



Registered Charity no.
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Friends of Southampton Youth Orchestras Newsletter

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JAN SZRAM



Ann Smith
(Vice-chair
FSYO)
writes:

Just as the newsletter was initially going to print, we learnt of the sudden and unexpected death on 13 October of Jan Szram. Through his children, he has had a longstanding connection with SYO and most recently has been Peter Gosney's co-driver on the orchestra summer tours, including this year to Austria. Those of you who were on tour will know of Jan's enthusiasm and interest in the life of SYO and his dedication to youth music. He was specially pleased to accompany SYO to Poland in 2006, as this was where his family had come from originally. In appreciation of his work with the orchestras we are making a collection in Jan's memory. If you would like to contribute, please make cheques payable to FSYO and send to: Ann Smith, 6 Bassett Close, Bassett, Southampton SO16 7PE
Thank you.

A WARM WELCOME

Welcome to the Autumn 2008 edition of the FSYO Newsletter. We hope that our young musicians are settling well into their new ensembles. First reports have been very upbeat!

You may be surprised to receive this **newsletter in printed form**, as we had been exploring the option of distributing the news mainly online. This intention still stands, but the Committee were also aware that 'new' families could be unintentionally missing out. So this issue continues to be distributed in traditional form, and is also available to view from the website.

If you, or anyone you know, would prefer to receive the newsletter in printed form in future, please let us know, via either email at info@fsyo.org.uk, by writing to FSYO at 28 Highfield Crescent, Southampton SO17 1SF, or in person at the AGM.

SYO AUSTRIA TOUR

On 20th July, 53 students and 6 staff set off to Heathrow at the start of an eight-day Southampton Youth Orchestra tour of Austria, playing an impressive 4 concerts in that time, interleaved with a good measure of sightseeing. A highlight was the privilege of performing Saint-Saëns' Third (Organ) Symphony in the Karlskirche in Vienna, complete with the interesting challenges of having no line of sight between the organist and the conductor, plus an organ that was a semitone sharp!

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In common with most other charitable organisations, the Friends of Southampton Youth Orchestras holds an **Annual General Meeting** (AGM). This is an opportunity to both review the past year and to look forward to the next one. There are reports from our various Musical Directors, where possible in person, as well as from the main officers on the Committee. This year, Southampton's new Musical Director Alita Mills (whose open letter is on page 3 of this issue) will also be present.

While existing members have received formal notice of the AGM, in practice it is open to all parents and others involved with the Orchestras. (While children are welcome too, please bear in mind that proceedings may prove boring for younger ones.) It's an ideal opportunity to put names to faces and, with questions from the floor, to find out more about music education in our city, and the ways in which the Friends are helping to support it.

As our youngsters grow up and move on, the Committee needs some new blood, to help with concert ushering, ticket selling, catering, fundraising, transport, administration and the like. One of the functions of the AGM is the election of new Committee members. You don't need to have had any previous experience! We meet roughly once a month during termtime, usually in the evenings. We also generally have one or two social events during the year. Parents of children in the younger ensembles will be especially welcome. Even if you cannot commit at the moment, please consider whether you could offer an extra hand at busy times.

This year's AGM is scheduled for 10 am on **Saturday 8 November**, at Cantell School, Violet Road, Southampton SO16 3GJ. Onsite parking is available. Members of the Committee will be serving tea, coffee and refreshments before the Meeting; formal business will finish before 12 noon to enable parents to meet children who are rehearsing elsewhere that morning. There will be a further opportunity afterwards to meet Committee members and guests, with a slideshow of recent tour and concert photos.

We look forward to seeing you!

Committee 2007–2008

POSITION	NAME	ENSEMBLE(S)
Chair	Sally Boxall <i>sallyboxall@hotmail.com</i>	SYO
Treasurer	Richard Boardman	SYO
Vice Chair (inc. concert programme advertising)	Ann Smith <i>ann_smith@lineone.net</i>	SYO
Secretary (inc. membership)	Sue Wilkins <i>sue@wilkinsfamily.plus.com</i>	SYS
SYO Transport	Peter Gosney	ex SYS
SYO Librarian	Linnet Evans	ex SYO
	Miyuke Archibald	SYS
	Joan Male	ex SYS
	Liz Morris	SYO, SYCS

Elected at the AGM October 2007. One other elected member had not been able to participate in meetings or activities.



Newshound says: You don't need to be a Committee member to help. Selling tickets, stewarding at concerts, cake-baking, transport for the bigger instruments, helping on trips—these are just some of the ways in which parents can support their children's orchestras from time to time. And it's a great way to make new friends. Miss all the fun? You'd be barkin' mad!

Ensembles and Directors 2007–2008

ENSEMBLE	DIRECTOR	VENUE	TIME
Purcell Strings	Bev Geen (Helen Bullas is on maternity leave)	Sholing Junior School	Wednesday, 4-5 pm
Finzi Strings	Vanessa Jarvis	Shirley Warren Primary School	Monday, 4-5 pm
Holst String Orchestra	Zoe Hunting	Shirley Junior School	Monday, 4-5 pm
Elgar String Orchestra	Christa Porter	Sholing Junior School	Wednesday, 5:15 - 6:15 pm
Southampton Youth Sinfonietta (SYS)	Karen Hatton	Cantell School	Saturday, 9:30 – 11:45 am
Southampton Youth Concert Sinfonia (SYCS)	Martin Felton (mgr. Joy Tricklebank)	Regent's Park School	Saturday, 9:30am -12 noon
Southampton Youth Orchestra (SYO)	Jane Higgins	Taunton's College	Saturday. 9:30 – 12:30 pm

Selections from the Events Diary 2008

DATE	ORCHESTRA	VENUE
Monday 26 November	Holst Strings	Shirley Junior School, 4pm
Wednesday 26 November	Purcell Strings	Sholing Junior School, 4pm
Wednesday 26 November	Elgar Strings	Sholing Junior School, 7pm
Saturday 29 November	Southampton Concert Sinfonietta	Avenue St Andrew's Church, 7.30pm

For details of more concerts in the next few months, see www.southamptonmusic.org.uk/ensembles/concert_diary.asp or www.fsyo.org.uk.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM ALITA MILLS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As many of you will be aware, Alita Mills took over the role of Director of Music in September, filling the vacancy left by Philip Litchfield. She brings with her a wide experience of music education, both in the classroom and the town hall, in London and across the south-east of England.

There will be an opportunity to meet our new Director at the AGM on 8 November. Meanwhile, here is an open letter:

“ Dear Students, Friends and Colleagues

I have received an extremely warm welcome during the first few weeks in my new role as Director of Music/Arts for the Southampton Music Services. In addition to this, I have been very impressed with the level of commitment and enthusiasm demonstrated by all who are involved with our organisation. My first introduction to the SYO was their Leavers Concert at the start of September. This was held at Winchester Cathedral and proved to be a resounding success. I would personally like to offer my congratulations to the players and their conductor for delivering a stunning performance. It is important to celebrate success and this was certainly a shining example of excellence!

Your Music Service has been recognised nationally for its high quality provision for young people in Southampton. We need to continue to build upon this achievement and identify more opportunities to meet the needs of our young musicians. Together we can do this!

A key priority is to ensure every young person has access to an exciting programme of musical learning. Effective partnerships, inclusion and access will play an important role in meeting the musical aspirations of young people. This is why working together is so important. We clearly have so much to be proud of.



I feel privileged to be part of your Music Service and will do my best to support you. I welcome your feedback and look forward to meeting you during rehearsals as well as attending your concerts. You have a fantastic team of teachers and supporters who I have every confidence in.

Best wishes, Alita Mills “

SYO AUSTRIA TOUR—CONT'D

Jane Higgins, SYO musical director, reflected on the tour:

*“ As we were going to Vienna, we took advantage of the musical heritage of the area spending a fascinating day at the **Haus der Musik**, having a lecture recital from a member of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, attending a concert at a Viennese palace and visiting **Eisenstadt**, where Haydn worked for Prince Nicholas Esterhazy. We saw **Mozart** and **Beethoven's** houses, had a guided tour of the **Musikverein** and performed in the **Karlskirche** where Bruckner played the organ.*

CODA

The age range of SYO is from 13 to 18+, and the great majority of players started in one of the junior ensembles. So if you're currently in the Finzi, Purcell or perhaps another ensemble in Southampton—just think, that could be you in a similar group photo in a few years' time!

Incidentally, the true cost to families of the tour was significantly reduced through a contribution by the Friends. Fundraising through the year enables us to help .

*We walked up to **Ysperlkamm** gorge [see photo], had a boat ride on the **Danube** and explored the old town of **Krems** and the beautiful **Melk Abbey**. In Vienna, we walked around the city centre and admired the many beautiful buildings and parks including the **Schonbrunn Palace**. On our last full day we went up to the Vienna woods and went swimming in a lovely pool overlooking the city.*

*The day to day organisation was greatly enhanced by an excellent tour guide, **Barbora Hammond** from **Concerts Austria** who travelled with us and took care of daily arrangements with the bus driver, restaurants etc. The students were superbly well behaved – absolutely no trouble whatsoever. They were a pleasure to be with.*

Just in case anybody has any doubt about the value of a tour like this, they should have heard the orchestra play in Winchester Cathedral on 6th September. Here was a group of people who have learned to work together, play together and make music together. Wonderful. They will never forget it. “

(Incidentally the Winchester concert mentioned above, and sponsored by **Rotary Club** of Southampton Magna, raised £6000 for **Naomi House** Children's Hospice.)

ROGUES' GALLERY – PART 3

Here are some pictures of SYO players, presumably in rehearsal before a concert, together with conductor **Keith Smith**. They were taken by a professional photographer, Jeremy Pakes, probably dating from 1991, and come from the SYO archive.

Can you recognise any of the players, or remember the concert?



Incidentally, Alan Wiltshire, who had been an SYO horn player in the early 70's (and who had supplied our previous Rogues' Gallery picture), was kind enough to travel back to Southampton from Gloucestershire to help with the SYO 'icebreaker' weekend in September.

And once again, if you or anyone you know have been in any of our orchestras through the years, we would love to hear from you. We have our own **FSYOldies Reunited** facility on the website: www.fsy.org.uk/fsyoldies_login.asp.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1906, Trinity College of Music was the first UK Conservatoire to open its doors to schoolchildren on Saturdays. The department pioneered the creative aspects of music-making in extemporisation, improvisation, and composition, unusual at the time, but now considered essential elements in music education. (Thanks to ClassicFM.)



WEBSITE

More pictures from this session, plus some others from the archive, will be available from the website in the next few weeks.

'New' families may also like to know about the **Liftshare** service. This is sadly under-utilised at the moment, but it's an ideal opportunity to save petrol/diesel, and maybe make new friends at the same time. For that first (or next) violin or clarinet, there is also a **Small Ads** (For Sale & Wanted) section.

If anyone can bear to think about Christmas shopping, but can't bear the trapeze round West Quay, please consider our own **Shopping** portal. This links you to the websites of established names such as **John Lewis** and **Amazon**, as well as some niche retailers. If you come through this route, any purchases made will generate a commission for FSYO, at no extra cost to yourself.

For all this and more, please visit us at www.fsy.org.uk.

This issue's editor: Linnet Evans email info@fsyo.org.uk