



SUMMER 2020

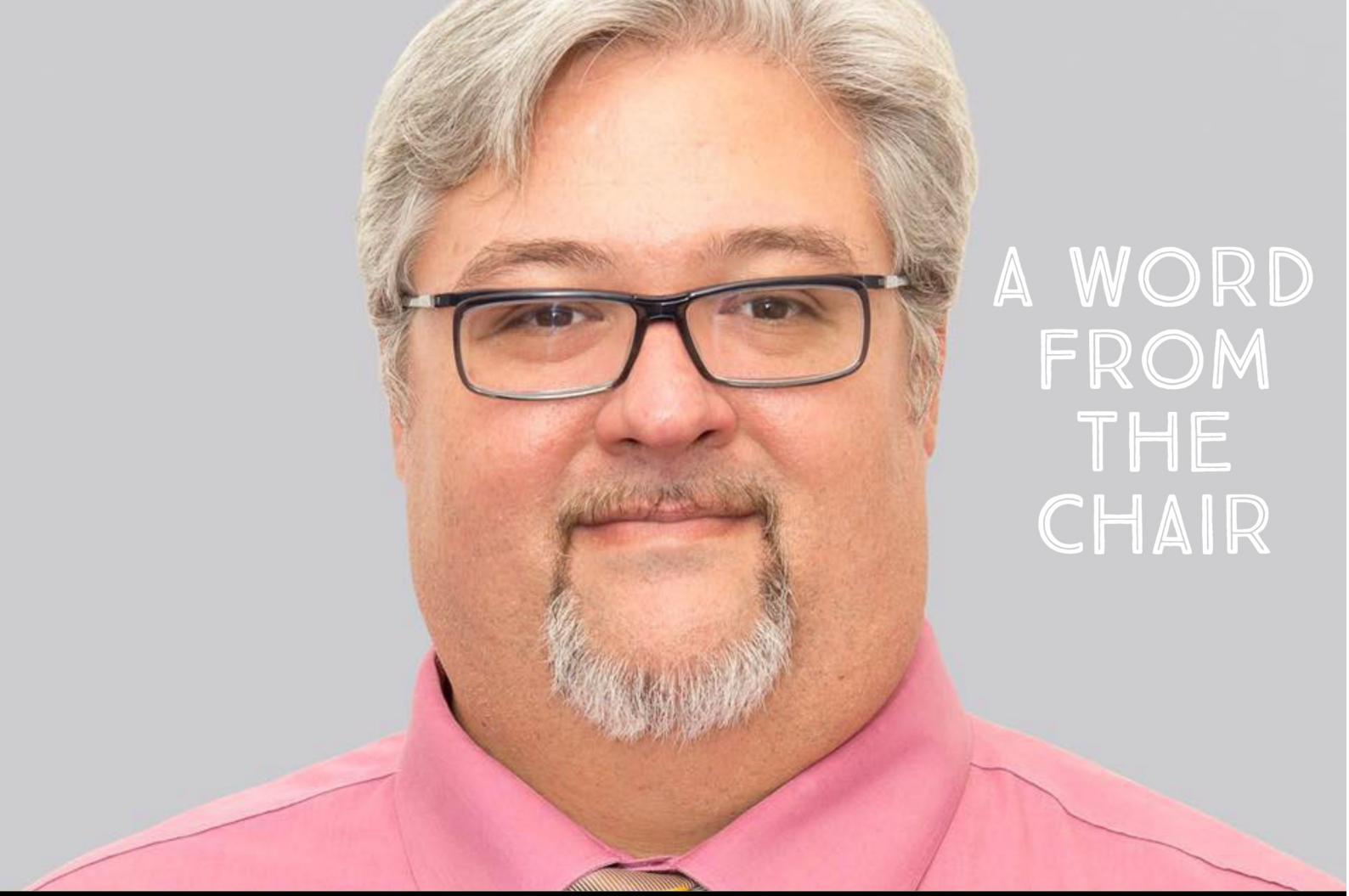
nSO
NORTHAMPTON
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

MUSIC
SHE
WROTE:
FOCUS
ON
COMPOSITIONS
BY
WOMEN

MONTHLY
CROSSWORD

A WORD
FROM
THE
CHAIR

PLANS
FOR
THE
UPCOMING
SEASON



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

On behalf of the Committee of the Northampton Orchestra, welcome to our first newsletter. During these turbulent and unprecedeted times, we felt it was important to provide a space for members of the orchestra, our Friends, and the wider Northampton community to engage with the NSO, to present news about the orchestra, and about orchestral music in general.

Given the uncertainty of the current situation, and the impossibility of meeting for rehearsals for the time being, the committee has taken the difficult decision to suspend the orchestra's activities until at least January 2021, unless government guidance changes dramatically. We hope to be able to start rehearsing and performing in the new year, but as you will appreciate, it is dependent on government advice at that time. The committee remains committed to our mission, and is supporting several efforts to keep the orchestra going while we are unable to meet in person.

This newsletter is part of this effort. In it you will find news and updates about the orchestra, some interesting information about music, and even a fun puzzle. In future editions, we hope to expand the newsletter- what would you like to see included? Would you like to contribute an article or a suggestion? Please don't be shy – we would love to hear from you!

We will also be announcing a new sert of programmes for our shortened season. This is in recognition that the orchestra will have been paused for quite some time when we meet again. I know you will share my disappointment at not being able to participate in our Music She Wrote plans for the upcoming season, but I can assure you whatever performances and experiences on offer will be exciting and enjoyable.

We look forward to the day we can all see each other again– Northamptonshire is extraordinarily fortunate to have a rich musical history and a strong musical community of educators, enthusiasts, and musicians of all stripes to carry us into a dynamic future. I am proud to be a small part of that future, and encourage you to be a part of it too.

In friendship and music,

Frank Jordan — Chair, Northampton Symphony Orchestra



What's On

Wednesday Evenings 8:30 pm

**NSO Zoom Social for Members and Virtual Playing
Orchestra Members contact Robin Simpson**

Virtual Orchestra

A project to produce a video of a performance of a famous orchestral piece while we are in hiatus.

Orchestra members contact Alan Garriock

September 25th 2020—7:00 pm

NSO Quiz

Open to members of the Orchestra, Friends, and anyone who would like to participate.

**Contact Frank Jordan at
bassoon_in_sc@yahoo.com for details**

**Do you have an idea or wish to host a virtual event for the orchestra during this time? Please contact Frank Jordan at
bassoon_in_sc@yahoo.com**

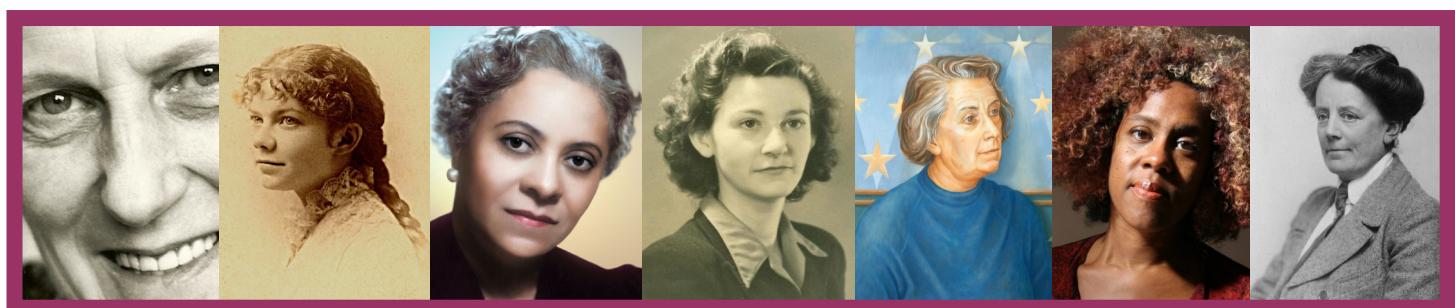


MUSIC SHE WROTE

Women In Music— suggested composers and pieces to add to your listening library.

RUTH GIPPS (1921–1999) was an English composer, oboist, pianist , conductor and educator. Highly prolific and well respected, she composed five symphonies, seven concerti, and a number of chamber and choral works. She founded the London Repertoire Orchestra and the Chanticleer Orchestra, and served as conductor of the City of Birmingham Choir and the chair of the Composer's Guild of Great Britain.

AMY BEACH (1867–1944) was an American composer and pianist. She was one of the first internationally successful American composers, and her *Gaelic Symphony* (1896) was the first symphony composed and published by an American woman.



Ruth Gipps

Amy Beach

Florence Price

Doreen Carwithen

Grace Williams

Errollyn Wallen

Ethel Smyth

FLORENCE PRICE (1887-1953) was an American composer, pianist, organist, and educator. She became the first African American woman to have a composition performed by a major orchestra in 1933 with the premier of her *Symphony in E minor* by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

DOREEN CARWITHEN (1922–2003) was an English composer particularly noted for her film music. She provided the music for over 30 films, and scored the official film of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

GRACE WILLIAMS (1906–1977) was a Welsh composer, and the first British woman to score a feature film. She started her career as a composer during the Second World War, and composed the score for *Blue Scar* shortly after the war in 1949.

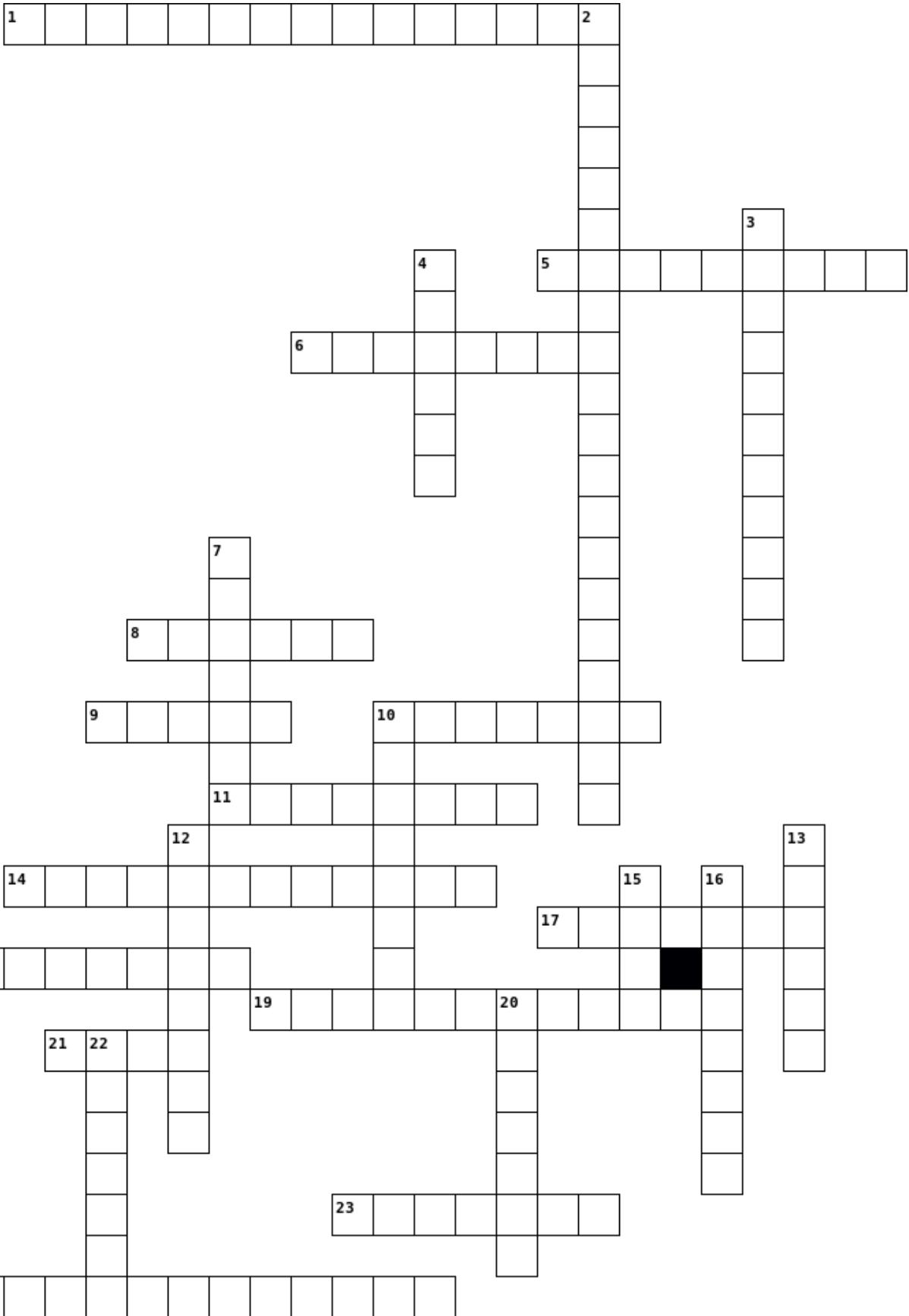
ERROLLYN WALLEN (born 1958) is an eclectic British composer. She is the first black woman to have a work performed at the Proms (Concerto for Percussion and Orchestra).

ETHEL SMYTH (1858-1944) was an English composer, author, and women's rights activist. In 1922 she was awarded a DBE – the first female composer so honoured.

Since 2010 only 1.9% of orchestral concerts in the UK contained a composition by a female composer. We consider this to be a great loss for audiences as there is a wide variety of excellent orchestral music available to orchestras composed by women. We look forward to sharing some of these composers with you in future concerts and seasons.



NSO CROSSWORD



NSO CROSSWORD



Across

1. Evil Mozart coloratura
5. Plucky playing
6. Glissando is demanded of this instrument in Bolero
8. Mahler's avian inspiration in Symphony no 1
9. Somewhere between a cello and a violin
10. Mozart and Strauss were inspired by this libertine
11. Composed her only symphony, "The Gaelic", in 1893
14. Saint-Saëns remarked on hearing the first few bars of this ballet "If this is a bassoon, I am a baboon"
17. Psycho composer
18. Delius composed a suite describing this American state
19. Morricone won his first competitive Oscar for this film score
21. Tunes the orchestra
23. A composer for all seasons
24. Solfege was used to teach the singing family in this musical and film

Down

2. First film to feature The Imperial March
3. He died when we were born
4. This instrument can sizzle
7. Patron Saint of Musicians
10. Deadly melody in Symphonie Fantastique, Nightmare Before Christmas, and Manfred
12. Glen Gould's favourite variations
13. Northampton's famous musical son
15. This part of a bow may croak
16. Disney playlist: Stravinsky, Tchaikovsky, Dukas, Beethoven, Rimsky Kor-sakov, Bach, Ponchielli
20. Mozart's father
22. Prokofiev's grandfather

ANSWER KEY: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/jsju1yvzlkp27j7/NSO%20crossword%20ANSWER%20KEY.pdf?dl=0>



NSO NEWS

While we are looking forward to 2021, the current advice from the government prevents us from being able to rehearse or perform. This is of course a developing situation, and in fact, the guidance may have changed since we have compiled this newsletter. Any changes in circumstances or changes to our planned season will be immediately updated on our social media accounts and our website.

FOR MEMBERS OF THE ORCHESTRA—there are several ways in which you can still participate in orchestra life— from the virtual orchestra project currently underway with Alan Garrick as your contact point, to weekly Zoom get togethers with Robin Simpson, to our members' private Facebook group (you can contact Frank Jordan for access)

FOR OUR FRIENDS AND AUDIENCE—we will continue to produce this newsletter regularly, and our public Facebook page will be updated with suggested listening, interesting stories, and announcements regarding the activities of the orchestra. Of course, this newsletter will continue into the future. If there is a desire for a Zoom group for supporters of the NSO, please do contact us and we can provide advice on setting up a group.

FOR EVERYONE—we appreciate these are difficult times for many, and we are all having to deal with the temporary absence of live music making, which is such an important element in our lives. We will meet again—music is a part of us, a vital part of our future and the future of Northampton.



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KEEPING IN TOUCH

Facebook — Northhamptonsymphonyorchestra

Twitter — @NtonSymphOrch

Instagram - Northhamptonsymphonyorchestra

Website - NSO.org.uk

IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

A Word from our Musical Director—John Gibbons

125 Years of the NSO—a retrospective

Our next monthly crossword

What else would you like to see? Please contact the Chair, Frank Jordan at bassoon_in_sc@yahoo.com with suggestions.

We are particularly keen to hear from members of the orchestra, our Friends, and our members of our audience who would be interested in writing a short article for inclusion.

Until next time, stay safe, healthy and musical!

