



Nonesuch Orchestra Update - May 2020

It's been great and uplifting to meet so many of you on our "Virtual" Tea Breaks, which have been taking place at fortnightly intervals. We are still living through uncertain times with no clear date yet as to when restrictions will allow us to meet physically. Being optimistic the committee have continued to meet (on zoom) to progress ideas and plans for us to continue to work together in some form. This month's update brings you up to speed with these plans.

Summer Term

We have submitted our contribution to the **Waterloo Festival** which is an 'on-line' event given current circumstances. The festival is an annual celebration of art, community and heritage in the artistic heart of London. Nonesuch Orchestra had originally planned to perform at a lunchtime concert during this festival. This year's festival has the title of "Transforming Communities". Our thanks go to Dan for writing an inspiring and challenging article about woman composers using the video we all made while rehearsing the Dorothy Howell music. The article was published today (20th May) coinciding with the 124th anniversary of Clara Schumann's death. Take a look at the completed article, <https://www.waterloofestival.com/post/reloading-the-canon-what-about-music-by-women>

During the summer term we have also met socially in our Virtual Tea Breaks. This has given us the opportunity to chat and share ideas amongst ourselves. We are keen to implement 2 new ideas:

- Develop ways to keep us all engaged 'musically' (as well as socially) during lock-down
 - Dan and Steph have been collaborating and have constructed several activities to keep us busy. These will consist of listening exercises, practising challenges to build our technical capability and other events (e.g. on-line sectionals). There's more to come so watch this space.
- Create a video-log that celebrates our unique contribution in the field of amateur music and draws upon our forthcoming 60th anniversary year
 - The aim to is produce something that captures what Nonesuch Orchestra is about, where we've come from (historical) and where we are heading...
 - We have a small project team assigned to building the details and working out what 'actions' we will need to take.

There will be more information to share on the above activities as they make progress, and I'm certain that there is scope to involve as many of you who wish to participate.

Autumn Plans

We have fixed the date and venue for our Autumn Play Day: **Wednesday 16th September** at Christ Church with St Lawrence, NW6 7BJ which is where we met last Autumn. Once we know this can go ahead (mass gatherings permitted and churches have re-opened) we will send more details. We have decided to work on the Dvorak Serenade for Strings and the parts are being bowed up ready to be sent for individual practice and further work.

We have also finalised the programme for our annual Harrow Lunchtime Concert in November, and Dan announced this at the first Virtual Tea Break to be:

- Bach: Piano Concerto No 1 BWV1052 (with Walid El Kafi),
- Handel: Concerto Grosso Op6 No12
- Bacewicz: Concerto for Strings

Once churches have reopened, we can secure a date in late November and let you all know.

Spring Term

The Spring Term is less than a year away, and never too early to start thinking about applying for funding to support our unique work with young composers. Our ambition is to continue the work we have done for the last few years by giving young composers the opportunity to write short pieces for string orchestra and have them performed live and recorded during workshop sessions. This year's event, with its showcase concert of the new compositions, was a particular highlight for many and our ambition is to find funding that could support a similar event.

James
Acting Chair