 is particularly vivacious. The first movement, in sonata form, flows with a charming grace and elegance and has three musical ideas. The second movement has a more humorous character, with a light, bouncing theme in the minor mode, contrasted by a central fugal section. The third movement is a scherzo and trio with a playful subject matter. The final movement has a short slow introduction before the drive and energy of the first movement returns, amplified by dramatic interludes for the trumpets and timpani. Late in life Gounod started but did not complete a third symphony. A complete slow movement and much of a first movement survive. Other orchestral works include the "Funeral March of a Marionette" (1879), an orchestration of an 1872 solo piano piece.

## PLEASE JOIN US FOR FUTURE CONCERTS

7.30pm, Saturday 15 March 2025: St Michael & All Angels, Lyndhurst.

7.30pm, 14 June 2025: Bramshaw Village Hall, Lyndhurst.

[www.solentconcertorchestra.org.uk/future-concerts](http://www.solentconcertorchestra.org.uk/future-concerts)

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