

# West Mendip Orchestra

Conductor: John Johnson

## 1st Violin

Helen Grey (leader)  
Penny Charman  
Nola Pavey  
Roger Levett  
Helen Page

## 2nd Violin

Paul Beechey  
Shirley Vickery-Mills  
Sima Madanipour  
Kayleigh Carey  
Alison Sutton

## Viola

Sheena Warman  
Christine Puddy  
Abi Miles

## Cello

Ruth Beadle  
Rachel Cullen  
Shianne Hawkins

## Double Bass

David Sutton

## Flute

Jolanta Modelska

## Flute / Piccolo

Ana Lopes

## Oboe

Stephen Bidmead  
Elizabeth Simms

## Clarinet

Jane Lincoln  
Abbe Hayward

## Bassoon

Caroline Madeley  
Adrian Targett

## French Horn

Sue Tyley  
Melanie Arnot

## Trumpet

Rob Tyley  
Sarah Alsop

## Trombone

Jo Jenkins  
Adrian Warman

## Timpani

Pam Bryant

## Future Events



2024 is the West Mendip Orchestra's 50th year

**Next Concert:** Friday 22nd March 2024 at 7.45pm  
St Nicholas Church Uphill, Uphill Road South, Uphill  
Weston super Mare, BS23 4SD

**Programme:** Suppe—Light Cavalry Overture  
Elgar—3 Bavarian Dances  
J Strauss—Emperor Waltz  
Volkman—Symphony No 1



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<http://www.west-mendip-orchestra.org.uk/index.html>  
<https://www.facebook.com/westmendiporchestra/>



# West Mendip Orchestra

John Johnson Director of Music

Helen Grey Leader



## Concert Programme

Brahms

Elgar

Waldteufel

Holst

Rimsky Korsakov

Tragic Overture

Two Chansons: Nuit and Matin

The Skater's Waltz

Marching Song

Symphony No 1

Saturday 25th November 2023 at 7.30pm

St Mary's Church, Yatton BS49 4HH

In conjunction with Yatton Music Society



[www.west-mendip-orchestra.org.uk](http://www.west-mendip-orchestra.org.uk)

Yatton Music Society [www.yms.org.uk](http://www.yms.org.uk)



## PROGRAMME

### *Tragic Overture Op 81*

*Johannes Brahms 1833-1897*

Brahms wrote two orchestral overtures, practically at the same time: the Academic Festival Overture Op 80, which was a consciously jolly piece, written as a tribute to Breslau University which had given him an honorary doctorate, and the Tragic Overture Op 81, a much more melancholic piece. It is not a deep-down black tragedy, and was not composed with any specific drama in mind. It is simply a piece for orchestra of a deliberately serious nature, which some commentators have suggested exhibits Brahms's stoic resignation in the face of life and fate. The form is quite straightforward: three main themes worked through; a middle section in the form of a march based on the first of them; and a restatement leading to a coda of formidable dark force.

### *Two chansons: Nuit and Matin Sir Edward Elgar 1857- 1934 (arr. R Ling)*

Two short pieces originally composed for violin and piano or small orchestra and orchestrated for full orchestra by Elgar in 1901. Chanson de Matin is the more well-known but Chanson de Nuit is in many ways the more carefully crafted and delicate composition. They were first performed together by Sir Henry Wood in September 1901.

### *The Skater's Waltz – (Les Patineurs)*

*Émile Waldteufel 1837 – 1915*

The Skater's Waltz – or Les Patineurs – was written in 1882 and was inspired by the rink of skaters at the Bois de Boulogne in Paris, an event depicted in an 1868 painting by August Renoir. The work has featured in a number of films, notably Chariots of Fire and Rocketman, and its composer Émile Waldteufel dominated the musical scene in London in the late 1800's winning favour with the Prince of Wales, who was later to become King Edward VII.

### *Marching Song Opus 22 No.2*

*Gustav Holst 1874-1934 (arr. R Ling)*

This is the second part of a composition called "Two Songs without words". Along with the first part "Country Song" it was composed in 1906 and dedicated to Ralph Vaughan Williams. It is, as one commentator has written, "vintage Holst, tuneful and engaging".

## INTERVAL

### *Symphony No 1 Op 1*

*Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov 1844-1908*

Rimsky-Korsakov composed this work between 1861 and 1865 and it was premiered in December 1865. The composer revised the work nearly twenty years later, in 1884. It is written in the traditional four movements, and because it contains Russian folk and oriental melodies it has been dubbed the First "Russian Symphony." Emily Melendes of "The Orchestra Now" writes, "The piece brims with youthful exuberance and pizzazz, and while perhaps lacking the sophisticated compositional mastery of his later works, it tells a tale of adventure and discovery, one rife with Russian identity and tender recollections of home. From the bombastic statement of the first movement, to the swelling sincerity of the second, the frenzied energy of the Scherzo, and the densely packed resplendence of the fourth movement, Rimsky-Korsakov's Symphony No. 1 is a treat".

*Programme notes by Adrian Targett*

### *John Johnson - Conductor*



John studied piano and composition at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and at the University of Reading. He has recently retired from a 40 year career in music education which included a Head of Creative Arts role at the Kings of Wessex Academy in Cheddar and at Priory Community School Academy, Weston, where he supported and tutored PCGE, School Direct trainees and ECTs. He is also an Honorary Accompanist for Weston Operatic Society and has MD'd a number of shows for them, winning an award for Best Musical Director for 'Crazy for You' in 2015. He is also the musical director of the Cameo Orchestra, based in Warmley, and Eclectic Voices, a local chamber choir. In 2021 we were delighted when John accepted the role of Musical Director of the West Mendip Orchestra.