

## Stand up for comedy

### THERAPY ROOM COMEDY CLUB

The Old School House, Chapel Place, Tunbridge Wells. Thursday February 23, doors at 7pm, show starts at 8.30pm. Tickets £12 from [www.wegotickets.com/location/3985](http://www.wegotickets.com/location/3985) and for dinner reservations phone 0844 884 1133 or e-mail [hello@therapyroomcomedy.com](mailto:hello@therapyroomcomedy.com)

This month Therapy Room Comedy Club welcomes stand-up Andrew Bird, who was introduced to comedy as an eight year-old.

Inspired by seeing The Young Ones performing on Comic Relief, Andrew has a personable, almost conversational style which is thoroughly engaging. His material on the day-to-day events of small villages – mostly culled from village newsletters, clearly a goldmine for unintentionally funny stories – are sharp and effortlessly funny.

#### Crowd-pleasing

Joining him on the comedy night line-after up is musical comic Jonny Awsum. After completing an eight-year comedy apprenticeship as a barman at The Chuckle Club, Jonny exploded onto the UK comedy scene with a crowd-pleasing set including everything from the white lies he tells his girlfriend to his new home town of Croydon.

In his first two years on the circuit



Andrew Bird

Jonny won the Magners Funhouse Comedy Gongshow, the Comedy Café new acts night and completed a sell-out run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with his hit show Playtime.

His musical parodies, audience interaction and jokes are interwoven in such a way that the hardest crowds are lulled into hilarious giggles with even the most sour-faced audiences coaxed into a sing-song.

Completing the line-up is fledgling stand-up Angela Barnes, who recently won the BBC Radio 2 New Comedy Award. In November last year she appeared in the BBC Radio 2 Children In Need Gala, alongside the likes of Take That's Gary Barlow and Joss Stone. Described as "brilliantly funny" by Sarah Millican, she's definitely one to not miss.

## Thrilled to play her dream piece



Join the Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra at the opening of their 2012 season later this month and you'll be treated to what's been described as a "fabulous" programme.

The concert will start with the Waverley Overture by the romantic French composer Hector Berlioz. Written as a concert overture in 1828, the inspiration for the piece came from Sir Walter Scott's Waverley novels.

Add to this some of the work of Sibelius, including Valse Triste, which has become one of Sibelius' signature pieces, and his Symphony No. 5 in Eb major, and you've got a musical experience that all lovers classical musical will find attractive.

#### Irresistible

To top off the concert, SSO are welcoming Yuka Ishizuka, an American-born Japanese violinist, who will join the orchestra to perform the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto. Yuka, who has won numerous awards and prizes, has performed at the Wigmore Hall and also worked with Itzhak Perlman. She's been described as an "irresistible" artist and as bringing a "lyrical outpouring of purest joy".

The Violin Concerto in D major by Pyotr Illyich Tchaikovsky, written in 1878, is one of the best-known of all violin concertos. It is also considered to be among the most technically difficult works for violin.

It must be an impressive show, so with this in mind, Go! spoke to the 23 year-old ahead of her trip to Sevenoaks.

**Can you tell me a bit about yourself. Where do you call home?**

"I am lucky enough to have three places that I call home; California, where I was born, Japan, where my parents are from,

#### Details

**The Stag, Sevenoaks.**

Sunday February 26 at 3pm.

Tickets £13, £12, under 18s £1 from [www.stagesevenoaks.com](http://www.stagesevenoaks.com) or 01732 450175.

and London where I have been living for the past 10 years. But I would say London is my home as a musician because this is where I met my most inspiring mentor, Maurice Hasson, who has taught me what it takes to become an inspiring performer myself."

**How old were you when you began playing the violin and how soon did you realise it was what you wanted to do?**

"I started playing the violin on my third birthday. I have to say I was not the most diligent student back then, but I did always love being on stage and playing in front of people.

"I decided I wanted to become a musician when I listened to the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto played by Akiko Suwanai, and simply could not stop listening to it! I started playing the tutti violin part right away and since then I guess I never stopped playing the violin." **You seem to have appeared at a lot of major venues in London but will this be your first trip to Kent?**

"Yes, it will be my first visit to Kent and I am very excited about it. Since I officially started my career last year after finishing my studies at the Royal Academy of Music, I have been fortunate enough to perform outside London.

"It has been a wonderful experience exploring different parts of UK and most of all, being able to meet the local people and perform for them.

"This is what I love and this is what keeps me happy."

**Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto is supposed to be technically very difficult – can you tell us about it?**

"It definitely was always my dream to play the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with an orchestra. The concerto is often played and known as a brilliant dynamic and piece, but there are very sensitive and private moments as well that reach people's hearts, which is most likely due to Tchaikovsky going through very difficult times in his personal life when he wrote this "lyrical concerto".

"The technique demanded in this piece is extreme which adds an extra challenge for me to convey Tchaikovsky's expressions, but I am very much looking forward to performing my dream piece." **Tell us about the violin you'll be playing.**

"The instrument I will be playing was made by Enrico Ceruti in 1846 and it's been kindly loaned to me by the Royal Academy of Music.

"It was made in a famous city for violin production, Cremona, and this particular violin has been very well kept and has been featured in many magazines and books as one of Ceruti's finest creations. I am always grateful for beautiful instruments that are loaned to me."

**Are you looking forward to performing with the SSO?**

"Very much! It will be my third time performing with conductor Darrell Davison, so I feel very confident and comfortable to make chamber music with him along with the orchestra. I hope that the audience in Kent will enjoy the music as much as I will by performing."

Caroline Read

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