

From the Chair...

Ladies and Gentlemen

‘Tis six nights before Christmas, all the preparations are done,
The Pelly is ready for some Seasonal fun.

The audience is arriving, the excitement mounting,
The concert starts soon, the minutes we’re counting.
The orchestra’s practised week after week
With Tom waving his baton – you’ll soon have a peek!

The strings are all polished, the woodwinds sound fine,
All the players afterwards, eye a big glass of wine.
The brass is all shiny, percussion is ringing
Looking forward to sending you all back home singing!

Rudolf is ready, the Sleigh Rides are primed,
‘Twas the Night Before Christmas (of course) is all rhymed.
Poor Clement Clarke Moore will be turning in his grave
There seems no hope of my versing to save!

Tales from the Soviet and tunes from the nursery,
A trip on the Polar Express is anything but cursory.
As Mazurka, Christmas songs and White Christmas play
Alongside a concerto, it just leaves me to say:

We hope you have a time filled with love and festive cheer
And sincerely wish you all,
A prosperous, peaceful and Happy New Year!

Barbara Sykes

“Family Christmas Concert” – 19th December 2015

TONIGHT'S PROGRAMME

1. Sleigh Ride Frederick Delius
2. A Children's Overture Roger Quilter
3. Have yourself a merry little Christmas Hugh Martin & Ralph Blane
arr. George Pollen
4. 'Twas the Night before Christmas Bill Holcombe
Narrator: Lesley Nicholls
5. Christmas Concerto Arcangelo Corelli
6. The Sleigh Ride Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
7. Coppelia Selection Léo Delibes
arr. Albert E. Walton
- Interval**
8. Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer Johnny Marks
9. Noel - An Orchestral Fantasy on Christmas Carol Tunes Judith Bailey
10. Troika from *Lieutenant Kijé Suite* Serge Prokofiev
arr. George Pollen
11. Christmas Eve Suite Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov
12. Selection: White Christmas Irving Berlin
arr. George Pollen
13. The Polar Express Alan Silvestri and Glen Ballard
arr. Jerry Brubaker
13. Sleigh Ride Leroy Anderson

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This Evening's Music

Sleigh Ride – Frederick Delius (1862 – 1934)

This perfect orchestral miniature evokes a gentler and more hesitant sleigh ride than that of Leroy Anderson. Soft sleigh-bells and pizzicato strings set the pulse for the jaunty flute melody, setting the orchestra forth on a journey which ebbs and flows via a reflective middle section, ultimately finding repose. Delius wrote this piece for the piano, inspired by his trip to Norway in 1887, and presented it at a bibulous Christmas party with his friends, including Grieg. He later orchestrated it with the title “Winter Night”, but it was not until 1946, well after his death, that it came to light and was popularised by his champion, the conductor Sir Thomas Beecham.

A Children’s Overture - Roger Quilter

Roger Quilter was born in Brighton in 1877 and died in London in 1953. He attended a prep school in Farnborough and then went to Eton.

He wrote many songs and other orchestral pieces. *A Children’s Overture* was first performed at a Prom concert conducted by Henry Wood in 1919. Listen out for the familiar nursery rhymes:

*Girls and boys come out to play
Upon Paul’s steeple stands a tree
Dame get up and bake your pies
I saw three ships
Sing a song of sixpence
There was a lady loved a swine
Over the hills and far away
The Frog he would a wooing go
Baa Baa black sheep
Here we go round the mulberry bush
Oranges and Lemons*

Have yourself a merry little Christmas – Martin/Blane

Judy Garland first performed this Hugh Martin/Ralph Blane song in the 1944 MGM musical, *Meet Me in St. Louis*. The original lyrics written by Martin were slightly different from the version we now know and love. He was asked to alter them as they were deemed too depressing: *"Have yourself a merry little Christmas / It may be your last / Next year we may all be living in the past / Have yourself a merry little Christmas / Pop that champagne cork / Next year we may all be living in New York."* The song became popular among United States troops serving in World War II; Garland's performance at the Hollywood Canteen was thought to have brought many soldiers to tears. And today, it remains a well known and popular song during the

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Christmas period, with Frank Sinatra and Sam Smith producing their own versions over the years.

'Twas the Night Before Christmas – Bill Holcombe

This piece, which is narrated, was based on a poem by Clement Moore and was first arranged for orchestra for the Philly Pops and conducted by Peter Nero. It proved very successful and is regularly played at Christmas. Clement Moore was born in New York City in 1779 and wrote this for his children, which he called ‘A visit to St Nicholas’.

Although he died in 1863 this piece will live for ever!

Concerto grosso in G minor, Op. 6, No. 8 by Arcangelo Corelli, known commonly as the *Christmas Concerto*, was commissioned by Cardinal Pietro Ottoboni and published posthumously in 1714 as part of Corelli's Twelve Concerti Grossi, Opus 6. The concerto bears the inscription *Fatto per la notte di Natale* (made for the night of Christmas). Its composition date is uncertain, but there is a record of Corelli having performed a Christmas concerto in 1690 for the enjoyment of his then new patron.

The Sleigh Ride – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)

Sleigh rides were a popular winter pastime in Vienna during Mozart’s time. Tinkling bells were part of the tradition, as well as the sound of the posthorn. One of a set of three German Dances, this Sleigh Ride is a Ländler, a traditional dance in triple time, which was the forerunner of the waltz.

Coppelia Selection - Léo Delibes

Coppelia or ‘The Girl with the Enamel Eyes’ was the first ballet score written completely by Delibes. First performed in 1870 in Paris to great acclaim the critic for *Le Figaro* wrote, “M. Leo Delibes has composed for the three scenes of Coppelia a distinguished, piquant and colourful score”. This ‘comic’ ballet was the first to make the use of musical motifs to represent and describe the characters in the story. Delibes drew on his love of European folk music for this score. A Polish Mazurka and a Hungarian Czardas can also be heard.

The story of Coppelia is set in a simple country village. Swanhilda is engaged to Franz but he has his eye on the mysterious ‘girl’ who sits on the balcony of the toymaker. Franz doesn’t realise that the girl is in fact a life-like doll which the toymaker, also a magician, is trying to bring to life. When Swanhilda and her friends sneak in to the toymaker’s workshop it looks as though he has succeeded. Love triumphs over all in this comedy of mistaken identity and the finale is a joyful celebration of the lovers’ wedding.

Coppelia was the first truly ‘comic’ ballet and is one of the most frequently performed.

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Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer - Johnny Marks

Johnny Marks (1909 – 1985) was an American songwriter. Although he was Jewish, he specialised in Christmas songs and wrote many holiday standards, including *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree* (a hit for Brenda Lee), *A Holly Jolly Christmas* (recorded by the Quinto Sisters and later by Burl Ives), *Silver and Gold* (for Burl Ives), and *Run Rudolph Run* (recorded by Chuck Berry). *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer* was a hit for Gene Autry and others.

Noel - An Orchestra Fantasy on Christmas carol Tunes - Judith Bailey

Judith Bailey was born in Cornwall in 1941 and has become a well known clarinetist, composer and conductor. Her compositions include concertos, pieces for wind band and two symphonies. She has conducted the Southampton and Petersfield orchestras.

Noel is scored for full orchestra and is based on carols. You will recognise *Past Three O'Clock*, *Good Christian Men Rejoice* and *On Christmas Night*.

Troika from *Lieutenant Kijé Suite* - Serge Prokofiev

This well known Christmas piece was written in 1934 by Prokofiev as a film score for *Lieutenant Kijé*. In the original story a clerk has a slip of the pen when writing an order promoting several ensigns to second lieutenants. The Emperor Paul decides to promote the non-existent Kijé to first lieutenant. He quickly rises through the ranks to staff captain and full captain, and when he is promoted to colonel, the emperor commands that Kijé appear before him. Of course no Kijé can be found. The military bureaucrats go through the paper trail and discover the original mistake, but they decide to tell the emperor that Kijé has died. "What a pity," the emperor says, "he was a good officer." Prokofiev's suite includes his birth, romance, wedding, troika, and it ends with his burial to a trumpet solo.

Christmas Eve Suite – Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov

The Christmas Eve Suite is a collection of extracts taken from Rimsky-Korsakov's opera of the same name. It is based on a Russian Story by Nikolay Gogol. Written in 1895 the music depicts the dark and uproarious goings on during the night before Christmas. Set in a rural village of 19th century Russia, the tale relates the adventures of Vakula the Blacksmith in his fight against the devil who has stolen the moon above his village and is wreaking havoc on its inhabitants, all to win the love of the most beautiful girl in town. Vakula has a pact with the devil whom he persuades to fly to the Palace of the Tsarina to obtain her golden slippers so he can marry his loved one. Rimsky-Korsakov recreates the atmosphere of the tale with his imaginative and colourful scoring. We hear musical depictions of the night sky, the shooting stars dancing and playing, a lively Polonaise and the sound of church bells ringing as the sun rises.

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Selection: White Christmas – Irving Berlin

Irving Berlin (born Israel Isidore Baline, May 11, 1888 – September 22, 1989) was a Russian-born American composer and lyricist. Widely considered one of the greatest songwriters in American history - indeed, George Gershwin called him “the greatest songwriter that has ever lived” - his music forms a large part of the Great American Songbook. During his 60-year career he wrote an estimated 1500 songs, including the scores for nineteen Broadway shows and eighteen Hollywood films.

As a pianist he played almost entirely in the key of F sharp, which is just about the most uncomfortable key for any other pianist, so that he could stay on the black notes, but he owned two transposing pianos to enable him to change keys.

The 1942 film *Holiday Inn* introduced "White Christmas", one of the most recorded songs in history. First sung in the film by Bing Crosby (along with Marjorie Reynolds), it has sold over 50 million records. Crosby's version is the best-selling single of all time.

The Polar Express - Alan Silvestri and Glen Ballard

The Polar Express is a children's fantasy story set in the late 1950's about a boy's adventure to see Santa's industrial unit. It was made into an animated film in 2004, with the soundtrack by Silvestri and Ballard released in 2007. This evening's arrangement includes four of the fourteen tracks - *Believe*, *The Polar Express*, *When Christmas Comes to Town*, and *Spirit of the Season*.

Sleigh Ride – Leroy Anderson (1908 – 1975)

Leroy Anderson’s evergreen classic of light music has lashings of festive spirit and can’t fail to put a smile on the listener’s face. Conjuring up a sparkling snow scene, the perky theme features jingling sleighbells, with an occasional crack of the whip. It’s hard to believe that this music was in fact written during a heatwave in Connecticut in July 1948! It has become a firm favourite at the Pelly’s Christmas concerts over the years.

Lesley Nicholls - Narrator

Lesley joined the Pelly way back in 1984, and played Viola and second Violin until about five years ago, when she was forced to retire due to neck and shoulder problems. During that time she served on the committee and under her Chairmanship the orchestra played concerts with our “twin” towns in France and Germany, for which she organised the “Pelly into Europe” weekend trip to Oberursel. She keeps in touch with the Orchestra, helping in Front of House, and she has previously narrated *The Snowman* at a Christmas Concert.



Recently she has pursued her interests in Am Dram and is a member of Hartley Arts Group. This year she directed the rock musical *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, and a play by Noel Coward, and is co-musical director and founder of the Hag Rocks! Choir, now some seventy-five members strong. The Choir has raised well over £4000 for charity so far.

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Forthcoming Concerts

*All these concerts take place at 7.45pm
at The Church on the Heath,
Elvetham Heath, Fleet.*

16th April 2016 - ‘Out of this World’

Music from beyond, including:

*E.T.
Superman
Star Trek
Star Wars
Clair de Lune (Debussy)*

18th June 2016 – ‘Picnic with the Pelly’

A veritable feast of musical goodies, to include:

*The Wasps Overture (Vaughan-Williams) -
Tahiti Trot, an arrangement of ‘Tea for Two’ (Shostakovich)
Flight of the Bumble Bee (Rimsky-Korsakov)
Thunder and Lightning Polka (Strauss)*

Tickets are priced as follows:

	Adults	Concessions	Children under 16
Purchased in advance:	£11	£10	£6
Purchased on the door:	£13	£12	£6

Acknowledgements

The Pelly Concert Orchestra would like to thank the following people, who have in their various ways made significant contributions to this evening's concert:

- Front of house helpers - Brenda Kegel, Martin Burton, Rolly Trice, Lesley Nicholls, Lynne Thomson
- All those who donated raffle prizes
- Our Patrons and Friends
- Tony Roberts and the team at The Church on the Heath
- The 1st Violin Section (David Wallace, Jinny Gribble, Ann Highley, Rachel Haver and Judy Dudley) for contributing programme notes on the music being played
- Our Leader David Wallace
- Our Musical Director Tom Horn
- Lesley Nicholls for narrating

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Tom Horn - Musical Director



Tom started playing the violin at the age of four and gained experience with many youth and amateur orchestras in Kent, Guernsey and London. Whilst leading the London Schools Symphony Orchestra and studying under such conductors as Thomas Sanderling and Leif Segerstam he realised his passion for the art of conducting. Studying Music with Acoustics at Southampton University he became Leader and Assistant Conductor of both the Symphony Orchestra and Sinfonietta and set up his own Concerto Orchestra to conduct. He has studied under Peter Stark, Richard Dickens, Peter Ash, Robin Browning and Philip Ellis, competed in the Cadaques International Conducting Competition, studied with Rodolfo Saglimbeni, Denise Ham and Toby Purser on the George Hurst Conductors', studied with Dr. John Traill at the Oxford Conducting Institute and had a workshop with Freddie Kempf and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra while working as Guest Conductor with the Surrey County Youth Orchestra.

Tom really enjoys being Musical Director of the Pelly Concert Orchestra and the Buckinghamshire County Youth Orchestra as well as conducting the Aylesbury & High Wycombe Youth Orchestras and half a dozen other youth ensembles. He has worked at most of the major concert venues in the UK and recently conducted at the Royal Albert Hall for the first time. Tom is Leader and Assistant conductor of the Haslemere Music Society and also recently founded the Marlow Orchestra in his hometown taking music out of the concert hall and to the people, performing in the local pubs, hotel and park.

In 2006 he helped start the Charity Symphony Orchestra which continues to raise money for various charities, the latest big project earlier this year being a Beethovathon (symphonies 1-9) for Comic Relief, a second instalment to the Haydathon (all 104!!) a few years ago. He has had engagements with the St. Albans Symphony Orchestra, Welwyn Garden City Symphony & Chorus, Buckingham Chamber Orchestra, Sidcup Symphony Orchestra, Bridgenorth Symphonia, London Repertoire Orchestra, Woking Chamber Orchestra, Didcot & Wallingford Symphony Orchestra and Abbots Langley Orchestra. He is also really excited about working as a Guest Conductor for the Trinity Camerata in 2016.

David Wallace - Leader

David Wallace studies violin with Suzanne Stanzeliet. Previous teachers include Maeve Broderick at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and during his undergraduate years at the Cork School of Music he studied violin with Cornelia Zanidache. He was one of the youngest members of the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland (over 18's) at 16, where he had the pleasure of working with some of the greatest conductors in the world in some of the greatest venues in Europe.

Following classes with Natalia Tchitch he started to play viola in 2004 and since his move to London in 2005 he has played viola with many orchestras in many venues throughout the capital. He has attended masterclasses and coachings with Hugh Maguire, Suzanne Stanzeleit, Pal Banda, Constantin Zanidache, Robin Ireland and Andrew Fuller.

Ensembles he has played with include GSMD Symphony Orchestra, YMSO, LGSO, Pelly Concert Orchestra, Sinfonia Tamesa, London Charity Orchestra, National Youth Orchestra of Ireland, RIAMSO, CSMSO, Lambeth Orchestra, Wexford Sinfonia, Kilkenny Youth Orchestra, Bloomsbury Symphony and British Police Orchestra. He also leads a busy chamber music career on both violin and viola. He teaches violin at James Allen Girls and is Head of Music at Reedham Park School in South London. He is a music scholar (violin) at Roehampton University in London.



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1st Violins

David Wallace
Judy Dudley
Jinny Gribble
Rachel Haver
Ann Highley
David White

2nd Violins

Lesley Lemon
Sue Gillis
Carole Kaldor
Michael McConnell
Zami Jalil

Violas

Tony Smith
Tracey Milne
Bob Perry

Cellos

Lynda Trice
Lesley Evans
Martin Heath
Margaret Houston
Clive Jackson
Victoria Turnbull

Double Basses

Lorraine Collins
James Slade
Anne Flude
Lianne Tapscott

Flutes/Piccolo

Elaine Herbert
Alison Nicholls
Becky Russell

Oboes/Cor Anglais

Barry Collisson
Katy Warren

Clarinets/Sax

Andrew Norris
Helen Lister
Anne Smith

Bassoons

Paula Burton
Karen Carter

French Horns

Peter Kaldor
Alison Wyld
Tim Jones
Nick Barratt

Trumpets

Chris Preddy
Tim Stoney
Paul Harris

Trombones

Frances Jones
Mike Thomson
Paul Dodge

Tuba

Len Tyler

Percussion

Katie Tyler
Chris King

Harp

Charlie Grimsey

The Pelly Concert Orchestra Committee

Chairman – Barbara Sykes (Flute)
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Assistant Librarian – Paula Burton (Bassoon)
Leader – David Wallace
Musical Director – Tom Horn

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Friends and Patrons Scheme

The Orchestra’s Friends and Patrons Scheme offers a three-tier system as detailed below. Please note the new subscription rates that apply from September 2015.

Patron: for a minimum of £50 per annum a Patron will be entitled to:

- Advance notice of forthcoming concerts
- A champagne reception before the first concert of the season
- A ticket for each of the four scheduled concerts in the season with a reserved seat for the subscriber
- His or her name in each programme as a Patron of the orchestra

Junior Patron (under 18): for a minimum of £20 per annum a Junior Patron will enjoy the same benefits as a Patron, but with soft drinks instead of champagne at the reception.

Friend: for a minimum of £40 per annum a Friend will enjoy all the benefits of being a Patron except that of the reserved seat.

For more information or to become a Patron or Friend, please contact Sue Gillis (Second Violin) by e-mail on: patrons@pellyorchestra.co.uk

We are very grateful to all our Patrons and Friends for helping to support the orchestra, and we take this opportunity to welcome new Patron Mrs Alice Smith.

Patrons:

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Mr P and Mrs Ashford
Mr K Baker
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Mrs P Bryant
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Mr Jeremy Gribble
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Mr B and Mrs Young

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Ms X Zhang

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