

Highlight «

Winning conduct



Woking Symphony Orchestra has a glorious history and its upcoming concerto event in November will feature a winning solo performance.

On Saturday, 21st, WSO will host a superb concert at the HG Wells Conference & Events Centre. The soloist is Chris Brewster, winner of 2015 Woking Young Musician of the Year, who turns 18 at the beginning of November and is a member of the National Youth Orchestra. He will perform Gordon Jacob's *Trombone Concerto*.

The major work of the evening will be Shostakovich's *5th Symphony* and the concert begins with two short pieces by Mussorgsky: *Prelude* and *Galitsin's Journey*, from his unfinished opera, *Khovanshchina*. Before the 7.30pm concert, conductor Roy Stratford will give a talk at 6.45pm.

Woking Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1897 as the Woking Orchestral Society by Patrick White. The first concert (April 1897) was a great success despite parts of being masked by passing trains. Jenny Sohl of the WSO says: "Sir Edward Elgar conducted the WSO in a concert of his music in March 1920 and Ralph Vaughan Williams became the WSO's president in 1944, maintaining a

close association with us for a number of years. Sir Colin Davis was a soloist in our performances of the Weber and Mozart Clarinet Concertos in the 1950s and later became the orchestra's president."

In 1977 WSO took part in a Jubilee concert at Clandon Park – orchestra members were rowed to a small island in the middle of the lake to play the music from the Royal Fireworks – the oboist had to rescue them in his two-seater boat as no one else had thought about this.

"In 1972 the Woking Orchestral Society was renamed the Woking Symphony Orchestra and in 1984 our current conductor, Roy Stratford, was appointed," adds Jenny. The orchestra gives three main concerts a year and a Family Concert in January, for very young listeners who can also have a go.

● To book ticket-and-talk tickets (£14, £7 concessions) call **01483 712710**, visit www.wokingso.org.uk, or buy on the door, subject to availability.



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