

In Celebration of Beethoven's 250th Birthday

Streamed Performances of Beethoven's Symphonies

The acclaimed period instrument group The Hanover Band, itself celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, was due to hold afternoon schools workshops and early evening performances of all nine Beethoven symphonies in a number of Livery halls and churches to mark Beethoven's 250th birthday this year. The Clothworkers, Drapers, Goldsmiths, Grocers, Ironmongers, Leathersellers, Pattenmakers and Stationers were all involved in this. As you are aware, the Covid-19 pandemic made this impossible: some events in the series were postponed to the autumn, but now the whole series is being postponed to the autumn of 2021. With the ringing endorsement of the Lord Mayor, Alderman William Russell, the twin aims of this series – the City's Salute to Beethoven's 250th – were to open young people's ears to classical music and open their eyes to the historic livery Halls and their role in City life. However, we are delighted to announce that you do not now need to wait until next autumn to experience this music! Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of one philanthropist in particular, together with other Hanover Band Patrons including the Stationers, it proved possible to set up duly socially-distanced recording sessions (visual and audio) in Stationers' Hall over a period at the end of August and early September, the results of which are thrilling live performances of Beethoven's Symphonies numbers 1-8 inclusive. It is believed that this will be the only such recording of Beethoven's symphonies made in 2020.

These recordings will be streamed from the Band's own website www.thehanoverband.com. If you visit this site, you will be able to use the link to view the streamed performances on the dates below. All the Band asks for is your email

address but there is also the facility, if you wish, to make a donation of whatever size you can afford towards the work of Hanover Band. You will be able to see and hear the symphonies as follows:

Wed 21 October 2020 20.00

Symphony No. 1 Op.21

Wed 28 October 2020 20.00

Symphony No. 2 Op.36

Wed 4 November 2020 20.00

Symphony No. 3 Op.55 'Eroica'

Wed 11 November 2020 20.00

Symphony No. 4 Op.60

Wed 18 November 2020 20.00

Symphony No. 5 Op.67

Wed 25 November 2020 20.00

Symphony No. 6 Op.68 'Pastoral'

Wed 2 December 2020 20.00

Symphony No. 7 Op.92

Wed 9 December 2020 20.00

Symphony No. 8 Op.93

It is hoped that Beethoven's 9th Symphony ("Choral") will soon be recorded also in time for Beethoven's actual birthday on 16 December 2020, possibly from Mansion House. It was the Royal Philharmonic Society of London who first commissioned the piece which was premièred in London in 1825: Beethoven was paid just £50 for it (the equivalent of about £5,000 today)!

If you would like to contribute to the work of the Hanover Band, its musicians and its educational outreach, whether for £5,000 or £50, or £250 for Beethoven's 250 years, or have any other queries, please contact the Band's CEO Stephen Neiman at stephen@thehanoverband.com