

# emg Symphony Orchestra

Exeter University Great Hall

in aid of  
**shelter BOX**

21st November 2009  
7.30pm  
plus pre-concert talk

emg Symphony Orchestra presents

**RAVEL**  
Bolero

**GRIEG**  
Piano Concerto

**BRAHMS**  
Hungarian Dances  
Symphony No2 in D

Alexandra Dariescu  
soloist

Marion Wood  
conductor

Clare Smith  
soloist

www.emgsymphonyorchestra.org

## November 2009 concert what you missed



Above: Gillian Taylor with saw  
Left: Marion Wood and Orchestra tune up to Shelterbox plate

Dreadful weather forecasts combined with widely publicised parking problems left many of us approaching the evening of the concert with some apprehension. Would the audience actually turn up? ...or would the good citizens of Devon and Exeter do the sensible thing and stay at home wrapped up warm with a nice cup of Horlicks? In the event we needn't have worried. It was alright on the night and a good time was had by all.

Anyone who didn't attend Marion Wood's pre-concert talk missed a gem. Marion introduced and discussed the pieces of the concert with knowledge and erudition, illustrated with some beautiful visual metaphors, and observations which placed the pieces in their wider historical context.

EMGSO concerts always support a specific charity, and this time it was the turn of Shelterbox. Their high profile work distributing the ubiquitous green boxes containing many of the items necessary for disaster relief had led to a chance observation by violinist Gillian Taylor that maybe the Orchestra could play the contents of a Shelterbox. The result of this was Concerto for Shelterbox D-141 and Orchestra, a 2½ minute piece composed by Marion Wood, utilising such diverse items from the box as a saw (played superbly and hauntingly by Gillian Taylor), and of course the percussion section were let loose on a hoe, pots, pans, plates, cups and the iconic green box itself. John McAvoy, Drew McGilchrist, Christine Lewry and Nigel Brown really gave it their all. Amazing.



Above: The percussion section on their metal  
 Right: Alexandra Dariescu  
 Below: Bolero!



Brahms Hungarian Dances were an absolute delight. Orchestra leader Clare Smith and the string section extracted the very best from the beautiful melodies. It was very interesting to hear an amateur symphony orchestra perform Brahms' lesser known Symphony No.2 in D. It is always a difficult decision to choose between popular pieces which will ensure the viability of the concert, whilst pushing the envelope and persuading the audience to listen to pieces they might not otherwise attend. The EMGSO deserves full recognition for its attempts in this direction.

The "Torvill and Dean" music was always going to be a winner. In the same way that World Cup football has immortalised Nessun Dorma, then our Gold medal in the 1984 Olympics brought Ravel's Bolero to a much wider audience. Who can listen to this now without seeing lilac Lycra? The Orchestra soon really got into their stride, and it was good to see Tom Lambert back on cor anglais. Other performances of particular note were Cathy Clements on flute and John McAvoy on snare drum. 24-year-old Alexandra Dariescu gave a spirited rendering of Grieg's Piano Concerto. Pianist and orchestra were in total harmony and the emotion of the original score was palpable. We are very privileged to see performances by such talented young people, and much of this must be

put down to the EMGSO's links with the Young Concert Artists Trust.

If you missed this concert, you missed a really good night out, and no amount of wind and rain could dampen the enthusiasm of the audience. The fact we have a local amateur symphony orchestra which has the energy and leadership to pull off these major concerts and attract young international talent is a huge tribute to the Orchestra, the committee and the dynamic leadership of Marion Wood.

Be sure to tell your friends about our next concert because without you, our audience, the concerts and our support for deserving causes simply won't happen. Thank you for your support, we look forward to seeing you in April.

