



Maidstone
Wind Symphony

MYTHS & LEGENDS:

music inspired by storytelling and sorcery



SATURDAY, 19th OCTOBER 2024

WELCOME



Thank you for joining us for Maidstone Wind Symphony's first concert of the 2024/25 season.

Sound and stories have long gone hand in hand, as music is such a powerful tool for bringing tales and adventures to life.

For this concert, I wanted to explore how composers have used music to retell famous myths, legends and fairytales.

Given the time of year, it seemed appropriate to pick several pieces with a spooky or mystical theme – music is a wonderful tool for creating eeriness and suspense!

Of course, I am not the only person who understands the deep rooted link between music and storytelling. Many of the pieces you will hear tonight have been featured as accompanying music to famous adverts, television shows and films. In fact, two pieces – The Sorcerer's Apprentice and Night on Bald Mountain – feature in Fantasia, Walt Disney's ode to classical music and animation. I hope you enjoy this evening and find our performance atmospheric.

We'll be back performing at Maidstone Grammar School for Girls on Saturday, 7th December for a very special concert raising funds for Heart of Kent Hospice. We'll be joined by Maidstone Choral Union and Maidstone Voices for a wonderful celebration of Christmas music, divided into two performances: a shorter, relaxed family concert at 4pm and a candlelit evening concert at 7pm. I really hope you can join us; more information about how to book tickets can be found on Maidstone Wind Symphony's website.

Roger Graham
Music Director
Maidstone Wind Symphony

WE'RE LOOKING FOR NEW PLAYERS!

Do you play a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument to grade 7+ standard?

Would you like to play exciting, challenging music in a friendly and relaxed environment?

Come and join Maidstone Wind Symphony!



We rehearse on Tuesdays from 7:30-9:30pm (term time only) at Invicta Grammar School, ME14 5DS.



COME ALONG TO OUR NEXT REHEARSAL!
EMAIL CHAIRMAN@MAIDSTONEWINDSYMPHONY.ORG FOR DETAILS



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PROGRAMME

Night on Bald Mountain (Mussorgsky)

Ghosts (McNeff)

- 1. The Haunting**
- 2. The Gray Lady**
- 3. The Dog of Godley**
- 4. The Bank of England Clerk**
- 5. The Girl in The Tower**
- 6. The Oldham Coliseum Ghost**
- 7. The Blackpool Tram**
- 8. The Polish Sailor**
- 9. Chorale**

The Witch and the Saint (Reineke)

Danse Macabre (Saint-Saëns)

INTERVAL

Pinocchio – 4th Movement (Ferran)

The Sorcerer's Apprentice (Dukas)

Dragon Fight (Schwartz)

In the Hall of the Mountain King (Grieg)

Harry Potter Symphonic Suite (Williams)



PROGRAMME NOTES

Night on Bald Mountain (Mussorgsky)

Mussorgsky composed *Night on Bald Mountain* in 1867 after being inspired by a story written by Russian author Nicolai Gogol about a gathering of witches and the processions of Satan.

He wrote the original version in just 12 days, however the piece was reworked several times during his career – first as part of an opera, *Mlada*, which was never finished, and as an intermexxo in the opera *Sorochinsky Fair*.

Despite its multiple appearances, *Night on Bald Mountain* was never performed during Mussorgsky's lifetime, and only received its public debut five years after his death thanks to his friend and roommate, Rimsky-Korsakov. Rimsky-Korsakov wrote an orchestral arrangement of the piece, shortening Mussorgsky's original work and creating a softer ending, creating a piece that has become world famous.

Ghosts (McNeff)

Ghosts is a theme and variations in nine movements, starting with a haunting, followed by seven episodes suggesting famous ghosts and other spectral occurrences.

The spirits that feature in *ghosts* include The Gray Lady, who left money in her will that was never repaid, and she now haunts the churchyard of St Giles, Oxford; a dog as big as a bull that can vanish and reappear at free will; a Bank of England cashier who stood at nearly eight foot tall and is supposedly buried inside the bank to thwart thieves; and the Oldham Coliseum ghost, killed in a sword fight during a performance of *Macbeth*.

The piece concludes with a chorale to lay the ghosts to rest. But perhaps they still walk...

The Witch and the Saint (Reineke)

The Witch and the Saint is a symphonic tone poem for wind band. It depicts the story of twin sisters born in 1588 in Ellwangen, Germany. As the sisters grew up, it became clear that they had the gift of second sight and could predict future events.

One of the sisters, Sybilla, was looked down upon and considered to be a witch. The other sister, Helena, sent to a convent as a child, was revered as a Saint because of her visions. Eventually Sybilla is imprisoned and Helena returns to the town to save her sister. As they are trying to escape, the sisters are captured and, in fear of being burnt at the stake, Helena drinks some poison. She dies in her sister's arms and Sybilla rides off in sorrow.

Danse Macabre (Saint-Saëns)

This piece, originally written for orchestra, is one of four tone poems that Saint-Saëns composed in the 1870s. Danse Macabre started life as a song that Saint-Saëns composed two years earlier, which he then reworked and expanded.

The song's text vividly describes the figure of death scraping on his violin at midnight, cold winds blowing, as skeleton dancers leap, their bones cracking. The ghostly dance ends at dawn, heralded by a solo oboe depicting the cockerel's crow.

Pinocchio (Ferran)

The Adventures of Pinocchio is a literary classic, created by Carlo Collodi, brought to life in music through Ferrer Ferran's four-movement symphonic suite Pinocchio. Tonight, Maidstone Wind Symphony will perform the fourth movement, which begins as Pinocchio finds himself in a beautiful land full of light. In the streets there is such joy; the town squares are filled with canvas theatres, huge carousel horses and big wheels. But within a short while, Pinocchio becomes a donkey and is thrown into the sea.

When the fairy sees Pinocchio is about to drown she sends a shoal of fish to eat away the donkey flesh. Happy to be a wooden puppet again, Pinocchio swims as hard as he can toward a white rock, but he is chased by a monster and then swallowed by a dogfish. Whilst in the stomach of the dogfish he is reunited with his beloved father, Geppetto. Pinocchio and Geppetto run out at the dogfish's mouth and escape. As a reward for his good behaviour, the fairy turns him back into a boy again.

The Sorcerer's Apprentice (Dukas)

The Sorcerer's Apprentice is a symphonic poem completed in 1897. Subtitled "Scherzo after a ballad by Goethe", the piece was based on Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's 1797 poem of the same name.

The piece tells a story of a magician's apprentice who experiments with his master's magic formula and transforms a broomstick into a robot. The broom begins draining water from the well and filling all the pitchers in the house, but unfortunately, the broom gets carried away. The room is flooded, and the apprentice forgets the stopping formula to end the spell.

In desperation, the apprentice splits the broom in two, but now both parts begin carrying water and the flooding increases. After hearing his apprentice's cry for help, the sorcerer returns, speaking the magic word and so the calamity is averted.

This incredible story was brought to life through animation by Walt Disney in the 1940 masterpiece, Fantasia, which was updated and re-released in 2000. Disney had originally intended The Sorcerer's Apprentice to be a short, standalone cartoon, but when production costs exceeded what it was expected to make at the Box Office, he decided to include it in a feature-length film featuring multiple pieces of classical music. Fantasia is widely regarded as one of the best animations of all time, and The Sorcerer's Apprentice remains the most famous segment.

Dragon Fight (Schwartz)

At the best viewpoint over the Alps of Liechtenstein lies the village of Gufлина. At this viewpoint there's an overhanging mountain ledge, and legend says there is a cave inside, which is home to a terrible dragon. The dragon rampaged through the surrounding meadows, spreading fear among the local population.

At the same time there lived a giant man up in Gufлина who had the strength of 12 normal men. The farmers employed him to protect them from the dragon, so he lay in wait above the cave.

When the dragon refused to appear, the giant threw stones into the entrance of the cave to entice him out. A long fight ensued, which the giant won, and since that day, the people of Gufлина have lived in peace and prosperity. This nailbiting story has been brought to life through the music of Otto M Schwartz.

In the Hall of the Mountain King (Grieg)

Grieg's Peer Gynt, incidental music to Henrik Ibsen's 1867 play about a young boy who falls in love with a girl but is not allowed to marry her, is one of the most famous classical works in history. Tonight, Maidstone Wind Symphony performs In The Hall of the Mountain King from Act II, scene VI, which Grieg later extracted as the final movement of his Peer Gynt Suite No. 1.

After being forced to leave home for being untrustworthy, Peer finds himself in the Hall of the Mountain King, where he is captured by trolls. He upsets the King of the trolls when he refuses to marry his daughter and become a troll. He runs from the trolls and barely makes it out!

Harry Potter Symphonic Suite (Williams)

John Williams is perhaps the most famous film music composer of our time, and he was nominated for both a Grammy and an Academy Award for his score for Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. This suite, based on the original film score, runs continuously, but the music falls into six distinct sections:

Hedwig's theme – a lilting theme for flight and travel, used notably in the film when the owls arrive at Harry's home to summon him to Hogwarts School. The film's Director, Christopher Columbus, comments "I remember first hearing Hedwig's Theme, it was so clear that this was it. It felt so appropriate, sufficiently majestic and magical."

Nimbus 2000 – a mischievous movement depicting broomstick practice.

Hogwarts Forever! – a majestic tune characterising the turreted school and its moving staircases.

Quidditch – a fanfare-like theme on brass to accompanying the bristling excitement of the quidditch game.

Leaving Hogwarts – a rich and yearning segment, full of love and affection to represent Harry's connection to Hogwarts, love, family bonds, and the magical world

Harry's Wonderous World – one of Williams' most iconic themes, Harry's Wonderous World is lyrical and triumphant.

MAIDSTONE WIND SYMPHONY

Conductor: Roger Graham
Leader: Andrew Smith

Piccolo

Anita Lane

Flute

Sam Woulds
Isabel Withey
Emily Halford
Kathryn Lakeland
Victoria Reed
Holly White

Oboe/Cor Anglais

Caroline Lovett
Rachel Girt

Clarinet

Andrew Smith
Karen Bourdillon
Chelsea Groome
Lynne Bancroft
Kim Baker
Richard Harvey
Sarah Booker
Beverly Ingleton
Lisa Dolman
Sam Graham

Bass Clarinet

Bridgett Jeffrey

Saxophone

Liz Raja-Rayan
Ian Harby
Eve Lloyd
Jennifer Sturman
Max Tindal

Bassoon

Rosemary Moore
Ian Pawlik

French Horn

Simon Phillips
Tracey McDonald
Ian Stott

Trumpet

Kevin Ashman
Paris Stevenson
David Cooper
Nicholas Hingley

Trombone

Vicky Starling
Graeme Boyd
Nigel McDonald

Euphonium

Liam Bennett

Tuba

Josh Bennett

Percussion

Peter Ashwell
Charles Gibson
Ava Kinninmonth



ABOUT MWS

Maidstone Wind Symphony (MWS) is one of the UK's leading amateur wind ensembles. We are a friendly and ambitious group that is proud to champion contemporary wind band music.

MWS was founded in 1998 by Brendon Le Page. Since then, the band has continued to flourish under the leadership of Jeremy Cooper, Jonathan Crowhurst, and our current Music Director, Roger Graham, who was appointed in 2019.

We welcome non-professional musicians from across the South East that play to grade 7-8+ standard.



MWS has collaborated with many of the world's finest wind and brass soloists including Brett Baker (trombone), Andy Findon (flute), Steven Mead (euphonium), Les Neish (tuba), Alistair Penman (saxophone) & Rex Richardson (trumpet).

We have also performed with other music ensembles including BAE Systems Brass Band, Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers, Byneset Musikkorps, Eynsford Concert Band, Faversham Choral Society, Frysk Fanfare Orkestr, Kent Academy of Musical Theatre, Maidstone Choral Union, The Medway Band, New Line Learning Academy and The Maidstone Singers.



Maidstone Wind Symphony has released three recordings: *Slide Projections* (2012), *Roar!* (2017), and *A Christmas Festival* (2018).

We are a registered charity (No. 1156003) and all proceeds from the sale of concert tickets goes directly to supporting the band's development and future performances.

If you would like to support us further, we welcome charitable donations. Please email chairman@maidstonewindsymphony.org if you are interested in becoming a patron of the band.

For more information on MWS visit maidstonewindsymphony.org.



**Heart
of Kent
Hospice**



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday 7 December
Maidstone Grammar School for Girls
Family performance | 4:00pm – 5:00pm
Evening performance | 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Join us for a magical candlelit concert that will immerse you in the festive spirit. The event will feature special guests and friends of Heart of Kent Hospice. You will enjoy performances from the Maidstone Wind Symphony, Maidstone Choral Union and Maidstone Voices. The concert will include popular Christmas carols and festive cheer. Additionally, you can indulge in mulled wine and mince pies and pick up some Christmas gifts from our pop-up Christmas charity shop.

To find out more visit:
hokh.org/christmas-concert



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