



ABERDEEN Here we come . . .

The WYO has been invited to take part in the Aberdeen International Youth Festival, in August. Conductor Noel Bertram said it was something of an honour. "It's very unusual for an orchestra of this type to perform there," he said. "It's a very high-profile event and the standards are very high. This is magnificent news." Details of the arrangements will be issued to orchestra members later. But the preliminary idea is for the WYO to share two concerts with an orchestra from Iceland, with each playing a half and perhaps combining for a joint piece at the end. Players will travel up on Monday August 2, perform once in Aberdeen itself and once at a venue elsewhere in the region, returning on Friday August 6. Organisers say the annual event is "the world's premier participatory youth arts festival" with up to 1,000 participants and more than 70 events, including dance, theatre, folk and jazz.

SuperOrchestra

The Liverpool Philharmonic's annual Super-orchestra event for young players is on June 12. You spend a day with the professionals, in sectional and full rehearsals, with a short concert at the end and everyone's extremely friendly. Contact Sarah Slater at sarahlucy.slater@btinternet.com.

Noel



Conductor Noel Bertram was forced to lay down his baton for much of the autumn and winter after a painful wrist operation. First Violin tutor Roland Fudge stood in for the Lakes concert and for several rehearsals. The plaster came off in January and Noel is back on the rostrum.

Kirkby Stephen Grammar School Specialising in Sport and Applied Learning

The Orchestra is notching up another venue with a performance, for the first time in its 62-year history, in Kirkby Stephen. The local Grammar School plays host



on Saturday March 13 to a concert of Wagner, Warlock, Howard Skempton, Berio and others.

Besides playing at its home base in Kendal, WYO has also performed recently in Kirkby Lonsdale, Sedbergh, Appleby, Heversham, Milnthorpe, Windermere, Troutbeck Bridge, Ulverston and even Manchester!

And this on the night when 1600 years after the Romans left Britain, Hadrian's Wall is due to be lit up from Coast to Coast - another unique event!

Are you used to logging on:

www.wyo.org.uk ????

Supporting Recovery from the Floods

At least a dozen WYO players joined other young musicians from around the county – not to mention soprano Lesley Garrett and actor Brian Blessed -- in the Concert for Cumbria on February 3 at the Theatre by the Lake in Keswick. A programme including songs from Bizet and Puccini, as well as popular songs such as the Impossible Dream and You'll Never Walk Alone, raised £12,000 for victims of the January flooding in Cockermouth and other parts of Cumbria. "It was a great experience meeting Lesley Garrett," said cellist Joe Davies, 12. "Overall it was tiring, demanding and very good fun."

Cllr Roger Bingham, Chairman of Cumbria County Council,
said:



"The Concert for Cumbria was world class and a night to remember. There were poignant moments mixed in with laughter and the celebration of artistic talent. The fact that so many young talented musicians from the county were performing is also a great reminder that we have a lot to be proud of here in Cumbria"

Our recent Concert



The Lakes School got rave reviews from both players and audience after November's concert there. Spectators said the seating was comfortable, with a good view of the stage, and the sound quality was improved by leaving the stage curtains behind the orchestra open. It was nice and warm, despite the winter chill, and the catering – teas, coffees, cakes, biscuits and icecreams – got high marks. Backstage facilities were described as the best ever and the hosts as welcoming as could be. "Nothing was too much trouble for the Rotary Club," said one WYO officer. But no one could explain why so many violin strings broke. Suggestions on a postcard.

A Welcome to New Players:

*Lucy Brown, Joe Davies, Grace Solsby,
Charlotte Thwaites-Breed, Freya Rock,
Declan Farrell, Mike Howrie
James McGurk, Rosie Gardner
Joelle Campbell, Natalie Williams
Persia Babayan-Taylor, Ritchie Budd
Franziska Kloss, Jessica Wren*

.....all have joined us since the last Newsletter - WYO could not survive without a regular intake of new players to replace those leaving (last year at least 9 players). Hope you enjoy your time with us!



Future projects

The orchestra is looking at a joint project with the Liverpool Philharmonic involving Cumbria, Lancashire and Merseyside. Details to follow when confirmed.

Besides the Aberdeen trip covered elsewhere, please put the following dates in your Diaries:

- **Saturday 19th June**
Settlebeck School Hall - as part of the annual Sedbergh Festival
- **Saturday 26th June**
Kendal Parish Church – Summer Concert with Amabile
- **Saturday 27th November**
Casterton School Hall – Autumn Concert

2011

- **19 to 26th March**
Mary Wakefield Festival, Kendal

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