

# MANCHESTER WIND ORCHESTRA

## The First Decade

The Manchester University Wind Orchestra celebrates its 10th birthday this coming season with concerts at the University of Sheffield, our home, the Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall and a Gala Concert at the Royal Northern College of Music on Saturday, December 9th.

The band was formed in October 1996 by its Musical Director, Philip Robinson, to give the many wind players at the university extra playing opportunities. From initially just 40 dedicated musicians, forced to rehearse on Saturday mornings (not a student's favourite time of the week), the ensemble has grown to around 60-70 players at full strength.

# UNIVERSITY TRAF

Membership of MUWO is open to all musicians at the various higher education institutes in Manchester, regardless of degree course or ability. This inclusive approach makes choosing suitable repertoire a little more difficult, but the orchestra's aim has always been to perform a wide range of music from film scores to quality new works for winds.

MUWO's 2005-06 season was entitled 'NorthWestFest' with two concerts exclusively featuring composers with a link to the North West of England; Ball, Carroll, Casken, Gregson, Gorb, Malone, Poole, Tomlinson plus a transcription by Philip Robinson of *Elliot's Dream* by outstanding young composer, Jamie Serafi. The 'end-of-year' concert was a 'Last Night of the MUWO Proms' including a stunning performance of the Horovitz *Euphonium Concerto* with American soloist Carl Berdahl, Arnold's *Padstow Lifeboat*, Shostakovich's *Festive Overture* plus the wind première of Tomlinson's *Fantasia on Auld Lang Syne* with the composer in attendance.

Each season consists of three regular concerts in the newly built Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall. In addition, the band has undertaken successful concert tours to Dover, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Catalonia, Scotland, Belgium, Wales and Ireland. High profile concerts have been given at such prestigious venues as the University of Barcelona, Central Hall (Edinburgh), Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Royal Northern College of Music and Christchurch Cathedral in Dublin. MUWO has performed at the Festival of British Youth Orchestras, given three concerts at the



BASBWE/RNCM International Wind Festival, and been invited five times to the National Finals of the National Concert Band Festival.

Fundraising has always been important to the band, and during the 2005 tour of Wales and Ireland over £2500 was raised for both St. Mary's Church in Tenby and the Holy Family Church in Askea, Co. Carlow.

Initially funded almost exclusively by its Musical Director, the band now receives a small amount annually from the Manchester University Music Society (a student body), and occasionally a grant from local businesses and benefactors. These funds allow us to purchase new music and subsidise coach travel etc. It has always been a primary aim of MUWO to have its activities taken more seriously by the staff of the former Department of Music, and we continue to work towards making this happen. It is widely

accepted that a university of the stature of Manchester really must do more to promote wind music, and we are eternally grateful to our founder and Musical Director Philip Robinson for his total commitment and dedication to the continued success of the band.

To celebrate the band's 10th anniversary, several events have been planned: a joint concert has been planned with the Sheffield University Wind Orchestra and their conductor, Anthony Houghton where the band will perform Kevin Malone's *Buffalo* and Mike Mower's *Flute Concerto* with the soloist Jenny Doyne. In addition, the band has managed to raise the funds needed to book the RNCM Concert Hall for a Gala Concert on Saturday, December 9th where young musicians from the Stockport Grammar School Wind Orchestra, Stockport Youth Wind Orchestra and the Warrington Youth Orchestra will join MUWO on stage.

# A CELEBRATION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY WIND ORCHESTRA CONCERT HALL, ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE OF MUSIC SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 2006



## Early Evening Concert

Manchester University Wind Ensemble  
Stockport Youth Wind Orchestra \*  
Stockport Grammar School Wind Orchestra \*  
Warrington Youth Orchestra \*  
Philip Robinson – conductor  
Adam Gorb – *Eine Kleine Yiddische Ragmusik* \*  
Fergal Carroll – *Winter Dances* \*  
Edward Gregson – *Festivo*  
Gustav Holst – *First Suite in Eb*

## 7.30 Gala Concert

Manchester University Wind Orchestra  
Philip Robinson – conductor  
Adam Swayne – piano  
Carol Hunter – soprano  
Jon Crebbin – tenor  
Adam Swayne – *The Go-Down Hoe Down* (MUWO commission – world première)  
Joseph Horowitz – *Bacchus on Blue Ridge*  
George Gershwin – *Rhapsody in Blue*  
Kevin Malone – *Buffalo* (MUWO commission – 2<sup>nd</sup> performance)  
George Gershwin – *Selections from Catfish Row*  
Ernest Tomlinson – *Suite of English Folk Dances* \*  
Leroy Anderson – *A Christmas Festival* \*  
Leroy Anderson – *Sleigh Ride* \*

\* The orchestra will be joined for these works by the combined forces of the Stockport Youth Wind Orchestra, Stockport Grammar School Wind Orchestra and the Warrington Youth Orchestra.

For further information about MUWO, please email [info@muwo.co.uk](mailto:info@muwo.co.uk) or check out our website: <http://www.muwo.co.uk>



## PREMIÈRE PERFORMANCES:

Ernest Tomlinson *Suite of English Folk-Dances revised version* (2000, RNCM IWF, Novello)

David Matthews *Thirty to Tango* (2000, RNCM IWF, Faber)

Malcolm Arnold *Two Symphonic Movements* (2000, RNCM IWF, Faber)

Michael Spencer *The Song that Mickey Heard at the Bottom of his Pint Glass* (2001, MUWO commission, ms)

Christopher Swaffer *Rara Avis* (2001, MUWO commission, ms)

Kevin Malone *Godzilla* (2002, First wind band performance, ms)

Gareth Parry *Horn Concerto* (2003, MUWO commission, ms)

Malcolm Binney *Ballyhoo March* (2005, RNCM IWF, Maecenas)

Malcolm Binney *Nancy's Lament* (2005, RNCM IWF, Maecenas)

Malcolm Binney *Shaftoe's Hoedown* (2005, RNCM IWF, Maecenas)

Fergal Carroll *Chapel Royal* (2005, RNCM IWF, Maecenas)

Fergal Carroll *Dance of the Fir Darrig* (2005, RNCM IWF, Maecenas)

Fergal Carroll *Juan for the Road* (2005, RNCM IWF, Maecenas)

Fergal Carroll *The Piper of Brafferton* (2005, RNCM IWF, Maecenas)

Adam Gorb *With Fire and Sword* (2005, RNCM IWF, Maecenas)

Adam Gorb *Treason and Plot* (2005, RNCM IWF, Maecenas)

Adam Gorb *Back from the Wars* (2005, RNCM IWF, Maecenas)

Gareth Wood *Game On!* (2005, RNCM IWF, Maecenas)

Gareth Wood *March of the Orcs* (2005, RNCM IWF, Maecenas)

Gareth Wood *Tortilla Wrap* (2005, RNCM IWF, Maecenas)

Jamie Serafi, orch. Robinson *Elliot's Dream* (2005, MUWO commission, ms)

Kevin Malone *Buffalo* (2006, MUWO commission, ms)

Giacomo Puccini, orch. Robinson *O mio babbino caro* (2006, MUWO commission, ms)

Giacomo Puccini, orch. Robinson *Un bel di* (2006, MUWO commission, ms)

Ernest Tomlinson *Fantasia on Auld Lang Syne* (2006, First wind band performance, ms)

## Forthcoming premières:

Adam Swayne *Go Down Hoe Down* (2006, MUWO commission, ms)

Gareth Parry *Four Miniatures* (2007, MUWO commission, ms)

Geoffrey Poole *Unfinished Symphony* (2007, Maecenas)

Musical Director Philip Robinson was educated at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester. He then studied horn at the Royal Northern College of Music under the tuition of David Cripps (former principal of both the Hallé and the London Symphony Orchestra), and graduated from Manchester University in 1998. He has held posts as Musical Director of the University of Manchester Chamber Choir, Training Choir and Orchestra, University of Keele Concert Band, Congleton Youth Orchestra and La Faminite Ensemble - a chamber orchestra made up of music students based in the North West. He is in demand as a composer and arranger for a wide variety of different groups, having many of his arrangements performed at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester, Symphony Hall in Birmingham and The Sage Gateshead. For five years he was Musical Director of Sing Live North West, a choir of over 300 singers from the Greater Manchester area. In June, several of his works were performed by Jane MacDonald, Peter Corry and a 1000 voice choir in a concert at Sheffield Arena to mark the 80th birthday of HM the Queen and the 85th birthday of the Royal British Legion.

He now combines teaching with directing three wind bands at Stockport Grammar School. In addition to directing the Manchester University Wind Orchestra, he is the Musical Director of the Stockport Youth Wind Orchestra and has recently been appointed Principal Conductor of the Warrington Youth Orchestra.



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