

DON'T LOSE THE THREAD _____ No 36

The Newsletter of The Cobweb Orchestra

March 2007

The New Era (Howard Rocke)

The 6th April will make many think of tax. However more interestingly it was on this day in 1896 that the Olympic Games were reborn. In 1830 the Mormon Church was founded and in 1883 the first Channel tunnel was started.

Arguably more important than any of these will be this year's coming of independence for "The Cobweb Orchestra". The Cobwebs already hold a long and proud history, which has seen it grow from a very small base to the wide and varied organisation it is today. It has certainly been much more successful than the first Channel Tunnel.

This new chapter in Cobwebs history will allow it to continue to develop and grow as it has always done. A much firmer foundation is rapidly being laid which will hopefully allow us to survive and thrive for many years to come. The new system that will drive the orchestra is outlined below. I think the biggest change is the much wider involvement of people throughout the organisation. This will help ensure it is democratic and cooperative.

Drawing again on our historical precedents, this time the Mormon Church, many spouses and partners of Cobwebs players must often think we are a type of religion. Although this is definitely not the case the misunderstanding arises because so many have become drawn into the underlying beliefs of our orchestra. These are sometimes described (roughly) as –

- Thou shalt not be required to obtain a particular standard
- Thou shalt not be excluded from any event (unless physically not room).
- Thou shalt not have to play all the notes.
- Thou shalt not be ostracised for transgressions.
- Thou shalt enjoy thyself.

Finally, as you can overlook these historical analogies, what have we in common with the modern Olympiad movement? Well, the following statement is from the Olympic Charter. I have changed the word "Olympism" to "Cobwebs" and "sport" to "music".

" Cobwebs is a philosophy of life, exalting and combining in a balanced whole the qualities of body, will and mind. Blending music with culture and education, Cobwebs seeks to create a way of life based on the joy found in effort, the educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles."

What the New Era can give... (Liz Carlile)

Perhaps it's the infectious enthusiasm of our new organisation, or someone's gift of the gab, but whatever it is, it's got us some wonderful musicians to work with over the summer.

Catherine Bott will be the soloist when we play at the Bishop Auckland Prom. As a Radio 3 presenter and singer, we can expect her to have the audience eating out of her hand. Not only the audience, but we, The Orchestra, will enjoy listening to that crystal clear voice.

For those of us who are going to Tuscany, this year will be made special because Iona Brown and Mike Gerrard are coming too. Players will be challenged to achieve beyond what they thought was possible because of Iona and Mike's support, expertise and care. There's still time to enrol for Tuscany – just contact Andrew Forsyth (details in the 'Trustees' Section).

And to start the summer season, we will be performing music by Beethoven with Clarence Adoo in Hall 2 of The Sage Gateshead.

Isn't it great that professional musicians of such calibre want to work with The Cobweb Orchestra?

Subs – the Future! (Lesley Wearmouth)

A new term, a new beginning, ... a new system!

As from our first sessions after Easter there will be a new subscription system for all participants of The Cobweb Orchestra. **Cost: £4.00 per session**

Once we achieve charitable status, you will be able to become a member of The Cobweb Orchestra (£35.00 annual fee for tax-payers; £20.00 annual fee for non-tax-payers). Members will receive a £1.00 per week reduction in subs (£3.00 weekly sub) as well as a reduction on the fees for events. You will be able to pay 3 or 4 weeks in advance if you wish. We hope to set up a direct debit facility once we achieve charitable status. Newcomers will be gifted one week's attendance for free.

Membership secretaries:

Newbiggin – Peter Fuller and Sheila Ryan

Tebay – Doug and Barbara Dawson

Harelaw – Lesley Wearmouth

Here's to a new beginning and correct sums!

Calling all photographers (Marj Baillie)

Marj Baillie has volunteered to collect and collate photographs of Cobwebs and Cobwebbers, to use for publicity, and as a record of our activities. She needs good quality photos which may be sent to her at marjorie.baillie@ncl.ac.uk (or on disc) for digital photos. She can scan ordinary prints if you loan these to her. We are especially short of good photos of the orchestra playing. If you have any queries then contact Marj as above or on 01434 681316

The Auction (Caroline Dunn)

A reminder that we are holding our fund-raising auction on 28 April, 12 noon – 4pm at Queen Elizabeth High School, Hexham. Please tell everyone about it; see if you have anything you could donate; check the auction blog at <http://cobweborchestra.vox.com>. More info from Caroline at caroline@carolinedunn.com or 01677450566. Further information will appear in due course!

A word about the Guinea Pig Orchestra (Andy Jackson)

The GPO started so that beginner conductors had an ensemble on which to try out their skills and has developed into an ad hoc group which convenes whenever Cobwebs are carrying out controlled music experiments.

There are two events this Summer for which the GPO needs a big turnout: The evening of Tuesday 26 June sees the culmination of a collaboration between Caedmon Folk and Composers and Arrangers from the Cobweb Orchestra at The Sage Gateshead. Then on Saturday 30 June at Dipton Community Centre, we are holding our first ever training day for new leaders (in the sense of facilitators rather than front desk violinist), and in the afternoon, we need an orchestra so that we can see our trainee leaders in action.

The GPO is open to anyone of any ability, we never limit the numbers AND it is an activity which remains completely cost free, so why not consider getting involved even if you have not tried it before.

Try a new musical experience this term: Folkworks meets the Cobweb Orchestra (Tina Cook)

Following the exciting and successful experience of melding the Cobweb Orchestra with folk musicians last October, there is another opportunity to try this out. Four pieces have been specially drafted for Orchestra and Folk band by composers associated with Cobwebs. The pieces are woven around well known tunes such as Bonny Kate, The Wild Hills of Wannies, Small Coals and Little Money, Planxy Fanny Powers and others.

The workshops are for folk musicians and orchestral players, and they will be both rehearsals for the musicians and development opportunities for the composers, at least one of whom will be in attendance at each workshop. It will be an opportunity for musicians from different backgrounds to learn from each other whilst being guided by the composers' written music.

Tuesdays from April 24 at the Sage Gateshead. 7.00-9.30. Cost. £40 for 10 weeks

Contact Sara Barnard at the Sage Gateshead for further information. 0191 4434582

sara.barnard@thesagegateshead.org

CONTACTS

www.cobweborchestra.org.uk For information and access to the e-mail group.

General enquiries to:

Liz Carlile,

48 South Road, Norton TS20 2SZ.

Phone 01642 873973

E-mail: liz.carlile@ntlworld.com

Specific enquiries about regional events to:

Andy Jackson, 13 West Road, Bishop Auckland DL14 7PP.

Phone/fax: 01388 602436.

E-mail: andy.jackson0@talk21.com

Other useful contacts:

Derek Hobbs (NorthumberlandCoordinator) 01670817640 derekhobbs@ntlworld.com

Ian Potts (Cumbria Co-ordinator) 01768 351934 musicianpotts@aol.com

Lee Fairlie (Cobfriends Chair) 0191 3847464 Leefairlie@aol.com

Howard Rocke (Chair of the Trustees) 01207 570003 rocke@beeb.net

The Cobweb Orchestra would like to use email for most of its communications. However, we know that some people do not have access to email, but would still like to remain in touch with us. If you do not have email but you would like newsletters and other communications by post, please ensure that you complete and return the form below. If you received this newsletter by post, but you do have an email address, please complete the relevant part of the form below.

If we do not have your email address, and if you don't tell us you wish to receive information by post, we shall assume that you no longer wish to be in regular touch with us and we shall archive your details.

Name; _____ Instrument _____

My email address is _____

I wish to receive communications from The Cobweb Orchestra by post.

Address; _____

Trustees

If you have ideas or concerns about The Orchestra, please contact one of the Trustees, whose main areas of interest are listed below.

Howard Rocke, Chair, rocke@beeb.net ; overall ethos and direction

Sue Baker, Vice-chair, suebaker@ktdbroadband.com ; overall ethos and direction

Jean Ord, Treasurer, jeanord@excite.co ; finance

Lesley Wearmouth, Secretary, lwearmouth@hotmail.com ; membership

Anita Arris, anita@arris.freeseve.co.uk ; liaison with other bodies

Caroline Dunn, caroline@carolinedunn.com ; fundraising

Andrew Forsyth, andrew@weasdale.com ; overseas trips, overall ethos and direction

Peter Fuller, peterfuller8@btinternet.com ; finance, human resources, programming

Alison Kitson, alison_kitson@yahoo.co.uk ; funding applications

Toby Lipman, tobyipman@btinternet.com ; programming

Ruth Robson, ruth.robson@thebowesmuseum.org.uk ; funding applications, promotion and publicity

David Wood, dave@davewood.clara.co.uk ; marketing, concert promotion, archives

**The Cobweb Orchestra
April - July 2007 Diary**

April 13th –15th Sedbergh Residential Weekend

Tuesday April 17th Regular rehearsals begin for the Summer Term, Newbiggin. No half term break

Thursday April 19th Regular rehearsals begin for the Summer Term, Harelaw. Half term break; **May 31st**

Saturday April 21st 9am – 1.30pm, Composers and Arrangers group, Stanhope Church Hall

Tuesday April 24th 7pm – 9.30pm (and every Tuesday until June 26th) Folkworks meets the Cobweb Orchestra, The Sage Gateshead

Tuesday April 24th Regular rehearsals begin for the Summer Term, Tebay. Half term break; **May 29th**

Saturday April 28th 12 noon – 4pm The Auction, Queen Elizabeth High School, Hexham

Saturday May 5th 11am – 4pm, rehearsal for May 26th concert, Dipton Community Centre, Dipton

Saturday May 12th 1pm – 6pm, Baroque Group, Dipton Community Centre

Sunday May 13th Ripon Study Day with Chris Griffiths on Brahms Symphony No.4, Ripon Grammar School

Saturday May 26th Concert in Hall 2, The Sage Gateshead, rehearsal 12 noon – 6 pm, concert 7pm

Saturday June 2nd Composers and Arrangers Group, Stanhope Church Hall

Saturday June 9th 10am – 6pm, practice rooms C2 and C9 in The Sage Gateshead (Contact Liz Carlile.)

Saturday June 16th 11am – 5pm Study Day with Antony Sargent on Brahms 4, The Dovecot Centre, Amble

Saturday June 23rd afternoon rehearsal, evening concert, Kirkby Stephen Church, Kirkby Stephen

Sunday June 24th afternoon rehearsal, evening concert, Newbiggin Sports Centre, Newbiggin, near Ashington

Tuesday June 26th evening, Caedmon Folk and Composers and Arrangers Group (GPO needed), The Sage Gateshead

Saturday June 30th 2pm – 5 pm, GPO needed for Cobwebs Leader Training Day, Dipton Community Centre,

Saturday July 7th morning and afternoon, Prom Concert, Consett

Sunday July 8th afternoon and evening, Prom Concert, Bishop Auckland

Saturday July 14th 10am – 6pm, practice rooms C9 and C19 , The Sage Gateshead (Contact Liz Carlile.)

Sunday July 15th Joint event with Hungarian Youth Wind Band

August 20th – 25th Tuscany residential (Contact Andrew Forsyth – see Section 'Trustees'.)

Advance notice of Autumn term events

September 28th 7pm, Concert, St. Joseph's Church, Sunderland

Saturday October 6th Concert, Consett Empire

Sunday October 28th Teatime concert, BATH

Saturday November 27th Concert, The Sage Gateshead

Saturday/Sunday December 12th/13th DIY weekend, Ridley Hall

The Cobweb Orchestra
April - July 2007 Ticklist

Please use this form together with the information supplied on the newsletter. You will receive further information about the event (exact time/place/cost etc.) when you enrol. (Participation in most Cobwebs events (except the GPO which is free) costs between £5 -£15.)

Keep a copy of this form and then either post it or email it to Liz. (See newsletter for details.)

Name; _____

Instrument; _____

Email address; _____

I am interested in taking part in the following events and would like to be sent further details and an enrolment form (if appropriate) when they are available.

April 13th –15th (Details already sent – this is a reminder!) Sedbergh Residential Weekend	yes/no
Saturday April 21st 9am – 1.30pm Composers and Arrangers group, Stanhope Church Hall	yes/no
Saturday May 5th 11am – 4pm Rehearsal for May 26 th concert in The Sage, Dipton Community Centre, Dipton	yes/no
Saturday May 12th 1pm – 6pm Baroque Group, Dipton Community Centre, Dipton	yes/no
Sunday May 13th 11am – 5pm Ripon Study Day with Chris Griffiths on Brahms Symphony No.4, Ripon Grammar School	yes/no
Saturday May 26th rehearsal 12 noon – 6 pm, concert 7pm Concert in Hall 2, The Sage Gateshead	yes/no
Saturday June 2nd 9am – 1.30pm Composers and Arrangers Group, Stanhope Church Hall	yes/no
Saturday June 16th 11am – 5pm Study Day with Antony Sargent on Brahms Symphony No. 4, The Dovecot Centre, Amble	yes/no
Saturday June 23rd afternoon rehearsal, evening concert Kirkby Stephen Church, Kirkby Stephen	yes/no
Sunday June 24th afternoon rehearsal, evening concert, Newbiggin Sports Centre, Newbiggin, near Ashington	yes/no
Tuesday June 26th evening Caedmon Folk and Composers and Arrangers Group (GPO needed), The Sage Gateshead	yes/no
Saturday June 30th 2pm – 5 pm GPO needed in afternoon (Cobwebs Leader Training Day), Dipton Community Centre, Dipton	yes/no
Saturday July 7th morning rehearsal, afternoon concert Prom Concert, Consett	yes/no
Sunday July 8th afternoon rehearsal, evening concert Prom Concert, Bishop Auckland	yes/no
Sunday July 15th Joint event with Hungarian Youth Wind Band	yes/no