

## **Southampton Youth Sinfonietta 2008 – 2009**

Our year started brilliantly, with a well balanced and eager orchestra. Within the first few weeks our first trumpet and first horn had been moved up to SYCS. It's a shame this wasn't sorted out in the previous July as it would have made for a much easier start to the year for me and choosing appropriate music. Our first performance of the year was at Avenue St Andrews Church. This was a very well attended event which made a healthy profit for the orchestra. In the new year we went to Avon Tyrrell for our annual trip away. Behaviour and teamwork was excellent and musical progress was very evident. I did experience quite a lot of difficulty in getting staff for this trip – especially as my Hampshire Music Service colleagues had a big event already that weekend.

Our time at Avon Tyrrell, and hard work at rehearsals, meant that we were ready to perform the Polotsvian Dances at the Central Hall concert. We were very proud of ourselves for tackling such a difficult work.

The rest of the spring, and start of the summer term was spent rehearsing for our May concert in Thornden Hall. We performed a mixture of solos and orchestral pieces, and this year performed Gabriel's Oboe with our four oboists out the front with orchestra accompaniment. Again we made a profit at this concert, and I was delighted with the orchestra for organising raffle prizes on the day (something I admit, I had completely forgot to organise in advance this time!)

This just left us with the summer term, and the announcement that I was leaving. Our summer concert was short, with the orchestra playing pomp and circumstance and our own version of 'heart and soul' from memory. Everyone brought a plate of food to share and we enjoyed lunch together after the performance.

It was at this concert that I was totally shocked to receive £160 in John Lewis vouchers from the parents of SYS - an amazingly kind and unexpected gesture. I have bought an oak cutlery canteen and cutlery to go inside. I am sure that this will last a lifetime, and be something that I can remember the children and parents of SYS 2009 by.

My thanks go to all of the adults that have made SYS possible this year. Kerry and his support with the woodwind, Sue Wilson looking after the money tin and buying raffle tickets etc, all of the parents that help with the refreshments rota.

I am sure that SYS will continue to flourish, and provide an excellent orchestral opportunity for children. I will be following the progress of the orchestras, and making it to concerts when I can.

I wish FSYO and all of the Southampton Youth Orchestras a musical and successful 2009 – 2010 season.

Karen Hatton

p.s. James and I are getting married on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October, at St Michaels Church, Basingstoke – so if all goes to plan I'll soon be Mrs Middleton.