

## **Southampton Youth Concert Sinfonia (SYCS) 2009-10**

### **Report for FSYO AGM**

The new orchestra settled fairly quickly and began to develop an orchestral sound around some very competent section leaders and soloists. Our December concert at Cantell with the now lamented Senior Clarinet Choral as our guests was again well attended. The Friends and parents had a busy evening in support with some excellent seasonal refreshments.

Following the success of our Haworth visit in 2010 and building upon a pattern and structure of effective tours we decided to revisit The Peak District in February 11. We had managed to arrange a concert in Ashbourne before we had finalised the accommodation and the nearest youth hostel we had booked provisionally proved distinctly unsuitable. We were fortunate to find a wonderful hostel at Ravenstor that proved welcoming and amazingly flexible. Our Ashbourne concert was organised with a local youth choir who shared the programme and a charity who sponsored and advertised the event. This proved a winning combination. A full house was enthusiastic in its response to the concert. As in the previous year we had decided to break our Thursday return journey with a lunchtime concert. We were up early and drove to St Margaret's Church in Leicester where we delivered a lunchtime concert to an appreciative audience and earned a very favourable write up in The Leicester Mercury from their chief music critic. Our tours are busy and full of activity involving sectional and ensemble rehearsals and outdoor activities. Once again many thanks are due to the whole team who work so hard to make tours fun and fulfilling.

We finished the Spring term with the pyramid event and our Spring concert delivered with the Windband at St Winfred's Church, Totton. The church was full with audience being directed to the balconies and we impressed with our performance and wide-ranging repertoire.

Our Summer Finale was at the Turner Sims Concert Hall and included some real challenges in the programme. Our guests were !Consort and Junior !Consort and Anita arranged and directed a Woodcock concerto movement for recorders and strings. Again this concert showed off a polished and confident orchestra.

This year a relatively full orchestra begins again working towards our December concert at Cantell. (All welcome!) We look forward to our trip to Cornwall in February. Staying at Golant above Fowey, we expect to perform in St Petroc's Church Bodmin and at the Eden Project. We are always grateful to the Friends for their support of our expeditions and of course we will need to plan some fundraising to help keep costs to families down.

Martin Felton