



### **Nonesuch Orchestra Update: March 2020**

The committee held a virtual meeting on Thursday 26th March. Here is a summary of the discussion and I would like to ask you, our membership, for opinions on what matters most to you. This will enable the committee to focus efforts on the priorities of our playing membership. The committee agreed to meet via telephone conference on a weekly basis so that we can establish viable plans for the orchestra. There are various options to explore in putting our future plans together, hence we would like your input (see end of this message).

**Next Season: Sept 2020 onwards** We spent most of our time discussing future plans that we felt have the highest probability of happening. We have agreed to start the next season with another Play Day in mid-September exploring the Dvorak Serenade for Strings. The detailed planning has now started and we will communicate our plans to you as soon as they are finalised, if they are viable. The most likely dates at this stage are Wednesday 16th September or Thursday 17th September. We also explored repertoire ideas for our annual Harrow concert (November). The committee have some 'listening' homework to explore new and unfamiliar music so that we can make quality decisions about our future programming. Many thanks to Dan for his challenging and exciting ideas.

**Immediate next steps for Summer Term** All our previously planned activities are on hold due the current restrictions imposed, and our rehearsal venue is closed. However, as soon as these restrictions are lifted, we would like to spring back into action and resume rehearsals if this is in term-time. Currently it is difficult to know what we will rehearse until we know when we can meet, but it would be great to get everyone together again and start playing. Watch this space for updates.

We feel it is unlikely that any school workshops will happen next term, as schools might be closed until September. Our planned performance as part of the Waterloo Festival in June is also unlikely to happen but with an open mind we are exploring alternative dates and venues. Both of these planned events depend upon the decisions made by third parties as well as ourselves. So we talked about organising our own 'virtual' events to keep us connected.

If we can get started sooner than later, an idea would be to kick-start rehearsals by having a whole day rehearsal in early June.

### **Your Input**

The committee explored what we can do as an orchestra during the "stay at home" requirement. Should we follow the example of other music groups and try to organise virtual rehearsals? Will we all overcome any technology or internet challenges to make this time well spent? Should we start to individually practice next season's repertoire supported by some online coaching from our professionals? Or even more simply, would the orchestra membership all like to hop onto a Telephone Conference for a virtual 30 minute tea-break and a chat? We could start with a group chat and if it works then be more adventurous next time? Would a whole day rehearsal in June get your attendance if this could happen? Would you like to see some on-line tutorials helping with next Season's repertoire? Please send me your input ([drgreenjam@gmail.com](mailto:drgreenjam@gmail.com)) and any other ideas so that the committee can spend their time on the topics that you prioritise.

**Final Action**

Please look after any music that you have from Nonesuch Orchestra, and keep it in a safe place ready to return the next time we can all meet. Many of you would have taken music for the cancelled school workshop. Please make sure this gets back to us. Many thanks.

**Personal Note from Me**

I'm so glad our last meeting was that fantastic concert on the 7th March. I really enjoyed playing the new compositions and supporting the young composers knowing that this was such a rare opportunity for them all. And then I was completely blown-away by the sound of the orchestra playing the Elgar. What a great memory of our last meeting together.

Thank You,  
James (Acting Chair)