



MUSICIANS

1st VIOLIN

Ken Thomas (leader),
Mary Noble, Andrew Row,
Pam Ermisz, Iain Ferris, Andrew Easton.

2nd VIOLIN

Maria Gregson, Howard Moore,
Caroline Biggin, Enid Heritage,
Audrey Cousins, Jessica McTeague.

VIOLA

Ruth Wilkins, Vincent Lyengar,
Simon Wilkins.

CELLO

Rachel Daniels, Linda Shanks,
Elizabeth Mabb.

DOUBLE BASS

John Macgregor.

FLUTE/PICCOLO

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.

FRENCH HORN

Mike Hall, George Trevelyan.

PERCUSSION

Victoria Milevskaya, Pete Robson.



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.



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.



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
or email us at solentconcertorchestra@mail.com

SOLENT CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Celebrating Spring

Symphony, Serenades & Waltzes

Saturday 15 March 2025
St Michael & All Angels
Lyndhurst

Conducted by
Simon Wilkins

Supporting the Lyndhurst
Community Centre





Johann Strauss II, Frühlingsstimmen, Op.410
 Ralph Vaughan Williams, Prelude on Rhosymedre
 Antonin Dvořák, Memories of Dvořák
 Edward Elgar, Serenade For String Orchestra, Op.20
 Alexander Borodin, In The Steppes Of Central Asia

Interval

With an introduction from the Lyndhurst Community Centre

Louise Farrenc, Symphony No.1 in C minor Op.32



NOTES ON THE PROGRAMME

JOHANN STRAUSS II (1825-1899) Frühlingsstimmen, Op.410

Frühlingsstimmen, Op.410 (Voices of Spring) is an orchestral waltz, with optional solo soprano voice, written in 1882 by Johann Strauss II. Strauss dedicated the work to the pianist and composer Alfred Grunfeld. Bianca Bianchi (born Bertha Schwarz) was a famous member of the Vienna Court Opera Theatre and Strauss was sufficiently inspired to compose a new work, a waltz for solo voice, for the acclaimed singer. The result was his Frühlingsstimmen waltz which celebrates spring and remains one of the classical repertoire's most famous waltzes. The piece is sometimes used as an insertion aria in the Act 2 ball scene of Strauss' operetta Die Fledermaus.

RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (1872- 1958) Prelude On Rhosymedre

Ralph Vaughan Williams was an influential British composer and folk-song collector. His powerful and expressive orchestral music is notable for its very "English" sound. His early adventures collecting folk songs in the English countryside profoundly influenced his later compositions. Rhosymedre was originally the second in the collection of Three Preludes on Welsh Hymn Tunes that Vaughan Williams composed and published in 1920. It takes an original hymn tune (also called "Rhosymedre") and sets it as a calm, somewhat meandering prelude. It is a favourite of organists and British Royals: the organ version was played at the funeral of Princess Diana and the later weddings of both of her sons, Prince William and Prince Harry.

ANTONÍN DVOŘÁK (1841-1904) Memories Of Dvořák

Dvořák was a Czech composer of Romantic music, who studied and widely used the folk music of Moravia and his native Bohemia in his compositions. Probably Dvořák's best known work is his Symphony No.9, "From the New World" and sections from the symphony feature in this compilation of his well known works. Performed by the wind and brass sections of the orchestra and conducted by our eminent flautist Isabella Stocchetti, the piece also includes Slavonic Dances, Gypsy Melodies and the popular Humoresque. Did you know that Dvořák was absolutely mad about trains and everything to do with them? When he was a teacher, he would always ask his pupils to describe in detail any train journeys that they had recently made!



EDWARD ELGAR (1857-1934) Serenade For String Orchestra, Op.20

This serenade is an early piece in three short movements, by the English composer Edward Elgar. It was written in March 1892 and was first performed privately in that year; its public premiere was in 1896. The Serenade For Strings takes us back to some years before Elgar's breakthrough Enigma Variations and is not only one of Elgar's earliest compositions to retain a place in the standard orchestral repertoire, but also one of the most frequently performed of his orchestral works. It was the first of Elgar's compositions with which he professed himself happy!

ALEXANDER BORODIN (1833-1887) In The Steppes Of Central Asia

This piece is a symphonic poem (or musical tableau) composed by Borodin in 1880 and dedicated to Franz Liszt. It had been intended to celebrate the silver anniversary of the reign of Emperor Alexander II of Russia, who had done much to expand the Russian Empire into the Caucasus, Far East and Central Asia. The intended production never happened due to an attempted assassination on the Emperor, but the work has been a concert favourite since its first performance on 20 April 1880 in St Petersburg. Borodin gave the following description in a note to the score: *"In the silence of the monotonous steppes of Central Asia is heard the unfamiliar sound of a peaceful Russian song. From the distance we hear the approach of horses and camels and the bizarre and melancholy notes of an oriental melody. A caravan approaches, escorted by Russian soldiers, and continues safely on its way through the immense desert. It disappears slowly. The notes of the Russian and Asiatic melodies join in a common harmony, which dies away as the caravan disappears in the distance."*

LOUISE FARRENC (1804-1875) Symphony No.1 In C minor Op.32

Born in Paris, 31 May 1804, to a sculptor and his wife, Jeanne-Louise Dumont made for herself an impressive career, especially for a woman in the 19th century. She was a French composer, virtuoso pianist and teacher of the Romantic period. Her compositions include three symphonies, a few choral works, numerous chamber pieces, and a wide variety of piano music. She married flautist, musical publisher and historian Aristide Farrenc, who ardently defended her music throughout his life. Symphony No.1, dating from 1842, has a striking mix of Romanticism and Classicism and is indebted in many ways to the German symphonic tradition. There are glimpses of Beethoven in the first movement and Schumann in the finale. In place of the expected third movement Scherzo however, Farrenc offers a Minuet, though its slightly abrasive tone takes us into territory far removed from retro 18th-century imitation.



JOIN US FOR FUTURE CONCERTS

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

3pm, 15 November 2025: Cornerstone, Hythe United Reformed Church.

7.30pm, 14 March 2026: Hanger Farm Arts Centre, Totton.

www.solentconcertorchestra.org.uk/future-concerts

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