

The Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra continued its thirtieth season with a greatly appreciated concert which started with Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel Overture. The soloist for Reinecke's Flute Concerto was Rosanna Ter-Berg, this year's winner of the ESO's young soloist competition. Her fresh, romantic interpretation gave a warm lyrical reading of the first movement, followed by some darker colouring in the slow movement. A faultless technique was evident throughout and this was particularly noticeable in the effervescent finale, allowing the flute to sparkle in the passagework. The performance was well supported by the orchestra with some warm colouring from the strings, clarinet and horns in particular. It was a well-balanced performance.

After the interval, the orchestra gave a passionate interpretation of Sibelius's second symphony. The woodwind were showcased throughout, often against shimmering strings building to impressive climaxes topped by the impressive brass section including tuba. It was a performance of contrasts from the well-known warm sunny opening to the anguish of the second movement, which conductor Graham Jones suggested may owe something to Russian suppression of Finland, through to the emergence of the powerful finale from the Scherzo.

It was a concert to remember in this birthday year. The orchestra is looking forward to its autumn concert on 16 October when it will also help celebrate the British Legion's 90th birthday in the presence of the Mayor of Eastbourne, Group Captain Derek North and Standard Bearers of the British legion. The programme will include Grieg's Piano Concerto, Aces High, Warsaw Concerto, songs by Ivor Novello, Land of Hope and Glory and Jerusalem.