

# Ely Sinfonia

## Director's Report - 2019/20

Autumn 2019 started auspiciously with our normal rehearsal run up to the concert on September 21st - with not a hint of Pandemic in the air!!

And what an excellent concert it was: The return of Martin Roscoe had been long awaited, and his rendition of the Shostakovich 2nd piano concerto was full of life - exciting and enjoyable. Sandwiched by popular symphonies by Mozart and Beethoven, this was a concert enjoyed by players and audience alike, and the orchestra were able to add another Beethoven symphony toward having done the complete cycle,

Sadly - and unbeknown to us all at the time - this was to be our last full concert for quite a while.....

In January 2020, when Covid was just beginning to spread, we were able to hold our annual, and very well attended, Workshop day. We had decided to limit numbers somewhat since the previous year, but still had an excellent turn out to work through Rachmaninov's superb 2nd symphony. About 90 players enjoyed a full day culminating in our usual informal performance.

And then.....well you all know what happened next!

It was decided quite early on to basically take a year out and return (hopefully!) in 2021 with the same programmes we had planned for 2020. This was an eminently sensible plan which I was in full agreement with.

So we are all looking forward to a resumption of activities in the spring of 2021, with Mahler, a brand new violin concerto and much more to look forward to during the year.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the ES committee for all their work, and to wish everyone the very best: I hope you have all kept safe during this weird time, and that I will see you all again next year for some excellent and enjoyable music-making.

In 1970 American composer George Crumb ended the score of his iconic Quartet "Black Angels" with the words in tempore belli - in time of war. And so I thought I would sign off below in somewhat similar fashion! (though probably with the wrong grammar! Any Latin scholars out there?)

Steve Bingham  
Artistic Director, Ely Sinfonia

28th September 2020 - in tempore pandemus