

We are excited to be approaching the **100th** anniversary of
The Northwood String Orchestra, 1926 - 2026.

Its origins go back to the 1910s, when groups of string players entertained injured WW1 servicemen at Netley Hospital. Players met regularly at Northwood House on The Avenue, inside and on the lawns, hosted by our founder, Mrs W E Caesar.


The orchestra is known for its friendly and welcoming nature and plays a variety of music from the string orchestra repertoire.

Rehearsals are:

Mondays in term time 7.30 - 9.30pm at the Friends Meeting House

New players welcome, please contact us through:

www.northwoodorchestra.co.uk

Find us on 

We look forward to seeing you at our next concert:

3pm on Saturday 14th June 2025

at St James Road Methodist Church, Shirley SO15 5HE

Keep in touch through our website!

*Health and Safety Notice - **Fire Exits** to the rear and front right side of the church are clearly marked.*



Northwood String Orchestra Southampton

Conductor

Bruno Needham

Leader

Kinga Kowalczyk

Winter Concert

30th November 2024

***St James' Church
West End***



Refreshments



0345 123 2399

We warmly invite you to join us after the concert.

We are asking for donations to support the work of Diabetes UK. One in 15 of us is now living with diabetes.

Together, we have the opportunity to change this for the next generation. Your donations will help invest more into diabetes research, education and support.

With your help, we're getting closer to a world where diabetes can do no harm.

Thank you.

*Find the friendly local **Solent Diabetes UK** group on Facebook*

www.diabetes.org.uk

Charity No. 215199

Raffle Prizes to be won!

Bruno Needham

An accomplished violin player, Bruno began conducting while studying Music at Durham University. During this time he founded Durham University Classical Ensemble, conducted the Chapel Choir at Grey College and also the University College Chamber Orchestra. Since completing his master's degree in 2019 he has guest conducted Crowthorne Symphony Orchestra and Langtree Sinfonia, before joining Northwood String Orchestra in October 2021. He recently became assistant conductor for the Angel Orchestra, based in Islington.

Originally from Berkshire, Bruno is now based in London and works for English National Opera.

Kinga Kowalczyk

Kinga started violin aged 7, at music school in Katowice, Poland. She moved to the UK aged 9 and studied with Christa Porter. With a scholarship to the Royal Welsh College in Cardiff, Kinga collaborated with artists such as Nicola Benedetti. Kinga was part of the successful student Aureum Quartet; one of their most prized performances was for the Duke and Duchess of Sussex at Cardiff Castle in 2018. Kinga co-led the College Symphony Orchestra, and led their Opera production in 2019.

Kinga is a freelance musician, working with Jersey Chamber Orchestra and as solo violinist in various projects. Kinga joined City of Southampton Orchestra in January 2022 and took up the position of leader of Northwood String Orchestra in September of the same year.

Alison Hopper

Alison is delighted to have a solo part on the second violin. She joined the orchestra back in 1994 and is grateful for all the musical guidance and enjoyment over the years.

Many thanks for your donations at our last concerts.

We raised a magnificent

*£442 for **The Lily Foundation** and £400 for **Maggies**.*

Players

First Violin

Kinga Kowalczyk

Sarah Cornforth

Alan Fitch

Bernadette O'Sullivan

Helen Taylor

Second Violin

Alison Hopper

Terry Bristow

Zoe Duke

Vivien Kemp

Nancy Lewis

Allen Mornington-West

(Margaret Hamilton)

Viola

Robert Pill

Sophie Barr

Rosie Bertram

Liz Gulliver

(Andrew Wheaton)

'Cello

Anita Doyle

Mia Childs

Marguerite Johnson

Simon Richardson

Double Bass

John Macgregor

Sue Newham

(Claire Whiteside)

Keyboard

Programme

**Divertimento for Strings
KV 136 in D major**

Allegro

Andante

Presto

W A Mozart
(1756 - 1791)**Concerto Grosso
Op 3 No 8***Solo violin: Kinga Kowalczyk**Alison Hopper*Allegro
Larghetto e Spiritoso

Allegro

A Vivaldi
(1678 - 1741)**Little Suite for Strings
Op 1**

Präludium

Intermezzo

Finale

C Nielsen
(1865 - 1931)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - Divertimento for Strings KV 136

This is the first of three exuberant divertimenti for strings Mozart composed whilst at home in Salzburg around his sixteenth birthday. Over the years, it has often been played as a quartet; Mozart's string writing challenges orchestral players with virtuoso demands, particularly for the first violin.

- ◇ A vibrant *Allegro* is traditional in the development of its themes, even modulating briefly into a minor key before the opening motif returns.
- ◇ The slower *Andante* shows a tender, Italianate charm.
- ◇ The final *Presto* varies the ideas introduced in the *Allegro* and displays an element of seriousness in its short fugal development section, before finishing with sparkling elegance.

Antonio Vivaldi - Concerto Op 3 No 8

Vivaldi taught for over 30 years at Ospedale della Pieta in Venice, a convent, orphanage and music school for girls. He was an exceptional technical violinist, often performing solos to accompany his pupils. He was known as 'The Red Priest', with a fiery temperament to match his hair.

In 1711 publication of his first collection of concerti for one, two and four violins with strings, raised his profile as a leading composer. *L'estro armonico* (The Harmonic Inspiration) is Opus 3, with a mix of older works and some concertos written specifically for the collection.

- ◇ No 8 is typical of the set, with lively, brilliant *Allegros*, enriched by slower passages of beautiful singing melodies - spun out *cantilenas* (lullabies) in Italian '*bel canto*' style. Vivaldi pioneered orchestral unison playing, bringing everyone together for passages throughout the piece.

Carl Nielsen - Little Suite for Strings Op 1

Nielsen grew up on a Danish island in a poor family with a traditional musical heritage, learning to play the fiddle from an early age. He drew on folk songs for inspiration, developing a lyrical style, richly melodic with harmonic vitality. Though he trained at the Conservatory in Copenhagen, he maintained the reputation of a musical outsider.

Bernstein spoke of 'his rough charm, his swing, his drive, his rhythmic surprises, his strange power of harmonic and tonal relationships - and especially his constant unpredictability'. Nielsen felt intervals between notes first aroused interest in music; 'the appeal of the cuckoo in spring would be less if its call were all on one note'.

Suite for Strings in 1888 was Nielsen's first composition for orchestra and was immediately successful. He played second violin during the first performance, and conducted on future occasions.

- ◇ The Suite opens with a short and rather dark *Prelude*, elegiac in mood, set against a solemnly repeating *ostinato*. Subtitled 'The Danaids', Nielsen evokes the futility of a never ending repetitive task.
- ◇ An engaging waltz, with the occasional flattened seventh grace notes that would become a characteristic of Nielsen's style, gives the *Intermezzo* a Viennese feeling. 'The Dance of the Charites' shows the varied delightful goddesses Nielsen had in mind.
- ◇ The *Finale* opens solemnly with the elegy theme but soon breaks loose into an animated sonata form in which Nielsen reintroduces the opening theme. Calling this 'The Bacchus Procession,' we enjoy Nielsen's jubilant conclusion to our concert!