

Benedetti to work in harmony with orchestra as new patron

AMBASSADOR: Renowned Scottish violinist takes over role from the Queen's composer who died last year

CAROLINE LINDSAY

Dundee Symphony Orchestra (DSO) have just appointed internationally-renowned violinist Nicola Benedetti as a new patron.

The Scottish musician takes over from the Queen's composer Peter Maxwell-Davis who died last year.

Ian Jarvis, president of DSO, is thrilled to have the high profile Scottish musician on board.

"Nicola Benedetti is a great ambassador for Scottish music generally and although she's not quite a local lass, she has played in Dundee several times and does a lot to promote music in the community. This fits in perfectly with our profile as we are a community-based orchestra," he said.

So can we expect to see Nicola on the SDO's programme in the near future?

"She's a busy lass but I hope there will be some collaboration in the future," Ian said.

"Peter Maxwell-Davis came and performed with us few years back which was great – it's a nice way for the patron to get involved with the orchestra."

DSO, an amateur orchestra, is more



than 100 years old and Ian is proud that it is enjoying what he describes as "a golden era".

"We have more than 60 members ranging in age from 16-year-olds to people who are retired, and the wind and brass section is particularly strong at the moment, while we have a full complement of violinists, and a waiting list of more, which is unusual," he said.

Dundee Symphony Orchestra president Ian Jarvis hopes there will be some collaboration with Nicola Benedetti, above, in the future.

DSO's Facebook comment reads: "We are delighted to announce that we have appointed a new patron for Dundee Symphony Orchestra. Nicola Benedetti has kindly agreed to fill this role. We can't promise we'll be performing with her soon, but it's a privilege to have our name associated with such a talented musician. Thanks Nicky."

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TRANSPORT

£3m will benefit rail passengers

An extra £3 million of funding for railways will be spent on improving passenger facilities and increasing accessibility on trains and in stations, Transport Scotland has announced. The cash was awarded by the Scottish Government earlier this month.

Transport minister Humza Yousaf said the investment will help towards "improving accessibility and passenger experience across the rail network".

Equipment will be installed on trains to help target overcrowding on trains.

NORTH SEA

Oil spill moves off

An oil spill from a North Sea platform is heading away from land, BP says.

Its Clair platform was shut down on Sunday following the leak.

BP has not yet revealed how much fuel has escaped from the structure, which is 46 miles west of Shetland.

It has, however, confirmed oil is visible on the surface of the water and appears to be moving north.

The firm believes that allowing the oil to disperse naturally at sea is the best way to deal with the spill.

AONACH MOR

Fall climber dies

A climber has died after falling in the Grampian mountains.

The emergency services were alerted after Kieran Shaw, 21, from Helensburgh, Argyll and Bute, fell near the east gully of Aonach Mor.

The accident occurred at about 3.30pm on Sunday. Kieran was taken to hospital but died from his injuries.

WIN!

A RELAXING BREAK AT
BARONY CASTLE HOTEL



We've teamed up with Hotel Connexions to offer readers a chance to win a luxurious two-night break at Barony Castle Hotel in Peebles.

The winner will enjoy a relaxing two-night break in one of the hotel's unique rooms with stunning views of the surrounding gardens, dinner on the first evening and full Scottish breakfast on both mornings.

Originally built for the Murrays of Blackbarony, and steeped in history, this imposing 16th Century tower house has

evolved into the modern, welcoming hotel we see today. Escape to 25 acres of idyllic countryside, refreshing body and mind and then relax in the pool, gym or sauna, before enjoying the hospitality of the bar and sampling a local dish in Thomson's @ the Castle Restaurant. The welcoming bedrooms offer all home comforts. As the hotel is a castle, every room is unique and they have differing views of the surrounding garden, woodland and glen.

HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning this fantastic prize, simply complete the following saying.

Every home is his castle.

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Calls cost £1.02 from a landline – calls from mobiles may cost a lot more. Or text **COURIERWIN** followed by a space then your answer, name and address to **64343**. Texts cost £1.00 plus your standard operator charge. If you would like to receive exclusive offers from Hotel Connexions, please include a Y and provide your e-mail address after your entry.

Employees of DC Thomson & Co. Ltd and their families cannot enter. Prizes are as stated and there are no cash alternatives. Winners will be chosen at random from combined correct entries after 9.00am on the closing date of Monday October 10, 2016. Your personal data will not be used for any other purpose than entry to this competition. Details of winner available on request. Premium Rate Telephone Services Department, DC Thomson & Co. Ltd, 80 Kingsway East Dundee DD4 8SL. Helpline 01382 575060. For full competition Ts & Cs please send a large SAE to: Newspaper Marketing, copy of your competition terms, DC Thomson & Co. Ltd., 2 Albert Sq., Dundee DD1 9QJ or go to <http://www.thecourier.co.uk/competition-terms>. Two nights' accommodation in a double or twin room. Full Scottish breakfast on both mornings Dinner on the first evening – £28 per person allowance towards dinner (food only) 30% off pre-booked Spa treatments – subject to availability. Stay date is valid for 6 months from when competition winner is selected. (subject to availability, excluding periods of high demand and festive season).

COMPETITION

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