

Notes for members of the Orchestra

The RTWSO was founded in 1922 when a group of 21 amateur string players, supported by a flautist and a pianist, gave a concert in King Charles Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells. The orchestra is now a full symphony orchestra that comprises a core group of gifted, local musicians, whose ranks are augmented on concert days by a number of professionals. The orchestra performs under a number of first-rate conductors such as its Music Director, Roderick Dunk, and attracts a series of world-class soloists. The high standards we achieve offer consistency for our audiences, since many of the players have been performing with us for some years. Each year we promote a stimulating series of six concerts in the winter months that explore familiar repertoire, as well as some less familiar orchestral works in an exciting mix of programmes.

Players' Property

The Orchestra accepts no responsibility for property of players who should, therefore, take their own steps to protect it, for instance by insuring their own musical instruments.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals are on Friday evenings during the months September to the beginning of May with a break in December. They start at 7.00pm and finish at 10.00pm. The venue is the Jubilee Hall Theatre at Holmewood House School, Langton Green, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 0EB. Members will be informed if there is a change of venue.

Players are expected to attend all rehearsals for each concert. However, in special circumstances they may miss one rehearsal without being excluded from the concert performance. This should be requested in advance by writing to or emailing the section leader and Orchestral Manager. In cases where more than one rehearsal is missed players may be precluded from playing in the concert.

All members should use their best efforts to prepare their music thoroughly in readiness for each rehearsal. Players should not turn up to the first rehearsal without having looked at the music.

Dress for rehearsals is informal.

Music stands are available unless there is a change of venue or otherwise advised. Apart from your instrument and any music lent to you, you should bring a soft pencil and a rubber for marking the music as required.

Players unable to attend a rehearsal must tell the Orchestra Manager or their Section Leader.

Music

Music is normally issued in advance of the first Friday rehearsal for each concert although it may be made available earlier. In the case of the music not being available in advance of the first rehearsal it can be found on *Petrucci* (if out of copyright)

Players must sign for music in the book provided.

It is absolutely essential that all music is brought to the rehearsal on concert day. Failure to do this will cause many problems. If through a sudden illness a member cannot play then they must ensure that the music is returned to the Librarian on the concert day.

Concert

Concerts take place at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2LU, usually on the first Sunday in the month from October to December, then February to May. The final rehearsal take place at the Assembly Hall Theatre on the concert day, starting promptly at 10.30am and finishing at 1.30pm, with a short break where tea and coffee is available free. Dress, as at other rehearsals, is informal.

All baggage and personal possessions should be removed from the stage at the end of the rehearsal.

Between the rehearsal and the concert, the buffet area is available for players to eat a picnic lunch. Several restaurants and the like are within easy walking distance of the hall.

Band rooms and toilets are upstairs backstage.

Concert dress is black dress or skirt/trousers and black blouse for ladies; dark suit, white shirt and dark tie for men.

Concerts start at 3pm. There is an interval of 20 minutes when refreshments are available. Concerts usually finish at approximately 5pm.

Tea and cakes are served in the buffet for players and friends after the concert.

Annual Subscriptions for Members

Full Membership = £95 Donations over and above this are always very welcome

Rehearsal only = £45

Students = No charge

Annual subscriptions cover costs for the hire of the rehearsal hall, the hire of music and for rehearsal conductors.