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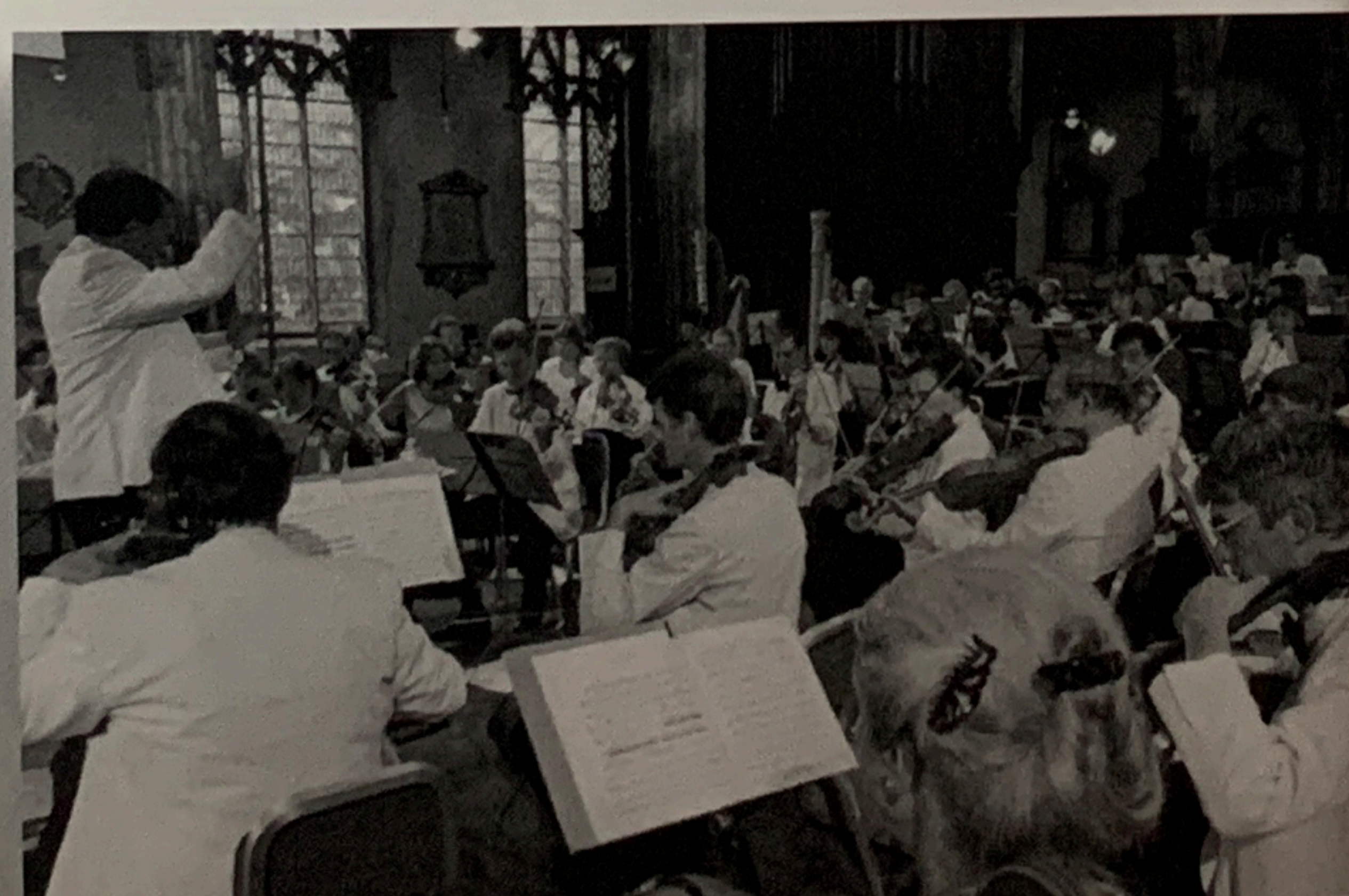
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The following made donations in 2000 too late for inclusion in the programme

Ruby Buckingham
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Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra

Friday 20th July

Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra

with

Alessio Bax, piano

Barry Wordsworth, conductor

Rolf Wilson, leader

7.30pm

Oundle School Chapel

Festival Overture

Dmitry Shostakovich
(1906-1975)

In November 1954 Shostakovich responded to a last minute request from the Bolshoi Theatre where he was a music consultant. They wanted a curtain-raiser to begin the celebrations marking the thirty-seventh anniversary of the Russian revolution. Shostakovich worked fast, and dashed off his *Festival Overture* in just a matter of days. Indeed so quick was the whole process that stewards were instructed to collect the manuscript for the orchestral rehearsals while the ink was still wet on the page! The piece quickly established itself as the one of the most durable of the composer's occasional works.

Piano Concerto No 3

Sergei Rachmaninov
(1873-1943)

Allegro ma non tanto;
Intermezzo (adagio); Finale (alla breve)

The piano figures prominently in Rachmaninov's music; as virtuoso pianist himself, he was able to explore in his compositions the full musical potential of the instrument. He wrote this third concerto in 1909, and it demonstrates a composer who has nurtured a strong melodic style, particularly in the slow movement. The opulent sounds which he strove for show an enormous confidence in what he was setting out to achieve. By the time he wrote his third piano concerto he was ready to conceive something altogether ingenious; for example, the fast central section of the first movement is a skilful variant of the opening theme.

Symphony No 5 in E minor, Op 64

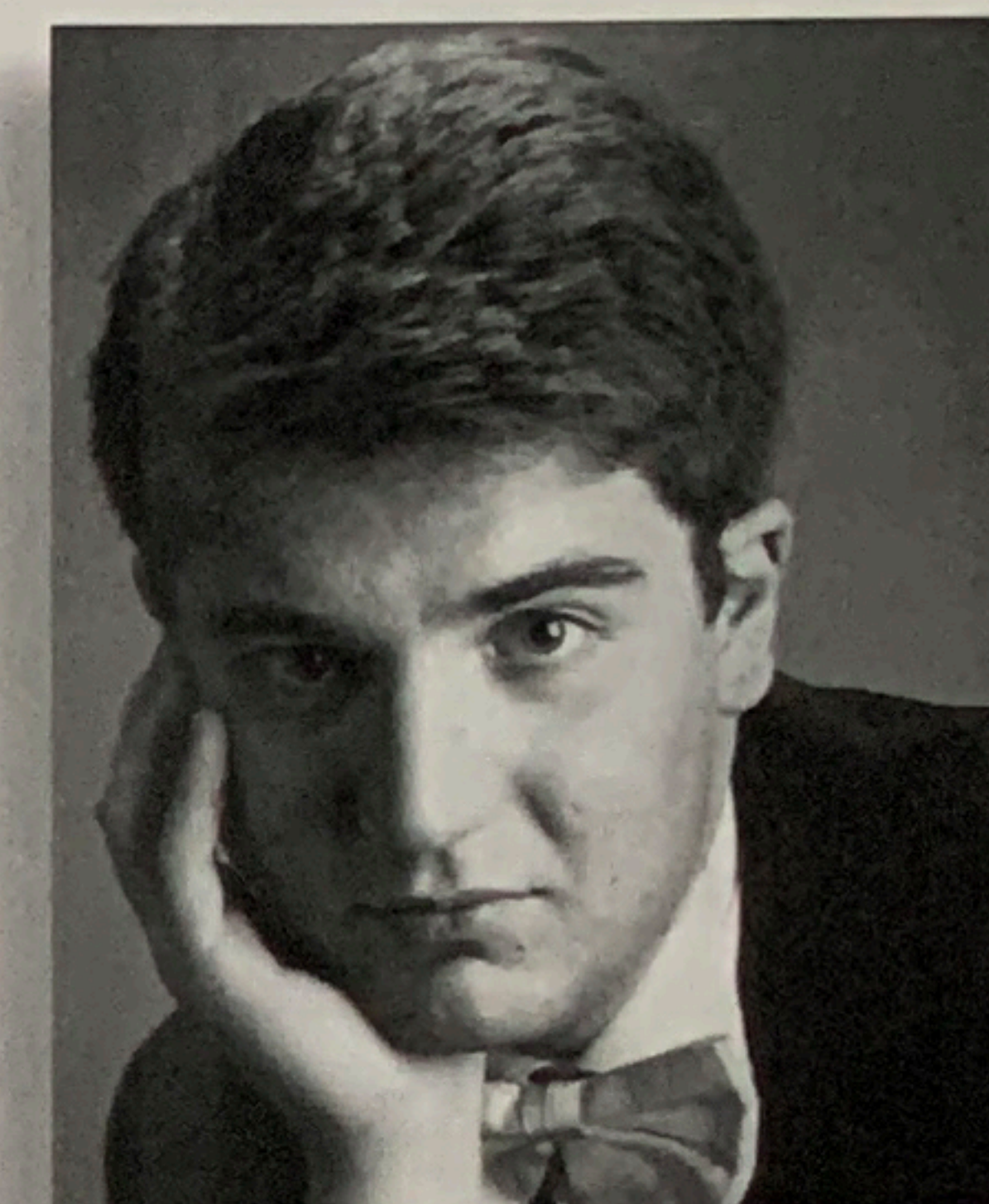
Peter Tchaikovsky (1840-1843)

Andante - Allegro con anima
Andante cantabile, con alcuna licenza
Valse : Allegro Moderato
Andante maestoso - Allegro Vivace

Tchaikovsky had a restless spirit which prompted many international tours. In early 1888 he returned from such a tour to set up a new home in Frolovskoye, where he set to work on his fifth symphony. Pessimism was never very far away; this symphony starts with a gloomy march played on the clarinet, which is then joined by another, more positive and confident. However at the end of the movement we are still conscious of the clouds on the horizon. In the second movement Tchaikovsky displays his gift of melody in the well known horn theme, only to be foiled by the return of the clarinet at the movement's close. The third movement introduces a haunting,

unforgettable waltz, while the final section wrestles with the air of gloom which has never been very far away. This time, however, the music starts to march forcefully, as if the composer is determined to tread dark thoughts under foot. With moments to spare, the strong march from the second movement makes a triumphant return to lift the spirits from sadness to hope.

Alessio Bax
Already established as an accomplished performer on the world stage, in September last year Alessio Bax won first prize in the universally acknowledged Leeds International Pianoforte Competition with his performance of Brahms Piano Concerto No 1. In great demand as a recitalist in Europe and the United States, during the coming year he will perform at the Aldeburgh Festival and the Klavier Festival, Ruhr, as well as on tour in Japan and China. For Naxos Alessio Bax has recorded the complete works of Marcel Dupré for piano and organ with Stefan Engels.



Barry Wordsworth
Barry Wordsworth is the Principal Conductor of the BBC Concert Orchestra and the Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as being a frequent guest conductor with many major British orchestras, including the Hallé, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the London Symphony Orchestra. In addition to his symphonic career, Barry Wordsworth has also conducted opera at Covent Garden; he was music director of the Royal Ballet until 1995 and still regularly conducts key productions with the company.



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