

SSO Chair's report August 2021

As the restrictions for indoor gatherings have been gradually lifted the orchestra has taken a very cautious approach to re convening at West Park Church for rehearsal purposes. As players will know we have been running string and wind /brass rehearsals on alternate Wednesdays to keep the numbers at a maximum of twenty two players per session. These sessions, under Dave Milners magical baton, have been fabulous to attend.

A poll has been issued to players to see what the general feeling is in terms of moving to full orchestral rehearsals. 50% of the responses favoured a return to full rehearsals while a significant number were keen to continue with the sectional rehearsals. Great though the sectionals have been It will be increasingly difficult to source sufficiently challenging music for the wind and brass to sustain this system.

The committee has decided to reinstate full orchestral rehearsals at West Park Church from Wednesday 8th September and will carry out a planning meeting on site on the 1st September to determine the most effective seating plan and to amend and develop the risk analysis as appropriate.

We hope that together as an orchestra community we can all work to make full rehearsals a success, but please get in touch with me direct if there any issues that you are individually unhappy about. After such problematic times our challenge now is to re establish music making at WPC in a safe environment that everyone is comfortable with.

Ged McCormack

SSO Chair