



"Bolton's hidden musical gem"

Bolton Evening News

5 Year Arts Action Plan – 2005 to 2009

Bolton Symphony Orchestra is now arguably one of the most successful amateur arts organisations of its type in the country. Its vibrant performances and professional attitude make it the orchestra of choice for both players and audiences alike. Building on its success to date, BSO has now developed a 5 year action plan to coincide with the appointment of its Artistic Director Bob Chasey to run from 2005 to 2009. This plan highlights the exciting opportunities for bringing outstanding music making to Bolton and provides a framework for the orchestra to work within over the coming years.

The action plan is split into 3 categories. These are artistic, financial and community. Different members of the committee have contributed to these sections and it will be the responsibility of the BSO as a whole to ensure success of these goals and objectives.

Artistic - Bob Chasey

To build the confidence of the orchestra.

To expand the already very strong technical base and thus enable players to perform with more confidence and flexibility.

To introduce the widest possible range of music, to include some more challenging 20th century works.

To bring at least one guest conductor each season. These will be musicians of the highest order who I know the orchestra will enjoy working with. One idea to facilitate this is the use of the 'play day'.

Play Days could become very useful in allowing the orchestra to have an advance stab at some of our more ambitious repertoire or indeed just to have some fun!

To increase our involvement with the Friends of the Bolton Symphony Orchestra. This is a wonderfully cost effective way of increasing our audience. 80% attendance at concerts within 5 years should be an attainable goal.

To develop the existing mutually advantageous partnership with the Bolton Music Service and to give a very visual sign of gratitude to the Music Service through occasional joint productions. We must be seen to value these wonderful facilities more highly. Having worked with groups of all persuasions up and down the country I can assure you no-one else's come close.

To introduce on an occasional basis some of the major choral repertoire eg. Verdi Requiem, Dream of Gerontius, and to

explore the viability of some Operas via concert performance.

To at all times keep the financial base of the orchestra strong. I feel we should examine the possibility of an occasional paid concert, that is to say to take an already performed package to a new venue. This extra funding would be used to finance the larger scale, exotic works which I know the orchestra loves to tackle.

Sponsorship.

To build a strong basis for regular input from local firms.

Three donations of only £100 each buys a lot of soloist.

To present logical / feasible / musically rewarding programmes for the seasons to

come, making use of the woodwind and brass as separate entities where possible.

Programme ideas for the coming seasons;

Shostakovitch - Symphonies 1 and 10, Symphonic poem 'October', Cello concerto No 2, Dramatic Poem 'Stenka Razin'

Samuel Barber - Essay No 2, violin concerto, first symphony

Wagner - Prelude and Liebestod (Tristan), Sigfried's Rhine Journey and Funeral March (Gotterdammerung) and Act 1 of Die Walkure

Bruckner - Symphonies 7 and 8

Mahler - Symphonies 2 and 5

Berg - Suite from Wozzek and violin concerto

Webern - Passacaglia

Walton - Belshazzar's feast with Bloch Schelomo (Peter Dixon)

Berlioz - Requiem

Honnegger - Joan of Arc

These are just ideas for the more exotic end of our spectrum. I can't promise to keep everyone happy all of the time but I can promise to give you 101 % of my musical commitment. The past two years have been some of the most thrilling of my musical life – I thank you all for that, and I can't wait for the next five!!

Financial – Les Fisher

Objective – To maintain the financial stability of the Orchestra and generate

sufficient funds to support the artistic and community aspirations of the five-year plan.

This will be achieved by:

a) Maximising Income

Carrying out an annual review of concert ticket pricing.

Carrying out an annual review of subscription levels and promotion of the Gift Aid scheme.

Seeking sponsorship from outside organisations, eg *The Provincial Trust*.

Encouraging continued financial support from the *Friends of BSO*.

Application for grants for specific projects from other funding bodies, e.g. *Lottery*, *Bolton Arts Forum*.

Accepting, where appropriate, other revenue-raising commissions, e.g. the recent photo shoot, Hospice concert etc.

b) Minimising Costs

Judicious sourcing of music hire.

Continued use of the Music Service partnership to minimise rehearsal costs and instrument hire.

Encouraging wherever possible the use of "home grown" and amateur talent to reduce player hire costs, without compromising artistic standards.

Community – Carolyn Baxendale

Developing community relations has always been vital to BSO. One of the principal mechanisms for developing Community Relations will be the partnering agreement with Bolton Music Service. BSO will work with Bolton Music Service to develop a number of specific projects. It is proposed that these will be as follows:

Voices for Action – This will include the commissioning of a work for school and Music Centre choirs and orchestra culminating in a live performance.

Bolton Youth Orchestra mentoring event

– This will include a joint performance of a large scale orchestral work (Mahler/Bruckner etc) and BYO members working along side BSO players to enable young musicians to gain experience by playing with a group like BSO

A Level music Play Day

– Invite A-level music students from around the North West to take part in a live rehearsal session of the set works on the A-level syllabus. The day will hopefully include the attendance of a highly respected professional conductor ideally a principal conductor of one of the Country's major professional orchestra's.