



Dover Music Society

June Concert Review

by G N Harby

We are very fortunate in Dover to be in the presence of so many gifted musicians. The Concert that occurred in the Dover Town Hall on Saturday 17th June 2006 was the eighth in a series of free concerts, dating from the first of such recitals at Astor College in the summer of 2002.

The current series are now given under the auspices of the Dover Music Society, whose object is to promote musical talent in the South East of England, especially among gifted musicians hoping to make a career in music.

The first half of the concert was devoted to the fourteen year old Oliver Poole's outstanding performance of all four of Chopin's Ballades. All four are virtuoso pieces in their own right, with sonorous lyrical melodies developing into cascades of fiery music, a storm of tempestuous scales, chords and octaves, which only pianists of considerable skill and maturity should attempt. Oliver acquitted himself brilliantly, bringing out the mysterious musical tales of each of the four Ballades, despite the limitations of the South Korean Kawai grand piano. He also gave the impression of being at ease with his audience, and enjoying his own performance, flowing from an exacting and disciplined preparation, which I had the privilege to witness.



Oliver Poole

In the second half, we were treated to a taste of the Moscow Conservatory, in the astonishing performance of Alexander Sitkovetsky, accompanied by his mother, Olga. Alexander had the privilege of studying under Yehudi Menuhin. His performance reflected this; and the same thrill that I experienced in Wells Cathedral on first hearing Menuhin in 1958, occurred once more. The quality of Alexander's playing, and the exquisite instrument, on which he performed, produced a sound so beautiful, that I realised something very special was occurring.



Alexander Sitkovetsky

The first work was the well-known and popular Sonata for Violin and Piano in A major by Cezar Frank. Next we were holding onto the edge of our seats while Alexander gave us Pabst de Sarasate's "Gypsy Airs" - Zigeunerweisen. The difficulties of this work are such that it is only likely to be attempted by violinists of outstanding ability and competence, especially in the playing of very high notes. He demonstrated not only consummate technical skill, but also the ability to reflect a wide range of tone and mood. The piano accompaniment seemed only marginally less difficult, and was performed with great skill and sensitivity.



Olga Sitkovetsky

This was a truly magical midsummer's evening, made even more so by the lack of any charge for attendance, the beautiful surroundings of the Dover Town Hall and the well-stocked bar. We live in hope that the spirit of the Moscow and Kiev Conservatoires will continue to shed its light on music in Dover, and that there will be many more such events.

The next concert is scheduled to be held on Saturday 7th October 2006, 7.30 PM. Details will be announced later and may be obtained from:

The Dover Music Society, Tel. 01304 213035 Fax: 01304 213039

E-mail: concerto@supanet.com

Town Centre Trees

— — — by Jack Woolford — — —

They are there, all *ten* of them, in the Market Square and at intervals all the way along to McDonald's. It has taken almost three years, from the initial suggestion by our Mike Bayley, who drew a map with pictures showing the proposed *eight* trees in situ, to the fruition by Dover District Council's Horticultural primo, Darren Solley.

The word "vicissitude" suggests itself. We had no difficulty in persuading you, our members, to subscribe £1000 and A.J. Simmonds, jewellers to add £250, and, although it took a little longer, to secure a contribution of £1500 from Dover Town Council. We had also hoped to raise another £800 from the Dover (ex-coalfield) Regeneration budget but ran out of time because of the delays. Fortunately it was no longer needed.

The first problem was the method of planting. We naturally assumed that it would, as normal and as elsewhere, be in the ground and it took a whole year to establish that because of underground pipes and services this was

impossible. The self-evident solution, to use planters instead, following the excellent precedent set by Dover in Bloom, was nevertheless controversial and time-consuming. The next problem was the position of each tree and a late intervention by CCTV meant that only one of our original placings was acceptable. Another problem was the choice of a suitable species of tree; this started with Rowan went on to Hornbeam then Gingko Biloba. Finally it was decided on Liquidamber Styraciflua 'Worplesdon' (Sweetgum) which

are now praise-worthily in place, all *ten* of them. The Worplesdon is a beautiful tree with a height of 12-16 feet its leaves are lobed; glossy, mid-green in colour and in the autumn turn a striking orange/red and yellow colour.

The last problem was (and is) the drought which, although it threatens Dover in Bloom flower containers, appears to have been overcome. And there is, in fact, yet another problem: to plaque or not to plaque and if so, where.



Trees in the Market Square