

City of Carlisle Orchestra - Celebrating 50 Years

A Short History

The City of Carlisle Orchestra, originally called the *Eden Concert Orchestra* was first formed in 1962 by David Wells, Music Adviser to the Carlisle Education Committee.

Raymond Brown, who came to Carlisle as Music Adviser in 1963, carried the Orchestra forward, and the Director of Education, Mr L. Charnley, who greatly supported and encouraged music in Carlisle schools at that time, also supported the Eden Orchestra.

Subsequent conductors have included: 1971 - 1976 David Parkinson, Music Adviser and John Hammond who guided the Orchestra for 33 years from 1976 - 2009!

The Eden Orchestra changed its name to the City of Carlisle Orchestra in 1997.

Secretaries for the Orchestra have been F.N. Renaut, William Swarbrick, Norma Bagot, and Joan Masters.

Librarians: Ann Bolton, followed by Peter Wood. **Leaders:** Catherine Swarbrick has been notable as Leader over many years. Other Leaders (in the 1970s) have included Alf Adamson, Norris Pendrous and Phil Hoste.

Many concerts have included a soloist. Local names many will recognise are singers, Pat Clarke, Elizabeth Lamb, Robert Bowman, Eric Mortimer, Lynne Lang, and Mary Hitch. Other soloists have been Glenys Braithwaite, David Sutton, Linda Fisher, Scott Bradley, Linda Deacon, John Rayworth, Gordon Kydd and Ian Butterworth. Some concerts have included compositions by John Hammond and there have been memorable performances by talented young musicians, such as Rebecca Swarbrick, Abigail Young, Carlisle King, Jonathan and Christine Harris. Music by young composers Joe Bolger, Ben Corrigan and Steven Jackson has been premiered, and in a performance of 'The Snowman' (2008), the solo singers were Helen Sutton and David Cameron.

The Orchestra is pleased to continue this tradition by welcoming the young players joining us tonight.

Ruth Pickles (Double Bass)



The aim of the newly founded Orchestra was to give a concert performance of Bizet's *Carmen* along with singers who, like most of the players, would be local teachers. It was a grandiose scheme which, sadly, failed for a lack of suitable singers, but the Orchestra continued to meet and gave what was probably its first public performance at a Schools Music Association Concert in the old Market Hall.

When the Eden Concert Orchestra's founder, David Wells moved out of the area I was asked, nay told, to keep the Orchestra going until another Music Adviser was appointed. The conductorship of the Orchestra then became part of the Adviser's contract. When Raymond Brown left in 1971 I again took over the baton (always the bridesmaid!).

During David Parkinson's tenure I remember two concerts in particular. In the old Technical College hall we did a performance of Handel's *Acis and Galatea* and Bach's Double Concerto with Norris Pendrous and Catherine Swarbrick as soloists. The other was a concert in Haltwhistle where I played a Rosetti Horn Concerto. Thanks must go to John Hammond for keeping the Orchestra alive for so many years and I am so proud that one of my ex-pupils and good friend, Tom Howe has taken over.

John Grundy (Former member and occasional Conductor)



A small group of people enjoying a musical soiree in David Wells' home was the beginning of the City of Carlisle Orchestra. All peripatetic teachers were required to play in the Orchestra, consequently the group quickly expanded and many amateur musicians also joined. This necessitated a move to Herbert Atkinson House in Abbey Street. Highlights of earlier years, of which I am very proud, include Rebecca Swarbrick's performance of Saint Saens 'Danse Macabre' in the Sands Centre and James Swarbrick's Beethoven Romance in F.

Later concerts of note included Grieg's Piano Concerto with Vivian Troon (RPO) and two fantastic concerts by Barry Wilde, leader of the Northern Sinfonia in which he not only played the Paganini Violin Concerto, conducted by John Hammond but also played an unaccompanied Bach Gavotte.

Mention needs to be made of the commitment and dedication of my husband, William Swarbrick, who was not only the timpanist but also a viola player. At the onset, he was secretary for many years and was responsible for sponsorship programmes, posters and publicity.

As Leader of the Orchestra, this has been a very fruitful journey for me and I have enjoyed it immensely.

Catherine Swarbrick (Leader)

Programme

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William Tell Overture.....Gioacchino Rossini (1792 - 1868)

Rossini's last opera is set in the Swiss Alps. The overture, which sets the scene, is in 4 sections following each other without a break. They are: Dawn - Storm - Call to the Cows - March of the Swiss Soldier.

Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 26 (Soloist Magdalena Loth-Hill)Max Bruch (1838 - 1920)

1. Prelude: Allegro moderato. 2. Adagio. 3. Finale: Allegro energico.

Four Cumbrian Dances.....Philip Wood

The Cumbrian Dances are a suite of miniature tone-poems inspired by the landscapes, sounds and people of Cumbria. The first depicts a sunrise over the eastern fells on a clear summer dawn. The second is a march; day-trippers and seasoned fell-walkers crawling up and down the Cumbrian mountains, like an army of tiny ants. The third is elegiac and depicts the more unforgiving and austere nature of the Cumbrian landscape in winter. The fourth re-creates the bustle of a Cumbrian market town or busy port, with reference to a long honoured guest!

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Flourish for Orchestra.....Philip Wood

This brief orchestral fanfare was written in the summer of 2011 to mark the 50th anniversary of the City of Carlisle Orchestra. It begins with a bright and brassy fanfare, which leads into a more tranquil and pastoral theme. The final section is based on a repeated set of chords on brass, whilst the rest of the orchestra push the work inexorably toward its conclusion.

City of Carlisle Orchestra and Carlisle Youth Orchestra

Star Wars Main Theme.....John Williams arr. Charles Sayre

Robin Hood "Prince of Thieves"Michael Kamen arr. Erick Debs

Indiana Jones Kingdom of the Crystal Skull.....John Williams arr. Victor Lopez

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Sea Songs (Soprano Emma Elwick – Rule Britannia).....Henry Wood (1869 - 1944)

City of Carlisle Orchestra and Carlisle Youth Orchestra

Pomp and Circumstance March No 1.....Edward Elgar (1857 - 1934)

*Land of Hope and Glory, Mother of the
Free,
How shall we extol thee, who are born of
thee?*

*Wider still, and wider, shall thy bounds be
set;
God, who made thee mighty, make thee
mightier yet!*

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Jerusalem.....Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848 - 1918)

*And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountain green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among those dark satanic mills?*

*Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.*

Reflections and Reminiscences



John Hammond (Conductor, 1976 to 2009), by Pam and Graham Harris

We joined the Eden Orchestra in September 1985 after moving up from London and our first recollection of John Hammond was his great friendliness and warm welcome. He always introduced new members to the rest of the Orchestra, spoke to them at the break and ensured they soon felt at home. He conducted rehearsals in his own inimitable style with a great sense of humour.

John encouraged many young musicians by giving them the opportunity to perform as soloists with the Orchestra or perform their own compositions. John himself is a gifted composer and his work 'The Passion' in particular stands out as a piece which deserves to be performed again.

The Orchestra thanks him for his enthusiasm and patience during his reign as maestro and wishes him a long and happy retirement.



David Humpston (Violin)

Being new to the city in the mid 1970s I soon found myself in the Eden Concert Orchestra with a friendly band of like-minded folk led by Alf Adamson. They appeared, to my mid-twenties mind, to be a bunch of old codgers, but after 37 plus years, with the exception of a couple of years furlough, I now belong to their ranks!

Two ladies, whom I regarded with great affection attended rehearsals most regularly: Barbara Day driving in from Thursby and Millie Nellist having a lift in from Eastriggs. Nothing unusual in this you might say but for the fact that Barbara was 92 and Millie a year older (Millie passed on at the age of 101).



Ian Wilkinson (Clarinet)

As a long-standing member of the Orchestra, my initial memories were of real friendship shown to me by Vance Laney, Fred Renaut and my clarinet teacher, Ted Robinson.

Being an avid Jazz enthusiast I was fascinated by the playing of Tennant Brownlee, Flautist and Trumpeter Jock Hyndman who demonstrated how the Jazz giants such as Dizzy Gillespie and Miles Davis played their solos. There were many funny moments especially the exchanges between John Hammond and Barbara Day. My most satisfying time was when I resumed playing with the Orchestra after having months off, recovering from a near fatal brain haemorrhage ten years ago.



Gordon Kydd (Trumpet)

Over the years the Orchestra has given many opportunities to local young musicians, enabling them to perform solos with the full Orchestra. Many of these players have been children of members of the Orchestra who have gone on to establish musical careers. The Orchestra has also performed many premieres of compositions by local musicians of all ages.

On a personal note the Orchestra has offered me the opportunity to perform a huge variety of music including highlights such as Vivaldi's Double Trumpet Concerto (with a proper trumpeter) and narrating Peter and the Wolf (with puppets!).



Carol Pearce (née Jex) Former Member

I'd been playing the violin in the High School orchestra for a few years, when in 1962, word reached us that the new Carlisle Music Adviser, David Wells was going to try to establish a new orchestra in the city and wanted players. I played in the Orchestra's first two concerts. They were held in the covered market (before it had its makeover), and attracted pretty good audiences. Unfortunately the details of the programmes escape me now, but I'm sure I scratched my way through Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 (the 'Italian'), Schubert's Symphony No. 8 (the 'Unfinished'), and a concert performance of Purcell's 'King Arthur'. I am delighted that The Eden Concert Orchestra still flourishes in its modern form as the City of Carlisle Orchestra, also that my own sister is now a part of it. I wish it every success in its 50th anniversary year.



Tom Howe (Conductor)

My association with the Orchestra began in 1965 when I joined as a 14-year-old schoolboy and played under the kindly guidance of Raymond Brown. In 1969 I left to go to the Royal College of Music, but in 1978 I was back in Carlisle working as a hospital porter after struggling to earn a living as a horn player in London.

I had almost given up on music as a career when John Hammond, who had heard that I played the horn, invited me to join the Orchestra and also kindly asked me to play a concerto with them. This gave me the confidence to resume my career and I spent the next 26 years playing, teaching and conducting in the North East and Cumbria. In 2009 I was delighted to be asked to take over the baton from John Hammond.

Soloists



Magdalena Loth-Hill (Violin)

Magdalena Loth-Hill started playing the violin at the age of 4 with local teacher Carol Head and at the age of 11 was offered a scholarship place at the Junior Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, and later Chetham's School of Music. The winner of numerous music festivals, awards and prizes including the Ann Hood bursary, Lanercost Young Musician and the Keldwyth Award, Magdalena is now in her third year at the Royal College of Music, studying with Professor Itzhak Rashkovsky. Magdalena has performed with her quartet alongside Roger Vignoles and Mark Padmore, and in May she was chosen to perform with the Sacconi Quartet at their festival in Folkestone. She has had extensive orchestral experience and has played with members of the Gabrieli Consort and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and performed under well-known conductors including Sir Mark Elder, and Paul McCreech, under whom she recorded and performed Haydn's Creation at the Barbican, London. Magdalena plays a 1780s William Forster violin very generously given to her by a local benefactor. (William Forster was a Brampton man who made his name in London as instrument maker to the Prince of Wales.)



Emma Elwick (Soprano)

Emma Elwick is 30 and lives in Carlisle with her husband and two young children. Emma was brought up in a musical family where she learned to play piano, violin and viola, playing with the Cumbria Youth Orchestra and the National Youth Orchestra. She currently enjoys playing with Orchestra North East. Emma came to singing later and took lessons with Mary Miller. She has enjoyed singing with the Abbey Singers and Gretna Choral Society in the past. With a love of the theatre she has enjoyed lead roles in musical theatre, Gilbert and Sullivan and opera. Emma is currently a soloist with Cumbria Opera and Musical Director of Dalston Ladies' Choir.



Philip Wood (Composer).

Philip Wood was born near Leeds in 1972. He is a composer, arranger, conductor and teacher, now living and working in Cumbria. He studied Music and Drama in Northampton, gaining an honours degree in 1993. In 1997 he was awarded a Master of Music degree from Leeds University and in 2003 was awarded a PhD in composition. During the early part of his career Philip received much encouragement from Sir Malcolm Arnold, and as a result does much work for the Arnold Society. He has received many commissions for orchestral, choral, chamber and instrumental works. His first Piano Trio has been performed by Martin Roscoe, Andrew Watkinson and Moray Welsh.

He has had pieces performed by many other established artists and groups including the Manchester Camerata. The most recent projects include a third Symphony, a fifth String Quartet, a Quintet for the Fine Arts Brass Ensemble and an Oboe Concerto for Richard Simpson (principal oboe with the BBC Symphony Orchestra).

The Players – City of Carlisle Orchestra

First Violins

Catherine Swarbrick
Peter Wood
Robert Charlesworth
Claire Evison
Sarah Wilson
Yanina Palmer

Second Violins

Joan Masters
Hilary Lawrence
David Humpston
Graham Barke
Carolyn White
Eleanor Buchan
John Reynolds

Violas

Jon Buchan
Antonia Gallacher
Stephanie Howbridge
Emma Elwick

Cellos

Kenneth Wilson
Jake Cardigan
Joanne Crossley
Steven Thompson
Pamela Przbyla
Janet Hornby
Sarah Nicholson

Double Basses

Jan Forlow
Ruth Pickles

Flutes / Piccolos

Lyn Young
Terry Mullett
Samantha Willis

Oboes

Glenys Braithwaite
Anthea Lee

Clarinets

Ian Wilkinson
Jane Bell

Base Clarinet

Norma Bagot

Bassoons

Andrew Smith
Bee Marriott

Horns

Pam Harris
Ben Lowe
Kate Nye
Tim Barrett

Trombone

Graham Harris
Cliff Attwood
Simon Evans

Trumpets

Gordon Kydd
Delyth Owen
Annabel Crippen

Tuba/Euphonium

Gary Williams

Percussion

David Theaker

Harp

Pippa Dodd

The Players – Carlisle Youth Orchestra

Violins

Abby Buchanan
Annabel Houghton
Beth McGahon
Bethany Patterson
Joe Lush
Kasia Davies
Monika Davies
Ruben Burt
Sarah Hodgson

Cellos

Izzy Roberts
Sally Warwick

Flutes

Jonathan Irving
Kira Peart
Lily Wilson

Clarinets

Christina Kirkpatrick
Matthew Warwick

Tubas

Kieran Burnie
Niall Burnie

Percussion

Louise Jackson
Taylor Sindall