



### New Musical Director

At the end of April, Paul Judson decided, after much consideration and with regret, to stand down as Musical Director and Principal Conductor of the orchestra. Following four years in the post, Paul unexpectedly developed problems with his hearing.

We express our gratitude to Paul for his sterling work in this position. Paul was presented with an engraved vase at the close of the July concert. Paul has accepted the post of Deputy Conductor, and has been made an honorary member of the orchestra. He will continue to play bassoon with the orchestra on a regular basis.

David Milner, from Whitley Bay, accepted our invitation to take on the responsibility for the musical side of the orchestra on 12<sup>th</sup> July. David has a long association with the orchestra, playing French horn as a guest musician on numerous occasions. We give him a warm welcome.



### Tall Ships Celebrations

The orchestra had a busy time in the summer providing entertainment for hundreds of people at the start of the week-long celebrations for the Tall Ships Race, being hosted by the city.

Seventeen members of the strings section of the orchestra played in the bandstand at Barnes Park, Sunderland, on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June, in the afternoon. This was a family fun day entitled '**Ships Ahoy**', which was organised by the West Area of the City.

Following this, our Summer concert, entitled '**Music of the Sea**', was held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July in West Park Church. Most of the music had a nautical connection.

On the following Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> July, the orchestra played in a specially built arena on the Town Moor at Hendon, Sunderland, a concert entitled '**Music for the Tall Ships**'. This evening concert had an appreciative audience seated outdoors, again in beautiful summer weather. For this performance, the orchestra was enhanced by ten members of the Royal Northern Sinfonia.

### 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday Concert Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October, in West Park Church

This was very well attended, and the Mayor of Sunderland, Councillor Lynda Scanlan was present with her consort, Micky Horswill.

This was the first concert to be devised and presided over by our new Musical Director, David Milner, who was very well received by the audience.

A letter of invitation had been sent to all previous members (all those for whom we had contact details) and previous players were invited to come back and play at this special event. Five previous members accepted the invitation to play. (David McCourt, Jane Boyd, Caitlin Williams, Laura Payne and Stephanie Brown).

Specially written for the event was a version of 'Happy Birthday'. Phil Jackson (Trumpet) composed this medley using themes and rhythms from a number of well-known pieces.

A celebratory birthday cake was provided by Alderman Mark Greenfield (Vice-President). The cake was cut by the Mayor, ably assisted by the leader of the orchestra, Judith Thompson. The audience sang 'Happy Birthday' during the ceremony, accompanied by David Mills (Chairman) on the organ. Pieces of cake were distributed throughout the audience.

### Weddings

Three members of the orchestra were married during the summer:  
Joyce Brown married Steven Hogg, Natasha Males married Jamie Kendrick,  
and Cristina Tyley married Jamie Macleod.  
We wish them all the very best for the future.

### Collaboration with Nissan UK

**Nissan Holiday Club Workshop** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August.

Ten members, under the leadership of Paul Judson, delivered a two hour afternoon concert and workshop event at Nissan, Washington. This was for 6 - 12 year olds, and continued with a nautical theme. The children were asked to dress as pirates or other sea characters and were given a varied programme of songs, games and practical music-making activities.

**Nissan Christmas Concert** Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 7-9pm.

The orchestra has been invited to perform for Nissan families at their annual Christmas musical evening.

**Nissan Summer Concert** Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

We have been invited to take part in a promenade concert in the Nissan grounds, on a large outside stage.

### Development Manager

Matthew Burge has settled into his new role, and is enthusiastically working with the orchestra committee to enhance the awareness of the orchestra throughout the local community. Among his many tasks, he is currently working to develop a new web site and has been busy photographing and recording the orchestra in action. He is also developing publicity material and education packs for our outreach programmes.

### West Park Church

We are thrilled to welcome the new owner of West Park Church, Mr. Barnaby Blacker, as a member, playing violin.

### New Music Stand Banners

The orchestra extends sincere thanks to the Sunderland City Council for continued support of the orchestra. The Community Chest provided funds for all the music stands used by the players, to be adorned with new embroidered banners. These were displayed for the first time at the 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday Concert.

### Future Concerts in West Park Church

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2018 4.00pm**      **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019 7.30pm**  
*Christmas Concert with the*                                      *Spring Concert*  
*East Herrington Primary Academy Choir*

### University of Sunderland Fresher's Event

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September a group of orchestra members had a display and stall at this large event in the University premises. Thanks to our Development Manager, Matthew Burge, for organising our participation. Interested students were invited to visit the orchestra prior to the actual rehearsal on the same night, meet the members, and partake of refreshments. Several interested students attended.