

Settle Orchestra: Memories from the last 40 years

An exhibition at the Museum of North Craven Life, 2007

**SETTLE
ORCHESTRAL
SOCIETY**



The Dales Market town of Settle has a long tradition of music making including the musical friendship of Dr Buck and Edward Elgar, the Zion Chapel Orchestra, the Giggleswick Church Orchestra and productions of Gilbert and Sullivan Operettas which led to Settle Choral Society. Settle Orchestra developed from an ad hoc group who were part of the Settle Operatic Society's production in 1967. Number of players gradually increased from 8 who tackled a symphony to present day membership of 50 plus! We have two founder members still in the Orchestra who must have enjoyed playing hundreds of pieces of classical music. Throughout the 40 years the Orchestra has been a community orchestra with the emphasis on the inclusion of young players, many of whom have progressed to a musical career. There has been a strong link with schools and music centres. We have performed special schools

concerts and organised workshops, a concerto day and a training scheme for young double bass players. Highlights over the years include a concert in 1976 for the centenary of the Settle-Carlisle Railway, and playing in Settle market place to commemorate the association of Dr Buck and Edward Elgar. Recently we have joined the Richmondshire Orchestra to study and perform the Sibelius 2nd Symphony in a day, conducted by Simon Wright. We particularly enjoy joining our friends in the Langcliffe Singers with whom we have performed Opera Galas, the Magic Flute, the Yeoman of the Guard, Verdi Requiem and Elijah and we look forward to our Summer "Last Night of the Proms" concert in 2007 to round off our celebration year.

List of Orchestral Conductors and Leaders

Conductors

1967 Michael Ashcroft
1968 Maurice Pearce
1969-1990 Arthur Butterworth
1991 Peter Young
1991 Alan White
1992 Howard Rogerson

Leaders

1967-1974 Amy Birkbeck
1974 Joyce Haigh
1975-1977 Eileen Riddiough

1978 Ralph Barker
1978-1979 Julia Quarmby
1980 Jon Buchan
1981-1982 Mandy Wilson
1983 Mary Rafferty
1983-1988 Brian Carlile
1988 Wendy Cann
1989 Brian Carlile
1989 Julia Quarmby
1990 Barry Gommersall
1990 David Fuller
1990 Wendy Cann
1991-2000 Anne Heaton
2001 Kenneth Mitchell
2002 Tracy Keely

As part of the Settle Orchestra anniversary celebrations, Settle Orchestra will be playing in the Museum on Sunday July 8th, and 5th, 12th & 19th of August 2007.