



"Didcot's new symphony orchestra"

Principal sponsor: The Henley Audio logo consists of a large, bold, black letter 'H'. The word "HENLEY" is written in white, uppercase letters across the middle of the 'H', and the word "AUDIO" is written in black, uppercase letters to the right of the bottom bar of the 'H'.

Conductor: Geoff Bushell

Leader: Kate Bailey

Honorary President: Lord Vaizey of Didcot

Concert **8** – Sunday 22 May 2022

PROGRAMME

Verbytsky

The Ukrainian National Anthem

Khachaturian

Adagio from Spartacus and Phrygia

Myaskovsky

Symphony no 27

Mussorgsky (Ravel)

Pictures at an Exhibition

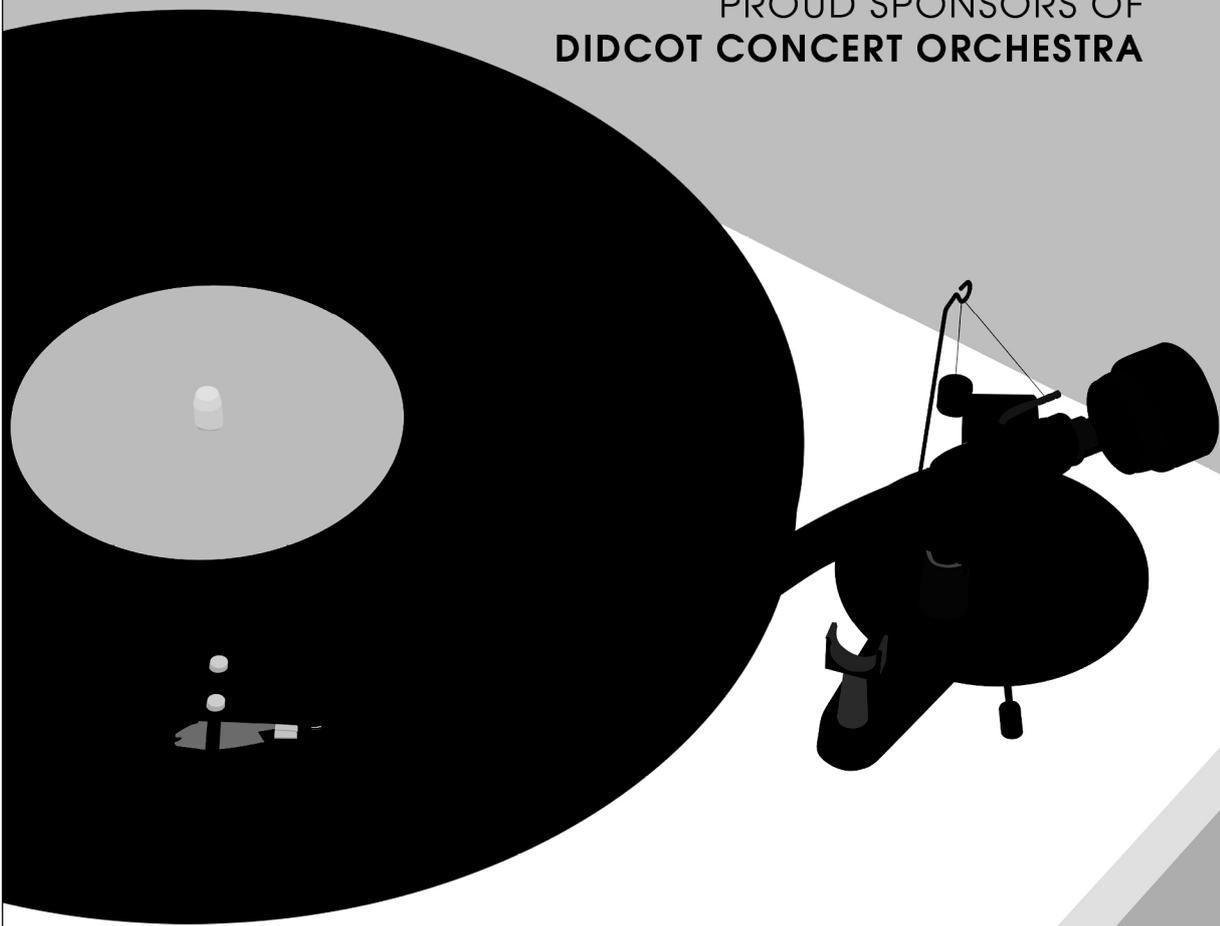


www.didcotconcertorchestra.org.uk
www.facebook.com/didcotconcertorchestra

Pro-Ject
AUDIO SYSTEMS

**ENJOY YOUR MUSIC
GO ANALOGUE!**

PROUD SPONSORS OF
DIDCOT CONCERT ORCHESTRA



Distributed by Henley Audio

| T: +44 (0) 1235 511 166 | E: sales@henleyaudio.co.uk |

| W: www.henleyaudio.co.uk |  : [HenleyAudioUK](https://www.facebook.com/HenleyAudioUK) |  : [HenleyAudio](https://www.youtube.com/HenleyAudio)

A message from our Honorary President

"I am delighted that Didcot Concert Orchestra has been established. Didcot is a vibrant and growing town, and the arts have always been a central part of its life. The concert orchestra fills a gap, and it is very much needed. Music brings great joy to people, and it also plays an important role in our schools and our communities. I wish Didcot Concert Orchestra every success."

Lord Vaizey of Didcot

PROGRAMME

This concert's programme of Russian music was planned several years ago, and would have been played in 2020 but for the pandemic. In considering the performance of Russian music in the context of the war in Ukraine, DCO's view, in line with the policies of Making Music (which champions amateur music making) and the Association of British Orchestras, is that the works of deceased Russian composers are a part of Western culture to be celebrated and not censored.

To demonstrate solidarity with the people of Ukraine, we plan to include pieces by a living Ukrainian composer in future concerts, and DCO's founders invite our audience and players to donate, as we have, to the Disasters Emergency Committee's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal at this time of Ukraine's great need.



Ukrainian National Anthem

Mykhailo Verbytsky (1815-1870)

*Ukraine's glory has not yet died, nor her freedom,
And the skies, O brethren, upon us smile once more!
As in Springtime melts the snow, so shall melt away the foe,
And we shall be masters in our own home.
Soul and body, yea, our all, offer we at freedom's call
We, whose forebears, and ourselves, proud Cossacks are!*

Words by Pablo Chubynsky (1839-1884)

Spartacus and Phrygia: Adagio

Aram Khachaturian (1903-1978)

Aram Ilyich Khachaturian was born and raised in Tblisi, Georgia. Following the sovietisation of the Caucasus in 1921, and without any prior musical training, he moved to Moscow, where he enrolled in the Gnessin Musical Institute, subsequently studying at the Moscow Conservatory in the composition class of Nikolai Myaskovsky, amongst others.

His first major work, the *Piano Concerto* (1936), made his name well known outside the Soviet Union, and he went on to compose a *Violin Concerto* and *Cello Concerto* and three symphonies. He became best known for his *Masquerade Suite*, and ballet music *Gayaneh* and *Spartacus* (1954), all of which combine colourful harmonies, captivating rhythms and sensuous melodies. *Spartacus* follows the exploits of the eponymous leader of the slave uprising against the Romans in the Third Servile War in 73-71 BC. The Roman consul Crassus captures the Roman warrior king Spartacus and his wife Phrygia, and they are separated. The captives rebel against the sordid tasks expected of them, and escape – celebrated in the wonderfully stirring *Adagio of Spartacus and Phrygia*.

Spartacus won the Lenin Prize in its year of composition, and it was first staged in Leningrad in 1956. It remains popular today, especially in the repertoire of the Bolshoi Theatre and other ballet companies in Russia and the former Soviet Union. The *Adagio* came to be known by a much wider audience through the 1970s television drama *The Onedin Line*, and in films such as *Ice Age: The Meltdown*.

Symphony no 27 in C minor

Nikolai Myaskovsky (1881-1950)

I Adagio – allegro animato

II Adagio

III Presto ma non troppo

Nikolai Myaskovsky was one of Russia's greatest symphonists, but lamentably little known, even in his home country. He was born in a fortress, son of a Russian army general. He trained for the army, and served in front line trenches from 1914 to 1916. Having graduated from Lyadov's and Rimsky-Korsakov's composition classes at St Petersburg Conservatoire, he took up composition in earnest. In 1921 he joined the professors at Moscow Conservatoire with pupils including Kabalevsky and Khachaturian. His main streams of output were 13 string quartets and 27 symphonies, the last of which written in 1949, when the composer was seriously ill.

Myaskovsky's *Symphony no 27*, opus 85, is a tuneful masterpiece in the Russian Romantic style looking back to Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov. While many of Myaskovsky's symphonies are melancholy, this is an optimistic work, with contrasting ideas of meditation, dark forces, struggle for lofty ideals, and triumphant victory. The first movement has several strong melodies combined with periods of wistfulness. The central second movement starts with a beautiful romantic chorale, first in the brass, then woodwind, followed by strings of Brucknerian intensity. A scherzo is interwoven within this movement, before a return of the Adagio, often marked "sublime". Helter-skelter running passages announce the Finale, interspersed with march-like episodes, and the running passages succeed in accomplishing a triumphant and happy conclusion. Kabalevsky wrote "*The whole of it seems to be straining forward, towards a happy future*".

Interval – 20 minutes – refreshments downstairs

Pictures at an Exhibition

Promenade

1 – *Gnomus*

Promenade

2 – *The Old Castle*

Promenade

3 – *Tuileries*

4 – *Bydlo*

Promenade

Modest Mussorgsky (1839-1891)

orch. Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

5 – *Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks*

6 – *Samuel Goldenberg and Schmuyle*

Promenade

7 – *Limoges*

8 – *Catacombs (Sepulcrum Romanum –
Con mortuis in lingua mortua)*

9 – *Baba Yaga*

10 – *The Great Gate of Kyiv*

Mussorgsky's original and highly inventive piano composition of 1874 was the inspiration for over twenty orchestrations, most notably by conductors Mikhail Tushmalov and Leopold Stokowski, and in 1922 by Maurice Ravel. Ravel's skill as a master orchestrator is very evident in this work. *Pictures at an Exhibition* is a fine example of descriptive music, depicting a visitor's (probably Mussorgsky's) "promenade" around an exhibition of paintings by Mussorgsky's architect and painter friend Viktor Hartmann. Each of the ten movements represents the impression made by each picture on the visitor, linked by a recurring *Promenade* representing the idling way a visitor would walk around an exhibition.

The first picture the visitor comes to is *Gnomus*, Hartmann's design for a nutcracker in the shape of a gnome. A promenade leads to *The Old Castle* in Italy – this piece has a medieval feel, with a sustained bass rhythm supporting a solo bassoon and solo saxophone. The royal Palais des Tuileries used to stand on the right bank of the River Seine in Paris, now replaced by the Tuileries Gardens. In marked contrast, a solo euphonium in *Bydlo* represents a lumbering rural ox-cart. Chirruping upper woodwind depict canaries in the *Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks*.

Goldenburg and Schmuyle depicts two moneylenders – one large and prosperous-looking (unison rhythmic phrases), the other poor and threadbare (shrill trumpet). *Limoges* depicts French women chattering in a market, leading directly into *Catacombs*, where our visitor walks under Paris streets surrounded by human skulls – low brass chords convey the eeriness and drama of the setting. *Baba Yaga* is a witch who lives in a log cabin on hens' legs, and this leads directly to the final celebratory *Great Gate of Kyiv* – Hartmann's sketch for city gates at Kyiv in the ancient Russian massive style with a cupola shaped like a slavonic helmet.

Programme notes by Geoff Bushell

WHETHER IT IS A DAY TRIP, SHORT HAUL, CRUISE, SKI, LONGHAUL OR TAILORMADE ITINERARY, TRIANGLE TRAVEL CAN TAKE CARE OF ALL YOUR TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS WORLDWIDE.

OUR AIM IS TO LET YOU LIVE THE DREAM, WHEREVER THAT MAY BE. "IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE, PLAY ON" AND VISIT SOME OF THOSE WONDERFUL MUSICAL VENUES AS WELL, BOTH HERE AND ABROAD.

CALL IN TO OUR BRANCH ON DIDCOT BROADWAY AND LET OUR EXPERTS HELP YOU ARRANGE THAT SPECIAL TRIP.



TRIANGLE TRAVEL

SAIL THE UNIQUE NORWEGIAN FJORDS AND ENJOY AN EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE EDVARD GRIEG CONCERT AT HIS HOME.

7-NIGHT SMALL SHIP LUXURY CRUISE, HOTEL STAYS AND SIGHTSEEING IN OSLO AND BERGEN, AND A VISIT TO GÖTEBORG, SWEDEN.

PRIVATE EXCURSIONS, DISTINCTIVE INCLUSIONS, ACTIVITY CHOICES AND FINE CUISINE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK, PLEASE CONTACT US:

01235 819121
DIDCOT@TRIANGLE TRAVEL.CO.UK
128 BROADWAY, DIDCOT OX11 8AB

DCO WOULD LIKE TO THANK...

- Principal sponsor** Henley Audio — www.henleyaudio.co.uk
- Season sponsors** William Jones estate agents – www.wjestates.co.uk
Nockels Gee accountants – www.nockelsgee.co.uk
Triangle Travel – www.triangletravel.co.uk
DigiPress – www.digipressltd.co.uk
- Benefactors** Dr Jon Spiro, Chris Fletcher-Campbell, Sue Hurst,
Pam Evans, Eleanor and Nick Hards, John Abramson,
Ian Sharland
- Publicity partners** Round&About, The Didcot Directory, BBC Radio Oxford

ABOUT DCO

Didcot Concert Orchestra (DCO) was founded in 2017 by local amateur musicians Jackie and Geoff Bushell. Realising that the rapidly growing town was bringing ever more orchestral musicians and larger potential concert audiences to the area, Jackie and Geoff felt it could now support its own full-size performing orchestra and become a cultural destination for classical music. Audiences in the Didcot area would then be able to experience high-quality classical orchestral music without needing to travel to London or Oxford, at an accessible price. Participation in classical music, whether as a listener or a performer, has been shown to bring many benefits in health and wellbeing to individuals and to the community.

The orchestra aims to give local musicians and audiences the opportunity to experience a very high standard of performance. This level of attainment is achieved by personal invitation or audition of players, and through the support and encouragement of professional string section leaders. Players meet for just four rehearsals before each concert, usually over a ten day period.

DCO gave its inaugural performance in early 2018 and programmes three concerts each year, all at Cornerstone. Focusing on popular classical music from the Romantic era, each concert also offers new experiences to both audiences and players by including at least one "rare gem" that is very seldom, if ever, heard in the public concert hall. Future programmes are listed on page 12 and on DCO's website at www.didcotconcertorchestra.org.uk.

Sponsorship

DCO is a not-for-profit charitable unincorporated association, underwritten by the founders. Putting on concerts incurs significant costs which our generous sponsors and benefactors help to defray. The orchestra welcomes offers of sponsorship from businesses, organisations and philanthropic individuals who are keen to support the development of performing arts in south Oxfordshire. If you can help is put on future concerts, please contact us via www.didcotconcertorchestra.org.uk.

Participation

If you play an orchestral instrument to a high standard, and are interested in participating in future concerts, DCO would love to hear from you. Contact us via www.didcotconcertorchestra.org.uk or come and speak to us at a concert.



DCO is a member of Making Music, which provides advice, support and resources for leisure-time musicians and music groups across the UK.

CONDUCTOR

Geoff Bushell

Geoff Bushell studied conducting with George Hurst, Denise Ham, Michael Rose and Adrian Leaper. He has been conductor and musical director of Oxford-based St Giles Orchestra since 1983, and regularly conducts Abingdon Symphony Orchestra and other orchestras in the Oxfordshire area. Highlights of Geoff's conducting career have included large-scale performances of Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Verdi's *Requiem* and Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* with 200 performers, and a recording of Walton's *Crown Imperial March* which was broadcast on the BBC One Show. With a growing repertoire of over 400 different works conducted in public concerts, Geoff is renowned for introducing players and audiences to lesser-known but unjustly neglected romantic repertoire, and has conducted several UK premieres of these. Geoff also composes romantic-style pieces, including four commissions from Abingdon and District Musical Society to celebrate its major anniversaries. In 2022, Geoff was invited to conduct the newly-formed 70-piece Aylesbury Vale Concert Orchestra in a charity concert featuring international guitar soloist Xuefei Yang and Classic FM presenter John Brunning at Aylesbury's Waterside Theatre.

LEADER

Kate Bailey

Kate began her violin studies with Pamela Spofforth at the age of nine, and was an early member of Pro Corda, where she gained a love of chamber music. Whilst reading Music at University College, Oxford, she studied with David Ogden and Emanuel Hurwitz, and then went on to study with Erika Klemperer at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Kate has played in the string quartet, OXUS for the last ten years, specialising in approachable contemporary works such as Steve Reich's *Different Trains* and Elvis Costello's *The Juliet Letters*. She is also a founder member of The Holywell Ensemble (formed in 1984), a flexible chamber group renowned for its committed and evocative performances of British chamber music on CD and in the concert hall, which was described by the BBC Music Magazine as "one of the most important chamber music groups on the British musical scene". Kate lives in Oxford, and regularly leads a number of orchestras in the area. She is also a freelance orchestral player and has performed a number of concertos, including Beethoven's *Triple Concerto* with her colleagues from The Holywell Ensemble, and in March 2018 she performed Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* with viola player Heather Birt.

OXUS

DCO's four string section leaders

Kate Bailey and Louise Graham (violins), Heather Birt (viola) and Spike Wilson (cello), are the members of OXUS – an innovative and vibrant string quartet, formed in 2006. They perform music from all eras, but specialise in contemporary repertoire and give regular recitals and workshops in schools and colleges.

OXUS frequently works with other performers and media, performing works including Steve Reich's *Different Trains* with electronics; an original composition by and with jazz guitarist Pete Oxley; and, with actor-singer Nicholas Cass-Beggs, *The Juliet Letters* by Elvis Costello and The Brodsky Quartet.

Performances include appearances at the Institute of Contemporary Art in London, the Oxford Contemporary Music Marathon, and the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, and they have also enjoyed the challenge of working with artist Pam Foley, composing and improvising, for a project on Chronic Grief, entitled *Routes of Sorrow*.

HELPING YOU TO PAY THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF TAX, AND NO MORE

- Business & Personal Taxation
- Accounts Preparation, bookkeeping and VAT
- Construction Industry Services
- Payroll Bureau and Auto Enrolment
- Business Start Up Advice
- Capital Gains Tax
- Specialist Accountancy
 - Farms and Estates
 - Solicitors' Accounts Rules
 - Charities
 - Industrial and Provident Societies
 - Chartered Surveyors and Estate Agents
 - Independent Examinations



5 The Chambers
Vineyard
Abingdon-on-Thames
OX14 3PX

01235 555315

Email: ashley@nockelsgee.co.uk

As knowledgeable and qualified Accountants we can help businesses and individuals with the compliance burden placed on them by H M Revenue & Customs.

PERFORMERS – 22 MAY 2022

FLUTE	Sue Hurst Kate Geary	HARP	Helen Coad
PICCOLO	Kate Roberts	VIOLIN 1	Kate Bailey * Cathie Ng Neil Thomas Mhairi Robertson
OBOE	Alan Evans Lorna Rennie		Iris van Pijlen Gillie Watson Eleanor Bagg
COR ANGLAIS	Jo Bell		
CLARINET	Lisa Walker Jackie Bushell		
BASS CLARINET SAXOPHONE	Barbara Stuart	VIOLIN 2	Louise Graham * Jane Terepin Paul Chesson Gillian Corrigan Rosie Bruce Jeanette Thomas Liz Lochhead
BASSOON	Will Grainger Chris Grovenor		
CONTRABSN	Frank Jordan		
HORN	Sam Hill Peter Frankcom Helen Jenkins Steve Guard	VIOLA	Heather Birt * Louise Hill Steve Terepin Margarete Lucas Rhian Frankcom
TRUMPET	Thomas James Alison Davidson Vere Lintern-Smyth		
TROMBONE	Nigel Howard Charlie Vereker Stephanie Howard	CELLO	Spike Wilson * Jude Barnby Polly Silk Sarah Higgins Rachael Rendell Andrew Rendell Lisa Rees
TUBA	Matt Sanders		
TIMPANI PERCUSSION	Chris Fletcher-Campbell Rachel Williams Jackie Mann	DOUBLE BASS	Chris Seddon Richard Hodby

* professional string section leaders



Our limited resources mean we cannot publicise our concerts as widely as we would wish, so please help us keep costs down by joining our audience emailing list to receive advance notice of concerts and updates when tickets go on sale. Scan this QR code and subscribe at www.didcotconcertorchestra.org.uk

William | Jones

ESTATE AGENTS

"Providing a personal, professional and proactive service to the Oxfordshire property market"

We specialise in:

- Sales | Lettings | New Homes | Land

Other services we provide:

- Independent Mortgage Advice
- Life Cover | Mortgage Protection
- Financial Advice | Pensions including Transfers
- Investments | Savings | Inheritance Tax Planning



William Peddie Sales Director



Robert Jones Letting Director

"Successfully helping people move"

For a free, no obligation market appraisal on your property contact William Jones on

01235 812229

www.wjestates.co.uk

didcot@wjestates.co.uk

NEXT CONCERTS

9 Sunday 2 October 2022 at 4pm at Cornerstone

Rossini	William Tell: Overture
Kuzina-Rozhdestvenskaya	Breath of Life
Dohnányi	Symphonic Minutes
Vaughan Williams	Tuba Concerto (Sam Elliott)
Brahms	Symphony no 3 in F

10 Sunday 5 February 2023 at 4pm at Cornerstone

Wagner	Parsifal: Prelude
Alfvén	A Legend of the Skerries
Dvořák	Hussite Overture
Tchaikovsky	Sleeping Beauty: ballet highlights

11 Sunday 14 May 2023 at 4pm at Cornerstone

Franck	Les Éolides
Debussy	Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune
Fauré	Pélleas et Mélisande
Vaughan Williams	The Wasps: Overture
Mendelssohn	Symphony no 3 "Scottish"

12 Sunday 8 October 2023 at 4pm at Cornerstone

Saint Saëns	Phaéton
Howard Hanson	Symphony no 2 "Romantic"
Goldmark	Sakuntala Overture
Goldmark	The Queen of Sheba: Ballet Music
Tchaikovsky	Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture

13 February 2024

Goldmark	The Queen of Sheba: Overture
Karłowicz	Eternal Songs
Elgar	In the South
Respighi	The Pines of Rome

Please see further information at www.didcotconcertorchestra.org.uk