

Hall Stories - A Celebration of Bess of Hardwick

A massive project commemorating the life of one of Derbyshire's prominent historical figures has taken shape and is nearing its culmination, as **Education Manager Marianne Quintrell** reports

June and July 2008 sees the culmination of **More Glass Than Wall** with five performances of the major new work celebrating the life of Bess of Hardwick.

2008 marks the 400th anniversary of the death of Bess of Hardwick and as Bess lived for the final years of her life at Hardwick Hall and is interred in a vault in Derby Cathedral, it seemed like a project involving both Derby City and Derbyshire County would be a good idea. Rolls-Royce facilitated an initial meeting between many key partners and several separate ideas began to form.

It was suggested that there could be a music project, possibly involving the commissioning of a new work, and as a result a partnership was established between sinfonia VIVA, Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, Children's Music Workshop in harmony with Music Platform and The National Trust. This partnership was later joined by Bolsover District Council and Orchestras Live



A large scale proposal was put together involving a commission of a new oratorio celebrating the life of Bess of Hardwick from former poet laureate for Derbyshire Cathy Grindrod and nationally acclaimed composer James Redwood. Alongside this was a large scale education project involving a visit to Hardwick Hall, writing workshops, singing workshops, creative music workshops and three performances of the oratorio plus the new material created during the workshop sessions.

Six schools from Derby and the Bolsover area of Derbyshire were approached to participate in the project which would span almost the entire academic year. Following a teachers' session, to allow the teachers to get to know Cathy and James as well as the management team of Ali Betteridge from Derbyshire County Council, Maria Banks from Children's Music Workshop, Jo Rawson from the National Trust and me, the project began with a trip to Hardwick Hall in October 2007 for the 180 young people participating in the project.



Whilst at Hardwick Hall the young people took part in activities led by Jo Rawson, looking at the outside of the hall and considering how it was built and the ways in which it would have been self sufficient in Elizabethan England; a writing workshop with Cathy Grindrod in the main entrance hall looking at how the servants would have lived and considering some of Bess' wonderful possessions; and a songwriting workshop with James Redwood and Jack Ross (guitar) in the long gallery during which the young people learned an authentic Tudor round and created their own short song about their experience of Hardwick Hall.

Also in this issue - Flautist **Nicky Hunter** gives a participant's view of ViVA's Player Development Days... **Mike Wheeler** reviews the sinfonia ViVA concert with pianist Lauma Skride... **Peter Helps** identifies some unlikely competition... **PLUS** all the details of ViVA's upcoming concerts

Cathy Grindrod led a series of workshop sessions in each of the schools from November 2007 to January 2008. The four primary schools were each given a different theme; the building of the house; food; rich and poor; and possessions and they had the overall task of writing a group poem on their chosen theme which would later become the lyrics to their song. As well as this the students explored writing individual and group poems inspired by their visit to Hardwick Hall and their feelings about Bess. The two secondary schools writing sessions focused more on Bess' character and Cathy used some of the material that the young people came up with in the final oratorio libretto.



Alongside this process, Cathy wrote the libretto and in December passed it on to James who began setting the words to music. All the children's songs from the oratorio were written by the beginning of March and the teachers began learning them with their students.



Conductor David Lawrence and pianist Matt Beckingham then delivered a series of singing workshops in the four primary schools to help support the learning of the songs and to develop singing technique and confidence in the young people and teachers.

In May 2008 James Redwood and a team of ViVA and Children's Music Workshop musicians began a series of creative music sessions in all six schools. In the primary schools the team are now working with the students to develop their lyrics into songs and in the secondary schools the students are working with the team to create instrumental interludes which they will perform alongside sinfonia ViVA. All six sections created with the young people will fit within the oratorio which will be performed by over 200 people in three performances. School groups from across Derby and Derbyshire have been invited to attend the performances and will join the massed choir and orchestra to perform some elements of the oratorio. Two performances will take place at the Assembly Rooms in Derby and one on a specifically installed stage in the grounds of Hardwick Hall, back where the whole process started.

We are thrilled that the project is being repeated as part of the Buxton Festival, with four different primary schools from the Buxton area. The performances of this project, which is taking the place of the usual community production in the festival, will take place at St John's Church, Buxton in July 2008.

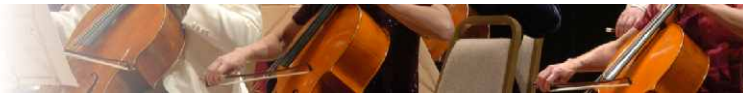
It is quite amazing to think that it is nearly June 2008, a beacon date that has been on the horizon for years and a time which we have been planning for what seems like forever. I don't think any of us really believed that we would be able to deliver the project on the scale that we originally dreamed up but the combination of fantastic fundraising success, fabulous creative and management teams and enthusiastic teachers and students have ensured that we are able to deliver certainly the largest, and probably the most exciting project to date.



Marianne Quintrell

In the Picture... Front Page - top: Students of Creswell School take in the Long Gallery. Bottom: Heritage Community School students exploring the grounds of Hardwick Hall. This Page - top: Press Call for Hodthorpe School students. Middle: James Redwood with Jack Ross on guitar working with students on the music. Bottom: Cathy Grindrod and James Redwood guide students' thinking in a Creative Workshop.

Find out more about ViVA Education projects past, present and future at www.vivaorch.co.uk



Wednesday 11th Jun

Assembly Rooms, Derby
1.15-2.30pm. Tickets: £1.50 per child for school groups with accompanying staff free. Box Office: sinfonia ViVA 01332 207603
7.00-8.15pm. Tickets: £3.00. £1.50 per child for school groups with accompanying staff free. Box Office: Assembly Rooms 01332 255800
www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-06-11-derby.shtml

Thursday 12th Jun

Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire
7.00-8.15pm. NB - This performance will be outdoors, please bring a rug or seat to sit on!
Tickets: £3.00. £1.50 per child for school groups with accompanying staff free. Box Office: National Trust, Hardwick Hall 01909 511061
www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-06-12-hardwick.shtml

Tuesday 15th July

St John's Church, Buxton
5.00-6.15pm. Tickets: £10.00, £5.00 children. Buxton Festival Box Office 0845 127 2190
www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-07-15-buxton.shtml

More Glass Than Wall

sinfonia ViVA
Conductor David Lawrence
Soloists: Sophie Grimmer, Robert Davies
Composer: James Redwood
Librettist: Cathy Grindrod



More Glass than Wall is a new commission to mark the 400th Anniversary of the death of Bess of Hardwick. sinfonia ViVA is working with **Cathy Grindrod** (former Derbyshire Poet Laureate), nationally acclaimed composer **James Redwood** and 180 young people from Derby and Derbyshire for the world premiere of this new Oratorio celebrating the life of one of Derbyshire's most famous personalities.

Creative writing and music workshops have been taking place in six Derby and Bolsover schools between October 2007 and June 2008 with the young people working with Cathy Grindrod, James Redwood and a team of sinfonia ViVA and Children's Music Workshop musicians to create words and music inspired by a visit to Hardwick Hall. The new commission along with the pieces created in the workshops will be performed by the young people, sinfonia ViVA and soloists at the Assembly Rooms, Derby and at Hardwick Hall in June 2008. **More Glass Than Wall** will also involve children from four schools in the Buxton area in a separate project which will culminate with **More Glass Than Wall** being performed as part of the Buxton Festival in July 2008.

The project is organised in conjunction with sinfonia ViVA, Children's Music Workshop, Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, the National Trust and Orchestras Live.

The project has kindly been supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Bolsover District Council, Rolls-Royce plc, Derbyshire Community Foundation, Local Network Fund, Bridging the Gap, The Foyle Foundation, The Cumberland Trust, The Gladys Jones Charitable Trust, The Mercers Charitable Foundation, Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Settlement, The John Thaw Foundation, Angus Allnatt Charitable Foundation, PRS Foundation for new music, Ernest Cook Foundation, Orchestras Live, Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council.

Sunday 15th Jun

Main Ballroom, Pontins, Pakefield Nr. Lowestoft 7.15pm
Ticket details from the Pontins booking line on 0870 604 5602 www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-06-15-pakefield.shtml

Last Night of the Pakefield Proms

Borodin:	Prince Igor Overture
Mozart:	Porgi Amor
Rossini:	Una voce poco fa
Elgar:	Salut d'Amour
Delibes:	Prelude and Mazurka
Puccini:	O Mio Babbino Caro
Sibelius:	Finlandia
Dvorak:	Slavonic Dance Op. 46 No. 8 in G minor.
Dvorak:	Song to the Moon
Sousa:	Stars and Stripes Forever
Ponchielli:	Dance of the Hours
Wood:	Fantasia on British Sea Songs
Parry:	Jerusalem
Elgar:	Pomp and Circumstance March No.1



sinfonia ViVA is back in Lowestoft for one of the most energetic and rousing concerts of the year! Bringing a programme bursting with 'proms' favourites for the audience to enjoy, and with conductor **Benedict Holland** leading proceedings and sensational soprano **Cheryl Enever** (pictured) bringing extra sparkle to the evening, there's something for every lover of classical music to savour. Fabulous musicians, great music... and of course, a real 'proms' atmosphere! Stand by to wave those flags and sing along!

Ticket details from the Box Office on 0870 604 5602.

Monday 23rd Jun

St. Andrew's Parish Church, Aldborough, North Yorks 7.30pm
Tickets: £25 Premium, £20 Standard. Box Office 01423 322586. Postal bookings from April 22nd. Phone booking opens June 1st.
www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-06-23-aldborough.shtml

ViVA ensemble with Dame Ann Murray at Aldborough Festival

Wagner: Prelude & Liebstd from Tristan and Isolde
Wagner: Wesendonck Lieder
Wagner: Forest Murmurs from Siegfried
Wagner: Prelude from Act 3, Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg
Wagner: Siegfried Idyll



sinfonia ViVA makes a welcome return to the Northern Aldborough Festival with **Nicholas Kok** (conductor) and in the sparkling company of **Dame Ann Murray** (mezzo-soprano) for a tour-de-force of a programme celebrating the operatic genius of Richard Wagner.

The triangular relationship between Wagner, Mathilde Wesendonck and her husband Otto, one of Wagner's patrons, is reflected in the Prelude & Liebstd the theme of which Wagner described as being: "endless yearning, longing, the bliss and wretchedness of love; world power, fame, honor, chivalry, loyalty and friendship all blown away like an insubstantial dream; one sole redemption: death, surcease, a sleep without waking...". The Wesendonck Lieder song-cycle which follows is equally contemplative, being based upon a set of poems written by Mathilde. Jumping ahead is the Siegfried Idyll, composed as a birthday gift to Wagner's own wife Cosima to celebrate the birth of their eponymous son Siegfried in 1869, and elements of which echo in the subsequent 1876 opera Siegfried, the third of the four operas that comprise Der Ring des Nibelungen. The programme features the Forest Murmurs from Act 2 of Siegfried – and in between is the sumptuous Prelude from Act 3 of Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg.

Visit the Northern Aldborough Festival website at www.aldborough.com/festival for booking and further details.

Supported by Olav and Elizabeth Arnold.

July 2008

Friday 11th July

Palace Hotel, Buxton 3.00pm
Tickets: £16 Box Office 0845 1272 190. Tickets on sale from April 18. www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-07-11-buxton.shtml

ViVA ensemble with Dame Ann Murray at Buxton Festival

Wagner: Siegfried Idyll
Wagner: Wesendonck Lieder
Francaix: Octet
Britten: Sinfonietta Op 1



Accomplished mezzo-soprano **Dame Ann Murray** joins a sinfonia ViVA ensemble directed by **Benedict Holland** for this concert as part of the Buxton Festival 2008 - a fascinating programme entwining operatic and chamber music delights.

Two pieces by Richard Wagner open today's programme. The Siegfried Idyll was composed as Wagner's birthday gift to his second wife Cosima to celebrate in turn the birth of their eponymous son Siegfried in 1869. The Wesendonck Lieder song-cycle which follows is based upon a set poems written by Mathilde Wesendonck (her husband Otto was one of Wagner's patrons) whose influential relationship with the composer was frequently to be reflected in the emotive richness of his music. On to prolific composer and pianist Jean Francaix, whose musical talent was first spotted as a child. His four-movement Octet is at times restrained, at others wistful and has a splendid waltz section for added variety! Finally to Britten's Sinfonietta Op.1, composed when he was only 18 and still a student, yet already full of the authority that would see him become one of the nation's most celebrated composers of the 20th century.

Visit the Buxton Festival website at www.buxtonfestival.co.uk for booking and for further details.

Supported by Arts Council England and Orchestras Live.



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▶ The Darley Park Concert



2008 marks three notable Derby centenaries - Derby Shakespeare Company, Derby Arts Festival and the establishment of the Rolls-Royce factory in the City. It also marks the anniversary of many notable figures and events in the wider world. So... today's fabulous programme reflects back exactly 100 years in one encyclopaedic volume, with musical chapters on people and subjects as diverse as WG Grace, Leroy Anderson, Scott Joplin, Fowlers 2nd Edition of the King's English, Snow Blizzards, Scouting... and Ian Fleming, creator of James Bond.

sinfonia ViVA is joined by conductor **Timothy Redmond** and also welcomes back the vocal talent of **Mary Carewe** for this annual classical spectacular in one of the country's most beautiful parks. Amidst the picnickers and end-of-summer-holidays revellers, pick yourself out a good spot to sit and enjoy the atmosphere as darkness falls, lanterns are lit and the stars begin to pepper the evening sky. What better place to enjoy terrific tunes - and with introductions by the conductor to explain the significance of the musical selections, those of you who like to try working these things out for yourselves will be able to see if your own ideas were right!

Walton:	Spitfire Prelude and Fugue
Debussy:	Golliwog's Cakewalk
Oscar Straus:	My Hero from The Chocolate Soldier
Leroy Anderson:	Sleigh Ride
Ponchielli/Sherman:	Camp Grenada
Vaughan Williams:	The Wasps Overture
Rimsky Korsakov:	Flight of the Bumble Bee
Lerner & Loewe:	My Fair Lady Suite
Suppe:	Light Cavalry Overture
Joplin:	Pineapple Rag
Mancini:	Great Race March
Maurice Jarre:	Lara's Theme (Dr. Zhivago)
Barry (arr. Nic Raine):	Goldfinger
Goodwin:	Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines
Styne:	Everything's Coming Up Roses
Gershwin:	I Got Rhythm
Borodin:	Polovtsian Dances



Programme correct at time of going to press.

PLEASE OBSERVE PARKING RESTRICTIONS. In the interests of safety, please do not bring barbecues, animals (there is a firework display as part of the evening) or gazebos to the park. A torch and suitable warm clothing may be useful! Please help to keep the park tidy by disposing of your rubbish carefully.

Further details from Derby Tourist Information Centre 01332 255802 Minicom 01332 256666.

Supported by Rolls-Royce plc, George Wimpey, Derby City Council and RAM FM.

▶ Coming up in Autumn 2008 ...

Sat 6th September	Beanbag Proms, Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham Musical fun in a relaxed atmosphere for the very young and their carers to share
Sat 11th October & Weds 15th October	Plowright Theatre, Scunthorpe Lincoln Drill Hall Sensational Strings concert with music by Parry, Haydn, Telemann and Suk
Tues 21st October	Assembly Rooms, Derby sinfonia ViVA with Uri Caine (piano) in a collaboration with the Orchestra and Derby Jazz



▶ ... Full details on the ViVA website at www.vivaorch.co.uk

the backstage pages



It's important for an Orchestra to invest in its players, and Player Development Days are one way in which sinfonia ViVA is doing this, as flautist **Nicky Hunter** explains...

Under Development

Well, what a splendid opportunity for fifteen ViVA musicians to have been asked to participate in! We were offered 2 separate days to work in partnership with talented workshop leader Tim Steiner. We were being given a time to reflect on current education practice, as well as considering and developing new ways of working in musical education projects for all ages and abilities.

Normally in my experience, you only learn about what works and what does not work in education projects on the case! There is never any time to discuss why things do or do not work before or afterwards. I have picked up what I know working with all sorts of people as the particular project unfolds. Preparation time is often at a premium and by the time you realise what is happening in a project, the moment has come and gone and you are working in the next moment with the people concerned.

However, on these particular ViVA workshop days we were given a major chance to discuss, reflect, disagree and agree on what works with ideas for helping learning in musical education. Fantastic! All the ViVA musicians on these workshops were at different stages of experience in the field of education work. Each brought different experiences to the workshops.

The first workshop was held on 24th January at the VoiceBox in Derby a large, light and airy venue with a kitchen suitable for our refreshments and our provided gourmet lunch! (Very important as it was also viola player Jacq's birthday and cake and candles were definitely the order of the day!)

The session was focused on general workshop participation and rhythmic skills and we started the session by going around our circle with each of us explaining what we hoped for on this day. (All varied interesting responses!) Next we worked with warm-ups, discussing their invaluable integrating qualities, moving on to how people musically learn and the fact that many people use a mixture of ways to learn.

We were taken through the varied array of percussion instruments we could use in session. Many, many sorts, describing their names how they work/or what they do! We all then chose an instrument, and played call and response games. This led us on to 'how to lead groups'. We considered composition/improvisation using an ostinato bass rhythm (same short rhythm played over and over again), and layered this with our own

varying composed rhythms. This part of session was very much led by Tim, and on my looking back from our second workshop this was very much a stepping stone to it. What a great action packed and enjoyable six hours we had on this day!



the backstage pages

Our second full workshop day was held on 13th March 2008 and we very much focused on improvisation. The group of fifteen with varying experiences was formulated so we could learn from one another as well as Tim.

We started off the workshop with a discussion around our circle as to what inspired us each individually with our music - maybe talking about a recent musical experience.



What a mixed and very interesting reflection time we all shared with each other! (with some very emotional responses). The reason for this discussion was to bind us all together. We all had contributed to the session and engaged in a 'togetherness' with musical inspiration being our common denominator. After this we played more integrating warm-up games, to wake us up!

Following this we discussed and worked with improvising/compositional ideas. We made up individual clapping rhythms and layered them in varying ways. Next we discussed 'how to lead', using eye contact only or a physical movement only. More improvisation games played including using more advanced methods such as

using the blues scale. Lastly we discussed the importance of praising and being very positive with participants' ideas in general.

What a lot of valuable information, and a great treat I have been given by ViVA. This experience I can use in my future musical life in teaching, tutoring and workshops. I am sure for all ViVA musicians working on these two days we will all benefit and reflect on this work in a major way for a long time to come. Each and every one of us will have come away with valuable information and something positive and useful to work with in our musical futures! Thank-you sinfonia ViVA for these opportunities - here's to more days like them!

Nicky Hunter

how it came to be

ViVA's Education Manager **Marianne Quintrell** on the purpose and origin of the Player Training Days...



The Orchestra has received a significant organisational development grant from Arts Council England. This grant is intended to support the development of the Orchestra both in terms of the musicians and management.

Part of the grant was put towards the delivery of a series of playing training and development sessions which were designed in partnership with workshop director Tim Steiner and in response to a skills audit amongst the players. The idea of the sessions is to provide the musicians with the opportunity to consider and consolidate skills developed whilst participating in education projects, as well as providing time to discuss and formalise various styles of approaches to the range of work the Orchestra undertakes. Initially the programme has been designed as a series of five, although it is hoped that the sessions will be able to continue beyond this. This overall programme should help to equip our musicians with the variety of skills required by musicians working in a 21st Century orchestra.

In Review:

sinfonia ViVA conducted by André de Ridder
with Lauma Skride
Assembly Rooms, Derby
Wednesday 16th April 2008

by Mike Wheeler

Performance suggests there are exciting times ahead for sinfonia ViVA



Lauma Skride
Piano

sinfonia ViVA's relationship with their new Principal Conductor André de Ridder seems to be settling down nicely. The clarity and directness of the performances on this occasion suggest that there are exciting times ahead.

Haydn's Symphony No.83 got a performance full of crisp, rhythmic drive, and similar qualities characterised the account of Beethoven's Fourth Symphony that ended the evening. The slow introduction had a real sense of mystery, while the vigour and clarity of the playing ensured that the colours of Beethoven's orchestra emerged fresh and

sparkling. In spite of one or two slightly shaky moments these were exhilarating performances.

In between, soloist Lauma Skride joined the orchestra for not one but two piano concertos. Judith Weir's is the characteristically concise, low-key work of a composer who rejects what she describes as "the crashingly loud side of music". Pianist and orchestra projected the work's luminous sound-world to excellent effect; they were particularly good at pointing up the contrasts between the sharper and the smoother textures of Weir's writing.

Before the concert the composer gave an absorbing pre-concert interview with Lynne Walker of The Independent.



Principal Conductor
André de Ridder

After the interval, Haydn's Piano Concerto in D was given a bright, alert reading, spellbinding in the second movement and playful in the gypsy-style finale.

Photos: Marco Borggreve

For the very latest reviews plus all the news on what's happening in the Orchestra, go to www.vivaorch.co.uk

The Chief Points

from
Peter Helps



Imagine for a moment someone gave you the quite amazing gift of an 'entertainment voucher' - an evening out for 2 people, valid at whatever venue and for whatever activity you liked. How would you spend it? Let's hypothesise for a moment...

What are the possibilities? Well, how about the cinema? Or maybe you could take in a show at a theatre instead? Perhaps you fancy something more energetic like line-dancing, barn dancing, or a tea dance? Or possibly you prefer a laugh and might go to see that stand-up comedian who's on a local tour? Then there's ice skating - you haven't done that for ages... And what about bowling? Or going to watch the cricket? Or seeing your local football team...?

... or go to a sinfonia ViVA concert?

What's that you say? You wouldn't think of lumping us in with basketball and bingo? Perhaps you should. My point is that we in the classical music industry are as much a part of the entertainment industry as any of these other activities. What's more, we are in direct competition with them for the 'leisure pound'.

Because there is no magic voucher, of course - just people thinking carefully about where to spend their hard-earned money. It behoves us to remember that classical music is about entertaining people and building audiences by doing so. Nothing less than the future of the sector depends on it.

In next month's ViVA Newsletter:

Individual Giving - ViVA's Head of Development Jon Ashford-Smith on new opportunities for people to show their support for the Orchestra... In the Picture - we go on location with Orchestral photographer Marco Borggreve... PLUS all the details of ViVA's forthcoming concerts

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sinfonia



Principal Conductor
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