



SRP
Devon
Branch



Stephen Watkins

Advanced Recorder
Orchestra Playing Day

Saturday 7th Sept 2019

Symphony No 8
(which Mendelssohn might have written).

Overture 'Eduardo e Carmella'
(which Rossini might have written)

by Stephen Watkins (conducted by Stephen).

St Leonard's School, St Leonard's Road, EXETER, EX2 4NQ

10am - 5pm

Parts will be allocated and you will receive
a copy of your part in advance

Cost: £18, including coffee/tea/biscuits

Please bring your own packed lunch.

The day is intended for advanced players, who probably already have experience of playing in recorder orchestras.

For further information, please contact

Ashley Allerton (Chair, Devon SRP)

dev.chair@srp.org.uk or 01392 462655

Stephen Watkins.

Stephen has studied, played and written in many styles of music since his studies at the Guildhall School of Music where in addition to composing and conducting, he studied trombone, piano and recorder. Since retiring from his last post as the Director of a music school run for British Forces children in Germany, he has had the time to focus on his composition in a way which work did not always help.

To give some idea of his interests these include playing in and conducting Orchestra Big Band jazz, trad Jazz String quartets (on Cello), and being a pro level recorder player solo and quartet recorder playing. All of these interests are filtered into Stephen's work as a composer along with a passionate belief in the importance to the cultural world of the amateur musician. Stephen has a total conviction that in essence the only difference that there need be between amateur and professional world is the reason that people are playing!

Although he does have a personal style, currently Stephen is engaged in providing recorder orchestras with the kind of repertoire which musical history has denied them. These pieces are being played regularly in Germany with his friend Dietrich Schnabel conducting them and beginning to find a place in the British scene. The recorder orchestra is unique among amateur ensembles in its willingness to accept music of all ranges and styles and not have inherent problems in getting balance of instruments right. This makes it a really worthwhile challenge for composers, but it needs as careful study as any other ensemble in order to get the best from it.

The idea behind these works is to allow recorder players the opportunity to experience the excitement of the big nineteenth and early twentieth symphonies with significant works that are written with influence from specific composers.

These pieces are not mere pastiche because they are not arrangements and they are definitely written with recorders in mind from their conception. So the concept is to take the language of other composers but imagine how they may have used it if they had been writing for the recorder orchestra today.

As well as these bigger pieces there are a number of smaller, not quite so challenging pieces and an enormous amount of chamber music which takes its inspiration from many other sources, Japanese music, Bulgarian music and currently a study of North Indian music may well bear fruit in this direction as well.

More information about Stephen's work (including sound files) is on his website:

www.sym-phony.uk

Overture: www.sym-phony.uk/single-work/?catno=181201

Symphony No 8: www.sym-phony.uk/single-work/?catno=180808

Stephen Watkins Advanced Recorder Orchestra Playing Day

Devon SRP, Saturday 7th September 2019

St Leonard's School, St Leonard's Road, EXETER, EX2 4NQ

10am - 5pm

Please complete this form and return with your cheque to

Ashley Allerton, SRP Devon, 37 Pinwood Meadow Drive, EXETER, EX4 9LA

Please make your cheque payable to Society of Recorder Players

Name:

Postal Address:

Email address:

Instruments you would like to play, in order of preference

We cannot guarantee which instrument you will play. The decisions will be made to provide a suitable balance in the group.

You will receive a copy of your part in advance.

1.

2.

3.

We very much welcome players of Great and Contra Basses!