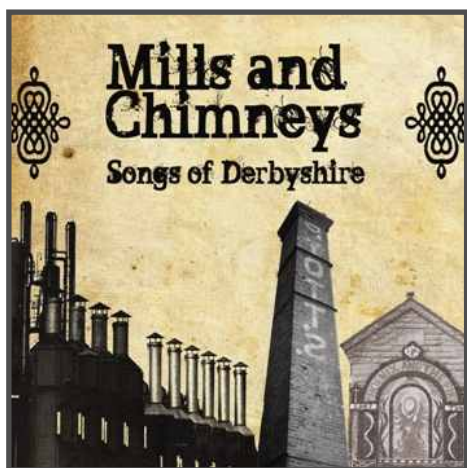


The Folk Connection

This Autumn sees the launch of a brand new partnership for **sinfonia ViVA**, which will span a whole academic year. As a result of many previous successful collaborations, **sinfonia ViVA** is teaming up with the **Mills and Chimneys** folk ensemble for a project which will involve professional collaboration as well as a major education project with young people from across Derby and Derbyshire. Here musicians **David Gibb** and **Julian Butt** explain how the **Mills and Chimneys** project came about:



“The **Mills and Chimneys** project was brought together to write songs about Derbyshire's heritage, be it industrial or personal. A group of six musicians of various ages were commissioned to write six songs, with two of the songs lyrics to be written by the winners of the Derbyshire Literature Festival lyric writing competition. The songs were then recorded and made into a CD, which was sold at a series of concerts in libraries and related venues across Derbyshire.

The project has seen critical acclaim and great support from press and public alike. We are delighted that the project has greatly exceeded its original expectations and lifespan and we are excited to be working with **ViVA** on the next phase.

This phase will incorporate a performance at Derby Folk Festival with the **Mills and Chimneys** ensemble and musicians from **sinfonia ViVA**. The performance represents a great opportunity for a coming together of both classical and folk fans alike to celebrate a project which is both unique in its ambition and exciting in its possibilities.”

To conclude the first phase of the project, the newly created **sinfonia ViVA / Mills and Chimneys** ensemble will give their first performance during the Derby Folk Festival at the Assembly Rooms, Derby on 8 October 2011.

The second phase of the project which will be led by composer Jack Ross, will involve the same ensemble of **sinfonia ViVA / Mills and Chimneys** musicians working together to lead a dynamic creative singing and instrumental project with 180 young people from Derby and Derbyshire. The project will involve the commission of brand new songs, inspired by folk tales and songs from Derbyshire, which will be written by the Derbyshire Poet Laureate along with composer Jack Ross, as well as new arrangements of **Mills and Chimneys** songs and totally new songs and instrumental pieces which will be written by the young participants in partnership with Jack Ross and the mixed **sinfonia ViVA / Mills and Chimneys** team. Jack comments: “As a composer I am particularly excited at working collaboratively with musicians whether they are professional or non-professional, young or old, and therefore the prospect of collaborating with the exciting sound of **Mills and Chimneys**, a whole bunch of young people from Derbyshire and **sinfonia ViVA** is inspiring to me.

The challenge of composing for all these different forces is something I'm looking forward to enormously.”

The whole project will conclude with an uplifting performance which brings together all the different elements as the massed ensemble perform together at the Assembly Rooms, Derby on Wednesday 13 June 2012. It promises to be a hugely exciting project!

To book tickets for either of the two performances, please contact Derby LIVE on 01332 255800



Participants from 'Tis Death to Break a Frame in 2011
photo credit Graham Lucas Commons



INSIDE ~ ~ ~ Britain's biggest free outdoor classical concert approaches in Derby's scenic **Darley Park**... **sinfonia ViVA**'s longest serving member of the management team **Mary Hawthorne** says goodbye... PLUS details of our forthcoming concerts ~ ~ ~



Supported by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



Sunday 4th Sept

Darley Park, Derby - event starts 6.00pm
Admission is FREE: parking and other restrictions apply

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2011-09-04-derby.shtml

The Darley Park Concert

The programme (subject to change) includes:

Copland:	Fanfare for Common Man
Waldteufel:	Skaters Waltz
Joplin:	The Entertainer
Hall:	Another Openin' Another Overture
Porter:	Anything Goes
Porter:	I Concentrate on You
Gershwin:	I Got Rhythm
Bernstein:	Dance 2 and 3 from On the Town Dance Episodes
Strauss:	Radetsky March
Sibelius:	Finlandia
Strauss:	Blue Danube
Kander/Ebb:	All That Jazz
Dietrich:	Falling in Love
Arlen:	Over The Rainbow
Styne:	Don't Rain On My Parade
Offenbach:	Overture to Orpheus in the Underworld



Last year, over 33000 people joined the fun of the Darley Park Concert - the biggest free classical concert of its kind in the whole of the UK! For this year's programme, conductor **James Holmes** and sinfonia VIVA are joined by the sensational and glamorous talent of **Mary Carewe**.

Tonight's programme is a tour-de-force of great popular songs and famous orchestral pieces chosen to entertain and delight - a real mixture of high-energy tunes that will have your feet tapping (and very possibly some invited audience participation in the singing department!) plus a selection of superb orchestral classics to savour played by the region's only professional orchestra, sinfonia VIVA.

Mary will be delving into the Great American Songbook for such terrific hit songs as Gershwin's jazz standard *I Got Rhythm* from the Broadway musical *Girl Crazy*... Cole Porter's fabulous *I Concentrate on You* from the MGM movie *Broadway Melody of 1940* and his tilt at the excesses of post Depression USA in *Anything Goes*...Kander and Ebb's opening song from their smash musical *Chicago*, the sassy *All That Jazz*... Plus Marlene Dietrich's unforgettable *Falling in Love*... Arlen's classic Academy Award-winning 1938 song *Over the Rainbow*... and Styne's powerhouse *Don't Rain On My Parade* from the 1960's musical and movie *Funny Girl* starring Barbra Streisand.

Amongst the glittering Orchestral music is Copland's instantly recognisable and uplifting composition *Fanfare for the Common Man*, one of 18 such fanfares commissioned to give WW2 concerts a stirring opening...Waldteufel's bright and cheerful waltz to *Les Patineurs* (Ice Skaters)... Joplin's fizzy piano rag *The Entertainer* made famous in the 1973 movie *The Sting*... Energy and elegance in two of Strauss's hit compositions - the punchy *Radetsky March* and the instantly recognisable melody of the *Blue Danube*...Two helpings of Bernstein's gorgeous dance music from the hit 1940's Broadway show and movie *On The Town*... Offenbach's overture from his operetta about the love intrigues of the Gods with its famous 'can-can' (more properly titled the *Infernal Galop*)... The gentle lulling of *Finlandia* by Jean Sibelius... Plus sinfonia VIVA's own Graham Hall's medley *Another Openin', Another Overture* where the clue to what you will hear really is in the title!...

Great music, a great setting - a concert with something for everyone!

Please observe parking restrictions. Car Parking £5 at St. Benedict's School on Duffield Road. In the interests of safety, please do not bring barbecues, sparklers, animals (a firework display is scheduled to take place as part of the evening) tents or gazebos to the park. A torch and suitable outdoor 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, Derby City Council, Derby LIVE, sinfonia VIVA, Classic FM and Arts Council England.



Darley Park 2010 concert photo © Robert Day

Saturday 10th Sept

Market Place, Derby - event from 4.00pm
Admission FREE

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2011-09-10-derby.shtml

Triple Bop and Friends

Once again it's entertainment all the way on screen and live on stage! The Last Night of the Proms will be shown on the Big Screen direct from London's Albert Hall from 7.30pm as part of a great programme of live music in the Market Place starting at 4.00pm. The expected crowds of 'prommers' can look forward to performances on stage before the Proms and during its interval, and at the heart of these is the return between 6.15 and 7.15pm approx of VIVA's unique jazz combo 'Triple Bop' - David Ayre (Double Bass), Matt Dunn (Clarinet) and Tim Gunnell (Vibraphone) - who will be wowing the audience with their vibrant and exciting original arrangements and blistering improvisations on a selection of great tunes, paying homage to the BBC's 'Last Night' program.

The Friends joining Triple Bop to ensure things go with an extra sparkling swing tonight are Adam Mackenzie (Bassoon) and Will Todd (Piano).



BBC Proms BIG SCREENS

BBC Radio Derby's Andy Potter hosts the event which also features 1623 theatre company and includes performances by a group from Landau Forte (4.00pm), Jazz Foyer from Derby Jazz (4.45pm) and a Percussion Quartet from the Derby and Derbyshire Music Partnership (5.30pm) - timings approximate.

Marvellous music on stage and on the Big Screen! Come and join the fun!

This event is in partnership with Derby LIVE, Derby City Council, University of Derby, sinfonia ViVA, BBC and Arts Council England.

Sunday 25th Sept

Grimsby St.Hugh's Festival, Grimsby Minster, Lincolnshire at 7.30pm

Tickets: £14. Season Ticket details available shortly - contact the Caxton Theatre Box Office on 01472 346251
www.grimsby-st-hughs-festival.org.uk

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2011-09-25-grimsby.shtml

sinfonia ViVA at Grimsby St.Hugh's Festival

Mozart:	Serenade No. 13 in G Eine Kleine Nachtmusik
Arnold:	Five Pieces for Violin and Strings
Grieg:	Holberg Suite
Meredith:	Songs for the M8
Tchaikovsky:	Serenade for Strings

Benedict
Holland



Benedict Holland directs from the violin and is soloist as sinfonia ViVA - the region's only professional orchestra - makes its first ever visit to the Grimsby St.Hugh's Festival with a beautiful and varied strings programme to enjoy.

For a piece which is among Mozart's most instantly recognised and popular compositions, there is a degree of speculation about how Eine Kleine Nachtmusik came to be - possibly he was commissioned to write it, but we may never know the circumstances for certain. Originally scored for two violins, a viola and a bass, what is known is that this work of great charm was composed around the same time that Mozart was working on Don Giovanni, and it is interesting to speculate at least on the talent of a composer who could produce two works of quite different moods simultaneously. The prolific and highly successful composer Sir Malcolm Arnold's Five Pieces for Violin and Strings Op84a had its 2007 world premiere in Ivalo Church, Finland with the Chamber Orchestra of Lapland. Sadly, Arnold had not lived to hear the performance; the much-loved composer's death at the age of 85 in September 2006 representing a huge loss to the musical nation. Tonight's concert comes just two days after the 5th anniversary of his passing.

The nationalistic Edvard Grieg's 1884 Holberg Suite was written as a result of a commission to mark the bicentennial of fellow Norwegian philosopher and writer Ludvig Holberg. In its original form, he scored it for piano duet, but within a year had reworked the composition scoring it for string orchestra. It is this beautiful second incarnation of the work with its stature and elegance which has since become a firm favourite. sinfonia ViVA's award-winning Composer in the House Anna Meredith's Songs for the M8 was composed in 2005. Anna says of the piece: "These five miniatures are a sort of homage to journeys I made with my friend Sarah when I was 17 or 18 and we seemed to spend a disproportionate amount of our spare time bombing up and down the M8 in the middle of the night to and from various ill-advised indie gigs." Originally written for string quartet, in 2010 Anna was commissioned by sinfonia ViVA as part of her Composer in the House role to rework it into the string orchestra version that you will hear tonight. The work brings a bright, fresh dynamic to tonight's concert. And finally to Tchaikovsky's elegant and contemplative Serenade for Strings - very different in mood to his other famous composition of that year, the 1812 Overture!

Superb music played to the highest possible standard by the region's only professional orchestra - sinfonia ViVA!

Supported by PRS for Music Foundation, Holst Foundation, St Hugh's Foundation, NE Lincolnshire Council and Arts Council England. Anna Meredith is sinfonia ViVA's Composer in the House - a Royal Philharmonic Society and PRS for Music Foundation initiative.

STOP PRESS

Friday 23rd Sept

Bass Recreation Ground, Derby between 7.00pm and 9.00pm
Admission FREE

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2011-09-23-derby.shtml

Derby Festé: Fire Garden presented by Walk the Plank

As part of this year's 2-day Derby Festé event of which sinfonia VIVA are delighted to be part, Friday 23rd September will see a spectacular Fire Garden presented by Walk the Plank in the Bass Recreation Ground in Derby.

Performers include:

Déda Youth Performance Company Liquid and Hooked
Extreme Sports: Torch

City Arts Nottingham: Giant Chimes

Flame Oz

Students from University Arts London Diploma of Art Foundation Studies at Derby College: Firedrawings

Mechanical Menagerie: Alfonso Milanos Mechanical Marvels

Surtal Arts: Community lantern project

sinfonia VIVA



This is a very special family-friendly event involving a fabulous glowing garden of fire-based installations, performances by a wide range of artists and interactive trails which visitors can enjoy at their own pace. And as you wander through the magical Fire Garden you'll be able to enjoy the beautiful harmonies accompanying the fiery landscape with a roaming saxophone, trombone, bassoon and percussion from sinfonia VIVA!

Note: The Fire Garden is an outdoor walk, please wear suitable footwear. Performances around The Fire Garden are staggered - you are welcome to wander around in your own time.

Derby Festé is supported by East Midlands Development Agency, Derby City Council, Westfield Derby, Marketing Derby, Derby Tourism and Arts Council England. Photo credit - Walk the Plank.

STOP PRESS

Wednesday 5th Oct

Lincoln Drill Hall, 7.30pm
 Tickets: £14, (£12 concessions / £8 students) & accompanied under 16's free
 Box Office 01522 873894 www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2011-10-05-lincoln.shtml

||| sinfonia ViVA in Lincoln

Purcell/Britten:	Chacony in G minor
Vaughan Williams:	Five Variants of Dives and Lazarus
Walton:	Two Pieces from Henry V
Jenkins:	Palladio
Elgar:	Sospiri
Britten:	Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge

Benedict Holland is director as sinfonia ViVA returns to Lincoln Drill Hall with a new selection of gorgeous classics for all to enjoy.

The concert opens with what is arguably Britten's most famous arrangement of one of Purcell's compositions, the Chacony in G minor. We move on to Vaughan Williams' luscious Five Variants of Dives and Lazarus, composed in 1939 and based upon the English folk song dating back to the 1500's, itself stemming from the biblical account of the parable told by Jesus. William Walton's second world war activity involved him working for the Ministry of Information's film unit producing soundtracks for motivational films. In this capacity, the Two Pieces from Henry V featured tonight came about as part of Laurence Olivier's 1944 version of the Shakespeare play, which itself became one of the most famous of the unit's films. Classical chart-topping Welsh composer Karl Jenkins has created much music which people will have heard in different contexts, including scores for media advertising, and his piece Palladio is instantly recognisable.

After the interval we come to Elgar and Sospiri, Op.70, written just before the outbreak of WW1. Elgar changed his mind about the piece - he had thought of pairing it with Salut d'Amour - when he realised its intensity merited a life of its own. And to round off the concert in fine style, back to Britten and his 1937 musical tribute based on a theme by, and dedicated to, his eponymous teacher who he had first begun working with a decade previously.

Join sinfonia ViVA for this intriguing programme of engaging works.

Supported by Lincoln Drill Hall, Lincoln City Council, Orchestras Live and Arts Council England.



Photo: Marco Borggreve



Anyone can receive the VIVA Newsletter FREE each month to their email Inbox!
 If you know of someone who would like to do this, just get them to send a request to
info@vivaorch.co.uk and we will add them to the list!

Saturday 8th Oct

Darwin Suite, Derby Assembly Rooms, 12.30pm - 2.30pm
 Ticket details for the Festival from Derby LIVE Box Office:01322 255800

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2011-10-08-derby.shtml

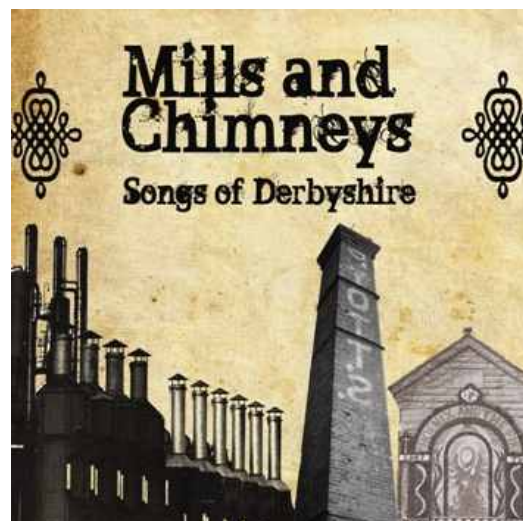
||| sinfonia ViVA at Derby Folk Festival

sinfonia ViVA, with guitarist Jack Ross, joins forces with the Mills and Chimneys ensemble (led by David Gibb and Julian Butt) for this amazing event fusing the classical with the traditional. The group will be reinterpreting original folk songs from the county as well as performing some new ones composed by them especially for this year's Derby Folk Festival.

The event launches a major nine month collaboration between sinfonia ViVA and the Mills and Chimneys ensemble which will culminate in performances involving 180 young people from the Derby and Derbyshire on stage alongside this new ensemble in June 2012.

Supported by Rolls-Royce plc, Derby City Council, Orchestras Live, Derbyshire County Council, Derby LIVE, FleetArts, sinfonia ViVA and Arts Council England.

For more details on events over the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the 2011 Derby Folk Festival, visit the Derby LIVE website at
http://www.derbylive.co.uk/Public_Event.aspx?ID=1122



GET YOUR TICKETS NOW AND BEAT THE RUSH!

sinfonia *VIVA*: **New Year's Eve Classical Gala 2011**

Saturday 31st December 2011, 7.30pm Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham

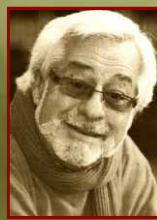
Once Upon a Time

Featuring

Prokofiev	Peter and the Wolf
Coates	Three Bears Waltz
Humperdinck	Hansel and Gretel Overture
Tchaikovsky	Waltz from Sleeping Beauty
	Polonaise from Eugene Onegin
	Trepak
	Dance of the Mirlitons
Bernstein	West Side Story selection
Porter	Kiss Me Kate medley

plus a sparkling selection of Strauss favourites !

with
Kenneth Alan Taylor
as narrator



**Book a Premium Seat and receive
a Programme plus a Bar voucher !***

Tickets: £31 to £10

*Vouchers sent with tickets and redeemable at concert on 31st December only Conditions apply - ask at time of booking

BOX OFFICE 0115 989 5555

Image: Neuschwanstein Castle, Bavaria
by Damian Hunt Photography - used by kind permission

Programme subject to change



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the backstage page

Without **Mary Hawthorne** there may not be a sinfonia ViVA today. Here, as she prepares to retire after three decades as Finance Manager, Mary takes a fond look back at the highs and lows...



After over twenty years of managing ViVA's accounts department it's now time for me to discard my abacus and retire with my knitting to my rocking chair. I can't quite believe that I've been involved with ViVA so long. Where has the time gone?

When I first became involved with the Orchestra - which was, of course, originally the East of England Orchestra, EOEO for short, (an acronym that some would say was a little too close to Eeyore) - it was somewhat of a one man band, initiated and managed with enthusiasm by Malcolm Nabarro. Board meetings were strictly kitchen table affairs and the business was administered from a small office in Clarendon Street. The Orchestra performed regularly with local choral societies and did its share of 'Last Night of the Prom' concerts although there were those who got tired of the audience's boisterous behaviour and having to avoid various missiles from the auditorium. The Orchestra was contracted by Local Authorities to play in Nottingham, Lincoln, Derby, Northampton and sometimes small venues as part of the 'Music in Quiet Places' programme. In addition, it put on its own promotions in the Albert Hall and of course started its successful New Year's Eve at the Royal Concert Hall. It also staged small education projects.

Over the last couple of decades things have changed dramatically. Local Authorities have less and less money to put into classical music. The price of contracting an orchestra has also risen, meaning that choral societies can seldom afford a professional orchestra to accompany them. Nearly all the work that the Orchestra does is on a partnership basis, with the Orchestra having to find money out of its sponsorship and grants funds to help the promoter meet the fee. Rolls-Royce has been a generous supporter for many years but other supporters are hard to find. (Football is more attractive than Mahler or new commissions). Trust funding is becoming more limited. ViVA has had to become leaner and meaner by the year.

Things have changed enormously for me. In the good old days I spent a great deal of time writing out cheques for the musicians and paying a few bills when times were prosperous and fending off impatient creditors in the bad times. There were regular visits to the bank manager in Mapperley explaining how well the Orchestra was doing and could we have just one more extension to the overdraft. Poor man, he always looked grey and exhausted but was unfailingly helpful. He died of a heart attack not long after he retired. I do hope that ViVA's rickety finances weren't the last straw.

Financially, things became more stable in the late 1990s and the angry creditors faded away. However, life has become increasingly complicated. Although we have 37 core players we employed well over 220 players last year. Every month I pay forty to eighty musicians. Then there are the soloists, composers and conductors. Sometimes there are foreign players who have then to be paid in anything from euros to rupees. Music is sometimes hired from Europe or America and that means more foreign payments too. The Inland Revenue of course has to be informed of all these payments and I'm frequently snarled up in red tape. As things become more and more hi-tech so do the invoices increase. There were always recordings but now video and lighting effects engineers are part of the package and then of course there's 'internet services' and all manner of bits and pieces for computers and the website. At least, I think that's what those invoices are for. I do

realise that a 'High Speed "Dataferry" Flash Drive is nothing to do with carferry but whatever is a IGB PC2700 DDR 333MHz200PIN? Well I'm sure you know but it's much easier to understand items such as 'chocolate digestive biscuits' for players' refreshments in the interval. The big education projects that are staged these days produce endless invoices for accommodation and train tickets for project leaders, polo shirts by the score, costumes to be hired, flowers for the soloists, champagne for the conductors, coaches for the school children and even a spinning wheel and face painter recently. There's no end to the strange invoices that land on my desk.

Less exciting are the reports and forms. As the years go by both get more complicated. It's no good trying to get away with submitting a form which owes a good deal to creative accounting and isn't quite accurate on the internet. Whatever website it is it always knows better and bossily tells you that your figures are wrong. Artistic licence doesn't apply to accounts unfortunately.

Working from home produces its own assortment of hindrances. Most important and rather disruptive are my feline aides. They've always been keen to assist and happily stroll across the computer keyboard, causing havoc to the detailed spreadsheet on the screen. Then it's time to curl up on the pile of papers that I'm working on. I remember circulating a document at a finance meeting and to my embarrassment noticing that it had been clearly stamped with a couple of paw marks. Sadly one these creatures has passed away, but the other still shows great enthusiasm for ViVA's accounts and sits beside me happily purring. Then there are friends who ring for a chat and simply don't appreciate that I have work to do. If you work from home people don't realise that it is just the same as being in an office and you can't spend hours chatting in



Keeping Her Cool:
Mary on a recent visit to Siberia

the Orchestra's time. Then there's the grandchild with a cut leg who needs a dressing (years ago I was a nurse), the arrival of a stream of 'health professionals' to visit my husband who is unwell. They're all welcome but I wish they'd let me know when they're coming! Another grandchild has just arrived with a piece of very sticky chocolate cake that she has made to counteract the awful boredom of the summer holidays.

My husband, a retired farmer, has always been a ViVA fan except when it has interfered with his meals. That could cause a major upset. For years he helpfully stuffed envelopes for me for which I'm very grateful; a stern critic, he's never had much time for new works and modern music but has been hugely appreciative of ViVA's performance of more conventional and older works.

You couldn't really describe any of this as fun; it's been more of a challenge which I've thoroughly enjoyed. Somehow I don't think I'll miss those forms or the VAT return or battling with uncooperative computers and broadband and all those time-consuming things; but I shall miss my colleagues on the management team and being part of such a lively and interesting organisation. Knitting won't be half as entertaining! I am really looking forward to attending ViVA's concerts and enjoying the music without worrying about whether it will produce a surplus or a deficit. Despite the difficult times that we are all experiencing, I'm sure ViVA will continue to develop as an excellent musical and educational resource and wish it good fortune in the coming years.



The Chief Points from Peter Helps

There hasn't been a lot of space for me to write in recent newsletters so this month I'm making good on that with a whole bunch of news items.

I want to start my piece this month by paying tribute to my colleague **Mary Hawthorne**, our Finance Manager, who retires in September.

It's difficult to find the words to properly express my gratitude for her work down the years and indeed her kindness to me since the first day I arrived at ViVA back in 1995. Headlines can be dramatic things as we all know, but when the heading (not written by Mary I add!) to her article in this newsletter says that without her, there may not have been a sinfonia ViVA, it is no exaggeration. Mary fought ViVA's corner during some very dire financial times in its early years and has continued to do so in the latest financial crisis to hit the economy in general. Without her staunch support for our plans, her skilful ongoing scrutiny of the finances and patient management of relationships with the bank, who knows what might have happened? There were

times in the first decade of the Orchestra's life when the bank would have seen ViVA wound up - and what a tragedy that would have been, given all that we have accomplished since - the countless concert audiences we have entertained, the thousands upon thousands of children and young people we have given musical opportunities to. Only with Mary's support was it possible for us to convince the bean counters to give us a second (and third) chance and for ViVA to subsequently develop into the strong, multi-faceted and widely respected arts organisation that it is today.

Mary is ViVA's longest serving member of the management team - in fact (if I do a bit of accounting) you'd have to add up the tenure of the other 5 members of staff to even come close to her length of association with us. And if she will forgive me saying; although ViVA will be the poorer for her leaving, I hope very much it is poorer in one sense only! Happy retirement from us all - players, the board and your colleagues on the management team who I know will miss you very much - and we look forward to bumping in to you at ViVA concerts!

We have contracted **Cultivate** to take over the financial management work. Cultivate was founded in 2006 and supports and develops strength and resilience, leadership and audiences in arts and cultural organisations and has gained a considerable amount of experience in this area. Our principal contact at Cultivate will be **Keren Bramman**. Keren has many years administrative and operational experience and has previously worked in both Recruitment and PR. She is also a keen art lover and has a MA in Art History & Visual Studies which she completed in 2006 at the University of Manchester. I have known her for many years and am delighted that she will be bringing her extensive skills to the Orchestra and managing our accounts.

Next, I need to mention that our fabulous **New Year's Eve Gala Concert** in Nottingham is now on sale - and already selling quickly. There's an advert earlier in this newsletter (which could double as a handy poster if you have a suitable display space!) and further information about the **Once Upon a Time** programme as well as full details of the range of ticket prices on our website at www.vivaorch.co.uk - to book tickets, contact the **Royal Centre Box Office on 0115 989 5555**, and why not ask about the popular **Premium Seat** package (conditions apply) which gets you not just a great view but a programme booklet and a £4 bar voucher? The atmosphere is always a convivial one and I know conductor **Timothy Redmond** is really looking forward to his second New Year's Eve with us after the tremendously warm welcome the audience gave him last year. In fact he is going to be writing an introduction to the concert for one of our forthcoming newsletters, so watch out for that!

Back to the ViVA office for our next news item. Education Manager **Marianne Barraclough** is, as some of you will know, going to be on maternity leave shortly with our very best wishes for the coming months, and we will have a new member of the management team joining us as her cover. **Keith Stubbs** brings with him 40 years experience of working in music education and the arts sector. Formerly CBSO Director of Learning and Participation and Past Chair of National Association of Music Educators, his recent work has included leading the DfE Music Partnership Project with the Birmingham Music Hub. Keith will be contactable on **01332 207603** and will be taking over projects already underway as well as helping us plan and prepare for the exciting events that 2012 (and beyond!) will bring. I won't say much more at this stage because Keith will be writing his own 'hello' in the near future, but suffice at this point to welcome him on behalf of the extended ViVA family and wish him a happy and interesting time with us. (The latter is just about guaranteed - things are never dull in the world of ViVA's education projects!).

Finally this month, I want to direct you to the new **Support** pages on our website at www.vivaorch.co.uk/support. The content has been completely revised by our Head of Development **Sally Anne Tye** and explains an exciting new range of ways that individuals and corporate bodies can help support the Orchestra - including new means of donating to ViVA by text and by taking advantage of internet shopping - as well as a full explanation of the various levels of donation and benefits that people can get involved with. Sally also details how Gift Aid can significantly increase the value of individuals' donations (assuming they are tax payers). We'll be advertising the new schemes to the 30,000+ crowd at Darley Park in early September, and Sally is also happy to explain further and discuss any questions you may have about choosing a level of support appropriate for you. Reach her on **01332 207566**, email sally@vivaorch.co.uk or write to **Sally Anne Tye, Head of Development, sinfonia ViVA, Beaufort Business Centre, Beaufort Street, Derby DE21 6AX** for details.

Peter Helps

ViVA receives funding from Derby City Council and Arts Council England

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sinfonia 
Principal Conductor
André de Ridder