

Pulham Village Orchestra



Archive photo of early PVO Members



The Pulham Orchestra is a vibrant amateur community orchestra based in the picturesque village of Pulham Market. This year the orchestra is celebrating its 30th anniversary. In those 30 years, it has come a long way. From its beginnings in the 1980s, when local GP Dr Patrick Rawlence gathered some fourteen players together in a village studio, The Pulham Orchestra has grown to a membership of nearly forty, drawn from a wide geographical area along the length of the River Waveney and beyond. Under its Musical Director, Margery Baker, it has an established history of performance, workshop delivery, mentoring and assisting young aspiring players and working in collaboration with schools, other voluntary organisations and professional musicians.



It is this collaborative spirit which gives it a very special role in this rural area. It fulfils a very real need, musically, socially and educationally. Its regular adult membership meets from 2-4pm on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoon of the month at the Memorial Hall, Pulham Market They give Thanks to the vibrant Pulham Village Orchestra. three or four concerts a year at various venues in East Anglia. The programmes cover a wide range of classical music. It is invited to perform at a variety of functions raising money through concerts for many churches and charitable organisations. Its biennial weekend workshop is a happy blend of young and old, professional and amateur. The 2012 Workshop was

held over the weekend of 2nd - 4th November and a staff of 12 professional tutors helped players to achieve untold heights in holds 'Come and Play" days once or twice a year when musicians of all ages and experience are invited to come along for an informal, fun day of music-making. The Pulham Orchestra is open to all who wish to join -no audition is required but you do need some sight-reading ability. For more information log onto www.pvo.org.uk or TeL 01379 852836.

Meet the PVO's Musical Director Margery Baker...

The Pulham Orchestra's Musical Director Margery Baker is a professional conductor with a strong background in education.



Margery's Norfolk connection began when she worked as a lecturer at Keswick Hall College of Education, which was a vibrant and energetic place for music making. It was in 1982, at a performance of Mozart's Cost fan Tutte conducted by Margery at the College, that the seeds of the Pulham Orchestra were sown, for this was where its

Founder, Dr Patrick Rawlence, first met Margery. Margery spent 13 years as Musical Director of the Eye Bach Choir and has worked with the North Norfolk Chamber Opera. And not content with just the Pulham Orchestra, she has been Musical Director of the Wymondham Youth Orchestra since its formation by Kay Dorling in 1988. Margery gives much of her professional time to amateur organisations, with music education at the forefront of her work.

On top of her busy schedule she has found time to accompany the British Soprano, Lindsay Gowers and struck up a partnership with Valerie Denny -a former colleague from Keswick Hall - performing a two-piano repertoire.

Pulham Orchestra's Leader, Martin Wyatt, has this to say about Margery: "Amateur orchestras totally depend on their conductors for inspiration and organisation and in Margery Baker the Pulham

Orchestra has been led by an outstanding musician whose enthusiasm is for local amateur musicianship, which she can coax to a good level of performance skills. Margery has been the backbone and driving force of this orchestra from its inception. Her huge energy, commitment, skill and dedicated hard work - much of which is behind the scenes, between rehearsals and never noticed by the orchestra or public - have been an inspiration for us all. Not by chance have several members of the orchestra been Musical Directors in their own right.

I run orchestras and choirs of my own, but regard Margery's conducting skills as a mentoring service; she always has new ideas, positive and practical ways of improving instrumental skills and a warm hearted endearing approach to teaching that brings out the best from the team in front of her.