

Finzi String Annual Report. 2009

This has been another successful year for Finzi Strings. The Christmas Concert was held at Hollybrook Junior School. We had the traditional guest students from Secondary Schools, some of whom had previously played in Finzi Strings. Many thanks go to the soloists; Rosie Scott-Bennett – Violin, Monica Papayova – Viola, and Rachel Taylor - Cello.

At the start of the Spring Term, the times of the rehearsal moved forward by 15 minutes. This was to enable Finzi Strings to start their rehearsal in the Main Hall after the finishing time of an After School Club. Unfortunately we lost about half the students with these time changes.

The Pyramid concert held in March contained a piece called 'Finzi Rock.' This piece was composed especially for Finzi Strings by SMS Adrian Osman. Adrian ably assisted by playing the Keyboard using the many exciting rhythmic accompaniments. The second item, 'Go tell Aunt Nancy' from "An American Suite" by K & H Colledge was conducted by my other valued assistant - Nadya Larson.

We held an additional Spring Concert the following Monday after the Pyramid Concert. This was an opportunity for eleven members of Finzi Strings to play a solo item.

Our final July concert was held at Shirley Junior School where the Holst Strings meet to rehearse. Here a few brave soloists from both Holst & Finzi Strings showed their talents to the large supportive audience. Finzi Strings contributed a variety of dance music; Spain – Tango by M Dawe, England – Hornpipe by M Dawe, Two Reggae pieces, Minute Waltz by D R Bellwood and another Finzi El Tango composed by Adrian Osman.

I am very grateful to my parent helpers:- Mrs Cummins, Mrs Dewey, & Mrs Levelle who have faithfully attended all the rehearsals on a rota and helped at the concerts. They have been of great support when an extra pair of hands has been needed, especially at the start & end of rehearsals with chair moving! Autumn term 2009 has a returning parent helper, Mrs Trollope who joined Mrs Dewey. The other parents have moved to the next orchestra along with their children.

This Academic year there has been a reduction in new membership. Finzi Strings have only 2 new Violin players. Southampton Music Services have started six new First Step Ensembles during this Autumn Term. All of the usual intake have transferred to one of these new starter Ensembles. This has enabled Finzi Strings to start some more challenging Caribbean dance music.

Vanessa Jarvis
Musical Director, Finzi Strings