



Chairman's Update March 2021

I trust everyone has got through meteorological Winter safely and in good health as we now finally enter Spring. The weather gets warmer, the days get longer and we have a 'conditional' road-map out of lockdown. That started on Monday 8th March with the re-opening of schools, and hence I thought an update to all of our members was in order - especially to the 'busy' members with jobs, children and home schooling commitments.

Review of Our Current Activity

In our last three sessions we've been working through the first few pages of the Bartok Divertimento in 'sectionals' during our Virtual Tea Breaks each Thursday morning on zoom. Our aim is to hold another Play Day in the Summer, once lockdown restrictions are lifted, and spend the day working through the entire piece in person. More about this will be shared when it's organised.

We've almost completed our other musical project which was to create a 'virtual performance' of "On The Move" by Robin Wedderburn. More news on that when it's completed.

Finally our 'virtual schools composition workshop' is making progress with ten submissions of new works by young composers.

Looking Ahead

Moving forward we are going to modify our workshop schedule to concentrate on the Bartok at 2-weekly intervals. This will allow time for us to all look at the music, practise the parts with the directions we've heard in the workshops, and embed the new disciplines in a more leisurely manner that will bring us to our 'peak' at the time we can physically meet to read through it.

In between the Bartok workshops, our virtual tea breaks will revert to a mix of on-line social activity and information sharing.

Proposed Schedule

MARCH

Thursday 11th	Social & Bartok Workshop
Thursday 18th	Social & Input Gathering
Thursday 25th	Bartok Workshop

APRIL

Thursday 1st	Social
Thursday 8th	EASTER BREAK
Thursday 15th	EASTER BREAK
Thursday 22nd	Bartok Workshop

Thursday 29th Social

MAY

Thursday 6th Bartok Workshop

Thursday 13th Social

Thursday 20th Either Bartok Workshop or Return to Rehearsals if lockdown permits.

Our 'Input Gathering' session on Thursday 18th March will be your opportunity to help shape our future. In the current climate, the committee feel now isn't the time to commit to public events for the remainder of this season but what are your views? When we can return to rehearsals (May 20th at the earliest) what would you like to play? For example, we can continue exploring the remaining Handel Concerto Grossi or try something else. When we plan for the Autumn Season, in our 60th Anniversary Year, what would you like to see on the schedule? And finally, we are looking for ideas on how to widen our 'schools' outreach programme' when we are permitted to visit schools again, can you help us?

Everyone is welcome to join our virtual sessions on Thursday mornings, even if you haven't been for a while. As always, they are also not obligatory and are there for your own enjoyment, so join if you are able. If you need music emailed, then let me know.

James

James Greener

Chair, Nonesuch Orchestra