

Norwich Philharmonic Society

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release



Norwich Philharmonic Orchestra appoints New Principal Conductor

Following his stunning debut conducting the Norwich Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus in a sell-out performance of Mahler's monumental Resurrection Symphony earlier this month, the Norwich Philharmonic Society is delighted to announce the appointment of **Matthew Andrews** as the orchestra's new Principal Conductor.

Music-lovers in Norwich are still talking about that concert on 6th November at St Andrews Hall which involved 260 performers massed on a specially enlarged stage – the combined forces of the Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus augmented by musicians and singers from numerous other local orchestras and choirs. Matthew Andrews' triumphant debut made such an impressive impact on players and audience alike, the Society had no hesitation in appointing him Principal Conductor with immediate effect.

Matt's next engagement with the orchestra is on 4th December at St Andrews Hall when he conducts the Beethoven Violin Concerto with soloist Natalie Shaw. He will then work with the orchestra preparing them for their performance of Brahms Requiem with the Phil Chorus and Koblenz Musik-Insitut Choir on 19 March 2011. His next public appearances then follow in the 2011/12 season.

Matthew Andrews said: "It was a rare privilege to conduct Mahler's 'Resurrection' Symphony and a real pleasure to do so with performers as talented and enthusiastic as the Norwich Phil. I am honoured and delighted to be appointed as the orchestra's new Principal Conductor. We are looking forward to collaborating on some exciting programmes in coming seasons that will rival the quality (and perhaps the spectacle!) of the Mahler, and continuing the Phil's 170-year contribution to the musical life of the city."

Chairman of the Norwich Philharmonic Society, Caroline Jarrold said: "We are very fortunate to secure the services of a young conductor who is not only very gifted but who has already established such a terrific rapport with the orchestra. I know our audiences can expect some wonderful music-making in concerts and seasons to come!"

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Notes to Editors

Matthew Andrews www.matthewandrews.net

Matthew Andrews is a graduate of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, where he studied composition, piano and conducting technique.

Matt has a rapidly growing reputation as an orchestral conductor and trainer. His recent debut with the Norwich Philharmonic Orchestra conducting Mahler's 'Resurrection' Symphony led to his immediate appointment as Principal Conductor, a post he also holds with both the Sudbury and Southend Symphony Orchestras.

Recent guest performances were given with West Forest Sinfonia (Tippett's Fantasia Concertante) and at the Manchester Jazz Festival 2010 premiering Neil Yates' Surroundings. Matt has also conducted the Northern Sinfonia, Amadeus Orchestra, North London Chorus (Artistic Director 2000-02), Camden Chamber Orchestra, Opera Lab, Colne Philharmonic Orchestra, Essex Youth Orchestra and has returned to the Guildhall as a guest teacher of orchestral conducting technique.

He was assistant to composer Geoffrey Burgon, recording Merciless Beauty with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields and the BAFTA award-winning soundtrack of Longitude with the Philharmonia Orchestra.

Matt is also a successful arts consultant. He has managed and advised on more than sixty major national and international projects in education, broadcasting and the performing arts. Clients include McKinsey & Company for whom he created and directs the McKinsey European Music Festival in Kitzbühel, now in its sixth year.

Matt was the recipient of an award from the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts.

The Norwich Philharmonic Society

The Norwich Philharmonic Society - www.norwichphil.org.uk - has been a focus for high-quality amateur music-making in Norwich since its first performance in 1841. Between them the Philharmonic Chorus and Orchestra give 5 concerts a year from a diverse repertoire, giving pleasure to audiences and Society members alike.

In the absence of regular professional symphony concerts in Norwich, the Philharmonic has a vital role to play in the musical life of the city and its wider area, giving performances of a consistently high standard and attracting strong support from local music lovers for its concerts at St Andrews Hall.

The Norwich Philharmonic Orchestra (leader, Dominic Hopkins) is one of the UK's leading amateur orchestras and certainly one of the longest established. Made up of talented non-professional, semi-professional and former professional musicians, the orchestra is

acclaimed for its performances of major works from the symphonic repertoire and its work with gifted guest soloists who are the rising stars of the concert world.

The Norwich Philharmonic Chorus, which has around 120 members, is directed by David Dunnett, the principal organist for Norwich Cathedral and an acclaimed trainer of singers and chorus master.

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