

Joint Orchestras 'Pyramid' Concert 2012

Frequently Asked Questions

Just a few things to remind players and families. Letters will be going out from Musical Directors confirming details for each ensemble, and as further points are confirmed this page itself will be updated in the next few weeks.

The 2012 Pyramid Concert is scheduled for Saturday 10 March. It will, as usual, be at **Central Hall** on the corner of Kingsway/Marsh Lane and St Mary's Street, SO14 1NF. The main entrance is right on the corner, while the rear entrance - for afternoon rehearsals only - is through the yard off St Mary's Street. (Saints FC are playing at home on that date (1500 kickoff) so please allow time for extra traffic and local road closures.) In the evening there are no parking restrictions.

Tickets will be sold at the two rehearsals beforehand and during the afternoon rehearsals on 10 March. We can accept cash and cheques but not card payments. Advance prices are held at last year's rates: £6 (adults), £5 (concessions) and £1 (children), or £8, £7 and £1 respectively on the door. Cash and cheques (payable to FSYO) only please. Buying tickets beforehand means we all avoid long queues on the night, and saves you money too.

If you have a special requirement for access or seating due to mobility, please ask the ticket seller to let us know, or email info@fsyo.org.uk direct.

Seats are unnumbered. Players have separate reserved seating for times when they themselves are not performing. Children must stay with their ensemble groups throughout the evening (players in First Steps, Elgar Strings and SYS will remain in their Green room during the interval), and families should agree a meeting point at the end.

The **Raffle** is always very popular, with a range of wonderful themed hampers as prizes: see list below. Individual ensembles will also have agreed on the best way of collecting their donations.

- First Steps – Easter Eggs
- Elgar Strings - Chocolate
- SYS – Toiletries
- SYCS – Afternoon delight (teas, coffees, cakes etc)
- SYO – Fairtrade

Younger orchestras have a **final rehearsal** at Central Hall during the afternoon of 13 March. These are the start and finish times:

- 1.00 – Hall open
- 1.15 - 2.15 – Elgar Strings
- 2.15 - 3.15 – SYS
- 3.15 – 4.15 – First Steps

Players should come in (on foot) through the yard almost opposite St Mary's church to the rear entrance of Central Hall. Parents and carers: to avoid the chaos that we have experienced in the past, *please do not drive into the yard itself to drop off or collect your children*. There will be helpers on the gate to make sure that first-timers can find their way in. We will be unloading instruments and equipment during the afternoon, and the yard area is also in continuous use by Central Hall staff and other visitors.

Each ensemble is allocated a **green room**:

- Room 4 SYO
- Room 3 Elgar Strings
- Room 1 First Steps
- Room 14 SYS
- Room 11 SYCS

(Once or twice we have had to change rooms assignments on the day itself due to redecoration or other factors that we had not been told about beforehand.) There will be helpers on hand at the back door, to help players locate the correct room, plus signs within the building. Especially with so many people in the building, the usual caveats apply regarding money, iPods and other high value items: please leave them at home.

The Friends will be providing squash and biscuits in all green rooms. Musicians in the youngest ensembles will, this year, be asked to remain in their green rooms through the interval. Central Hall tends to get very warm through the evening, and we suggest that everyone also brings their own supply of water or juice. Cold drinks and snacks will be on sale for older players and members of the audience during the interval.

Concert **attire** in all cases will be white shirts, black trousers or skirts, and black shoes - definitely no trainers! Girls in the more senior orchestras should wear either trousers or longer skirts; ties and DJs for the boys.

For a choice of inexpensive **bow ties**, go to ebay.co.uk and search on 'boys bow ties' or similar. Sellers coming up here tend to be companies (rather than individuals). They will offer new items on a 'buy it now' basis, meaning you don't have to wait to the end of an auction. You might need a PayPal account here. If you prefer not to buy directly through eBay, most such pages also have a link saying 'Visit Shop' under the seller information on the top right. It's likely that you will then be able to order a bow tie by phone, paying by credit card.

In the **evening**, the front doors will be open from 6.15 for both players and audience, and all players need to be back at their green rooms by 6.30 at the latest. The back entrance should be used *only* for wheelchair access. The concert is scheduled to start at 7.00 and to finish at 9.00. If the majority of family and friends are able to buy tickets in advance and to arrive in good time, we should be able to end on time. The running order is:

- First half: First Steps, Elgar Strings, SYS
- Interval of 20 minutes
- Second half: SYCS, SYO

Squash and biscuits will be supplied in the green rooms by the Friends.

Finally, we must thank in advance all parents, carers and helpers for their support for the Pyramid concert, and look forward to another very enjoyable evening. Last year's concert was a great success and had the added distinction of finishing on time. Let's do our best to emulate that this year.