



# ELY SINFONIA

Volume 13, Issue 1

Hon President Raphael Wallfisch

Date: July 2021

## Forthcoming Events

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**7:30pm, Ely Cathedral**

Brahms: *Symphony No. 4*  
Weber: *Invitation to Dance*  
Colin Riley: *Stream-Shine* - a world premiere.

### **Tickets Details**

£25 (Premium reserved)

£18/£15 (reserved)

£8 unreserved

Conc £15 in £18 seats

**Friends' Password will be sent to FES members**

Ely Cathedral Box Office

Tel: 01353 660349

<https://tickets.elycathedral.org/>

Ely Sinfonia Enquiries

Tel: 01353 721007

Mob: 07798 826880

**Why not visit our website?**

[www.elysinfonia.co.uk](http://www.elysinfonia.co.uk)

### **Editors**

Charlotte Dean & Laura Millman

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## ***Welcome Back!***

What a tangible sense of excitement there was on 10 July 2021 for orchestra and audience alike to be sharing live music again after 16 long months of covid-19 lockdowns and constraints! Certain restrictions still remained, but play we did, and it gave great pleasure to all concerned.

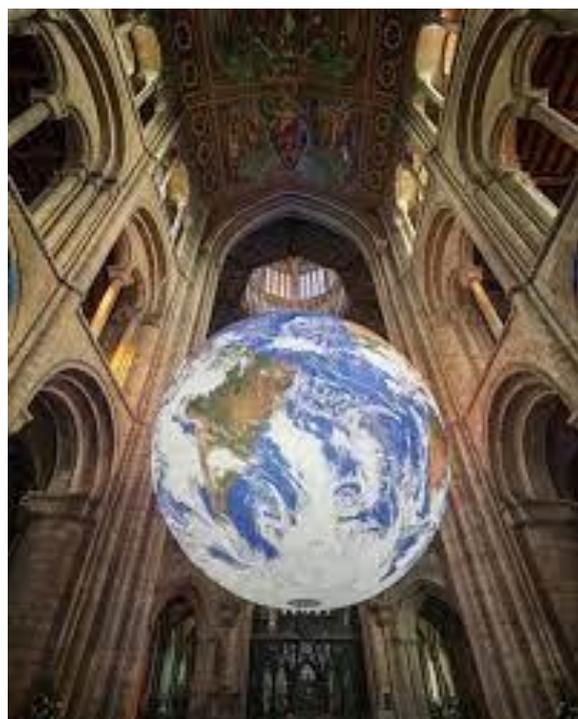
We are most grateful to Elaine Hendrie for her account below, and for the feedback of some of the Friends who managed to obtain tickets in the reduced, socially distanced audience. It was a new experience also for the players to be socially distanced, and we rehearsed in 'bubbles'.

Being live-streamed by the cathedral was another first, allowing those who could not attend to gain an idea of the occasion. You can watch it [here](#). The cathedral has expressed appreciation of the donation of the proceeds to its Music Fund.

This newsletter features two main characters: the orchestra and the covid pandemic. We hope for more of the former and less of the latter come January's edition. Meantime, thank you so much for continuing to support us through these difficult times during which we have all come to appreciate what Ely Sinfonia means to us: a vital community in itself, and one that has emerged even stronger for being in cold storage for such a painfully long time.

Details of our concert on **25 September** appear in the usual box to the left. We are already making arrangements for rehearsals and look forward to welcoming you back for a wonderful programme – undistracted by the magnificent but (temporarily) slowly deflating Gaia!

Charlotte Dean



**Gaia** by Luke Jerram

## LIVE ORCHESTRAL MUSIC RETURNS TO ELY CATHEDRAL

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021

It was a delight to be back watching live music again and Ely Cathedral lends itself extremely well to socially distanced performances, for which we can forgive its slightly airy acoustics. The sound carried beautifully to the rear, where I was seated, perhaps aided by the enormous Gaia installation!

Ely Sinfonia produced a smooth and cohesive programme this evening; there was absolutely no evidence of having been unable to rehearse together over the past 15 months.

**Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll*** is always a lovely start to an evening; Steve Bingham took it at a bright and unsentimental pace which allowed the gentle, rich harmonies to shine through. Special mention to the clarinets and to the French horns for their warm and sensitive approach.

The **Haydn Cello Concerto no 2** is not a piece I know well, but then he did write quite a lot, did Haydn. Like Mozart, Haydn is deceptively tricky for an orchestra, requiring crisp tidy playing with absolutely no self-indulgence and constant attention to detail.



Soloist Joshua Lynch

The lovely sound of Joshua Lynch was well balanced by the pared down orchestra, and the whole piece came across with quiet composure in the face of fiendish notes. There is quite the spirited cadenza in the first movement, after which a calm and warm second movement, segueing seamlessly into the hummable final movement, the very epitome of a rondo.

All in all, it was a happy piece, played with confidence, and even eliciting a whoop from the audience.

For the final piece, **Beethoven Symphony no 1**, the orchestra strengthened its forces. We're hurtling towards the Classical Period here.

Beethoven sets his stall with held oboe notes, beautifully played here, and the calling and answering phrases were nicely balanced. Steve Bingham brings out the best from this truly diverse band of players.

The second movement starts with a lonely opening which was tackled confidently by the strings, and throughout there was crisp and sensitive playing, again giving the impression that this is an orchestra in which the players know each other well. The

peregrine falcons chose to sing along at this point.

For the third movement Steve drove the orchestra onwards, keeping up much needed pace without panicking the players. It had all the exuberance of summer.

And then it was the fourth movement, a teasing start, well-judged, and finally time for the timps to shine! This was a rousing finale to a joyous concert.

Thanks to Ely Sinfonia for bringing such pleasure to a very appreciative audience on a warm summer's evening.

## And what did our FES members think of the concert?

"I wanted to say how much we enjoyed the concert. It was so joyous to be back hearing live music in the lovely setting of the cathedral. It felt like an extra treat to be part of the small social distanced audience. We've both watched the recording during the week which made the evening last longer too. Many thanks to all of the musicians for a lovely evening."

"I really enjoyed it - apart from the masks, that is!"

"The concert was lovely and so appreciated"

"It was wonderful. Super cellist, sweet agile light touch, and the octagon is always uplifting"

"Super concert. Well done!"



## FES SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2021-22

Friends' subscriptions (£15 per person) for the next orchestral year become due in August/September. However, due to the still uncertain situation, it has been decided to keep subscriptions for the Friends voluntary for another year. The current group list of FES will carry forward, so you will continue to receive information and advance notice for priority bookings.

If you DID wish to subscribe (and many of you are very loyal) you can do so either by internet banking:

Sort code: 40-20-38 (HSBC)

Bank A/c: 61215582

Ref: Fsub +your surname (or as much of your name as fits)

[if subscribing by internet banking, **PLEASE also** let me know by email [charlotte-dean@talktalk.net](mailto:charlotte-dean@talktalk.net) that you have done this]

Or, if you prefer to write, send a cheque payable to **Ely Sinfonia** to me:

Charlotte Dean, FES Secretary, 38 Dovehouse Close, Ely, Cambs CB7 4BY.

Whichever method you use, we are most grateful to you.