WESTMORLAND YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Newsletter

Autumn 2007

editor: Wendy Storer

60 YEARS OF WYO 1948—2008

As WYO enters its Diamond Jubilee year, exciting plans are being made for the 60th Anniversary concert in June. So far, new work has been commissioned from Anthony Milledge and an exciting line up of talent and celebrity includes Amabile, Radio 3 choir of the year, John Kenny with his didgeridoo (playing Peter Sculthorpe's Earth Cry with WYO) and Catherine Bott the soprano, Radio 3 presenter and early years music specialist. The event will be a showcase for WYO, not just a celebration but the chance to re-launch and raise the profile of WYO. We are aiming for national coverage of this event so there really is a lot to look forward to. Jill Bertram and Stuart Manger have kindly offered to co-ordinate this fantastic programme, raise funds and publicise the event but all offers of help would be gratefully received. Contact Stuart Manger stuart.manger@btinternet.com or Wendy Storer publicity@wyo.org.uk to be part of this extraordinary and exciting event.

"Music is the Art of the Possible"

Robin Orr, an ex-Chairman of the Mary Wakefield Festival Committee and a man who describes himself as a 'village organist', gamely stood in for the AGM guest speaker, Barry Sharkey, who had unfortunately lost his voice for the evening. Robin described WYO as "one of the jewels of the local music scene" and went on to talk about the importance of music in our lives. His theme was very much that music is the art of the possible. He described his own efforts to encourage young people to make music in Levens and how certain obstacles needed to be overcome before musicians are able to play; not least social commitments, personal ability and the expectations of others, but how wonderful it is when you can make the most of what you have and create a musical experience.

He went on to illustrate the triumph over adversity on a slightly different scale, describing the work of Heinrich Schutz, a German Composer who wrote at a time when the population had been decimated by plague and war. Gigantic works of the Venetian style which marked Schutz's early period grew into a style that was simple and almost austere, to accommodate the lack of musicians.

Finally, Robin described the life of organist Douglas Fox, a remarkable man who was denied the chance of a career as a recitalist or cathedral organist when he lost his right arm in action while serving with the Gloucesters. He nevertheless taught himself to play the organ with left hand and pedals and played the Ravel Concerto for the Left Hand with the London Symphony Orchestra, a concert which was broadcast for the world to hear.

Clearly there is a message here for all of us, on a very personal level it is about doing what you can and not giving up in the quest to find what you really need. On a less personal level, it is about supporting your orchestra in whatever way you can to make it happen. WYO aims to get young people involved in making music – what is the future without it?

What did you do in the summer?

There are lots of activities around the country for young musicians in the summer months and although Summer 2008 may seen a long way away, if you are serious about joining one of these summer schools, now is the time to start planning. Some of the courses have tough competition for places and others just need early booking. Here is a selection of summer music activities which may interest you:-

Lake District Summer Music

Closest to home is this annual event which features the Young String Venture. Young orchestral string players of all ages and abilities are welcome, usually in the second week in August. The children are split into groups, matched with their own ability and spend a week making music, culminating in a fantastic concert at the end of the week. It's a lot of fun and the chance to play in a string orchestra is very special. Go to www.ldsm.org.uk to find out about the 2008 LDSM Young String Venture.

National Children's Brass Band

For the second time we were lucky enough to attend the annual course of the National Children's Brass Band (NCCB) of Great Britain at Bromsgrove School. When we arrived we felt less nervous than some as we were no longer "first timers". However, standards this year were higher than ever before and competition for places, was fierce. On arrival at Bromsgrove School we had to play a piece so that our tutors could work out where we sat in the Band. Samuel was placed in the euphonium section and Henry, who had been asked to play cornet although he is normally a flugel horn player, managed to get a solo cornet position! Samuel's tutor was David Childs, one of the top euphonium players in the world. Henry was taught by Mark Wilkinson, the Principal Cornet Player of the Fodens-Richardson Band which is one of the top brass bands. We worked extremely hard all week and finished with a concert with some of the best music we have played. One of the pieces was Dream Catchers which was written by Paul Lovett-Cooper especially for the NCBB. David Childs played some amazing solos on his euphonium and we finished with Little Suite for Brass Band - a rather challenging piece which was written for the National Youth Brass Band. As well as working hard we had lots of fun and came home much better players!

Report by Henry Wray

To find out more about the NCBB visit www.nybb.org.uk/

European Youth Summer Music

The EYSM summer course for young musicians includes Symphony Orchestras, Wind Orchestra and Choirs. Also Improvisation & Creative Music, Chamber Music & Ensembles and Composition. Concerto opportunities, Music Theatre including choreography, Gospel Choir, Samba Percussion, In-course Concerts and Public Concerts for Parents & Special Guests. To find out more visit www.festivals.demon.co.uk/eysm.htm

The National Youth Orchestra

The National Youth Orchestra is one of the world's finest youth orchestras which draws together each year over 150 talented musicians, aged between 13 and 19 years, from all over the UK. They meet during the school holidays at New Year, Easter and summer for intensive two week periods of coaching and rehearsal with leading professional musicians and teachers and some of the world's finest conductors and soloists. A rich variety of repertoire is explored, from romantic symphonies to world premieres of demanding contemporary works by living composers. In addition to the main course repertoire, there are informal run-throughs of other works and many members of the orchestra get together to play chamber music on the courses. NYOers work hard, but they also have plenty of recreational time when many friendships are made. For more information about the NYO visit their website at www.nyo.org.uk

And if you still can't find anything to do…

The British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech

There are over 300 festivals across the UK and Ireland who are affiliated to "**Performance**" The British & International Federation of Festivals. Some festivals have a wide range of music, speech and dance classes, whilst others are more specialist - perhaps choral, orchestral, theatre or stage dance. Whatever the discipline, they all offer a platform for performance, and in 2004 there were over one million performers, 80% of whom were under 18 and around 5 million audience. Notable local affiliates to "**Performance**" are the Mary Wakefield Festival, South Cumbria Music Festival, Workington Festival and the Whitehaven Festival. To find out more about all of these festivals, visit www.festivals.demon.co.uk

If you know of any other summer music activities that orchestra members might be interested in, please let me know. Wendy (publicity@wyo.org.uk)

Learn an endangered instrument before it's too late!

Both the **bass group** and the orchestra bass section have this term welcomed new members, which is a great start to the year. There are still spare instruments and more places for bassists of all abilities to join us so please tell brothers and sisters, cousins and friends that this is their opportunity to join a great bass group and learn an endangered instrument. Speak to Stu Lewthwaite if you are interested.

The **oboe group** is also going from strength to strength under the guidance of Alexia Pelling. They meet at St. Mary's Primary School, Kirkby Lonsdale on Wednesdays 4pm.

Alternatively, the **brass group,** under Becki Perkins, is also welcoming new members. Having recently purchased 2 starter horns, a trombone and a tuba there has never been a better time to join. Speak to David Boxford if you want to know more: administrator@wyo.org.uk

Also violin & viola to borrow.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Concerts

- **24th November 2007**
  Appleby Public Hall
- **14th March 2008**
  St Mary's Parish Church, Windermere
  (NB This concert is now to be on Friday so that we do not clash with other groups.)
- **28th June 2008** with
  Amabile Girls Choir
  Kendal Parish Church
  60th Anniversary Concert

Bag pack at Morrisons, Kendal on Sunday 6th January 2008

Bag Pack at ASDA, Kendal on Saturday 17th May 2008
- please support!

Welcome to our new members

This term we welcome 7 new members to the orchestra, which is a fantastic start to the year. We hope you enjoy being part of WYO and have many happy years of music making ahead of you.

Open rehearsal

Music teachers to be invited to attend an open rehearsal with their students on Friday 9th November 2007. Arrangements for a 'try-out' night are currently in hand.

Store Cupboard

The store cupboard has recently been tidied and is now well organised. It would be greatly appreciated if orchestra members could keep it this way. Thank you

And finally...
... a BIG thank you to all our sponsors and supporters for helping to keep the WYO a thriving and successful Youth Orchestra.

www.wyo.org.uk

Don't forget to look at the website for news and updates.

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